2018 Impact Report
Our Vision

We envision a Texas where all communities thrive with dignity, justice, and without fear.

Our Mission

We are Texas lawyers for Texas communities, boldly serving the movement for equality and justice in and out of the courts.

Our Theory of Change

We believe that legal advocacy and litigation are critical tools to protect and advance the civil rights of everyone in Texas, particularly our State’s most vulnerable populations, and to effect positive and lasting change to law and policy. We believe that by serving the rising social justice movement in Texas with excellent legal representation and bold strategies, we can respond to the needs of the communities we serve.
Message from the President

History will remember 2018.

I know that I will. Last year was transformative for me personally, as I welcomed my second daughter into our family in October. Like all new and expecting parents, I was overwhelmed in 2018 by emotion, including the strongest feelings of love, joy and wonder a person can experience. I worked hard to make our home safe and warm for my children.

Our country too, was overwhelmed by emotion in 2018. Sadly, on too many days, we were overwhelmed by vicious efforts to undermine our democratic institutions and by the government’s subhuman treatment of the most vulnerable among us — from victims of sexual assault to families fleeing violence in their home countries.

Of course, no matter what I do as a parent, I cannot protect my daughters from the world outside our home. My children will inherit the consequences of this moment in history, just like yours. It’s a daunting realization.

But there’s reason to hope. As this report chronicles, our team at the Texas Civil Rights Project stepped up in 2018 when our Texas communities needed our help. We fought to ensure that Texas elections were free and fair. We demanded justice for all, including poor and sick Texans behind bars. We refused to allow children to be separated from their parents at the Texas-Mexico border.

We were not alone: You were there too. TCRP relied upon tens of thousands of partners like you in 2018, from children selling Lemonade to fuel our efforts to seasoned attorneys donating hundreds of thousands of dollars of pro bono representation for our clients. You even sent us letters from across the country, reminding us of the good that exists in human beings.

Future generations will remember you and the millions of Americans who refused to bow to hate, distrust, fear and indifference in 2018. Your work ensured a brighter tomorrow for Texas and for our country.

As a mom and as the President of TCRP, I am deeply grateful for your partnership. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Mimi Marziani
President of the Texas Civil Rights Project
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UNIDOS

DREAMS WITHOUT BORDERS
Overview of our Programs

We are Texas lawyers for Texas communities, boldly serving the movement for equality and justice in and out of the courts. We use our tools of litigation and legal advocacy to protect and advance the civil rights of everyone in Texas and we partner with communities across the state to serve the rising movement for social justice.

To accomplish this herculean task, we focus our work on three of the most pressing social justice issues in Texas — protecting voting rights, advancing racial and economic justice, and reforming our broken criminal justice system. Each of our programs is led by an experienced legal director who works closely with our staff, partners, and other stakeholders to ensure that our work is rooted in the needs of the community. From reuniting families separated at the border, to ending the suffocating heat conditions faced by Texas prisoners, to assisting thousands of voters in the election, our programs combine excellent legal strategy with deep community engagement in order to improve the lives of every day Texans and achieve our vision of a state where everyone can live with dignity, justice, and without fear.

The following sections provide brief highlights from each of our programs.

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**Racial & Economic Justice**

*empowering communities by fighting discriminatory policies that prevent social and economic equity*

**Voting Rights**

*eliminating systemic barriers which exclude millions of people from the ballot box*

**Criminal Justice Reform**

*ending mass incarceration by targeting both the front and back ends of our broken justice system*
It is no secret that our state and country have a long and notorious history of discrimination against people of color, immigrants, women and the poor, among others. Our Racial & Economic Justice Program uses creative legal advocacy and litigation to represent historically or socio-economically marginalized individuals and communities. By fighting discrimination based on immutable characteristics, immigration status, poverty, and other arbitrary criteria, we work to promote a fair, equitable, and just Texas for these individuals and communities. More specifically, our program has focused on the Rio Grande Valley, along the U.S.-Mexico border. This is the poorest region in Texas — indeed, one of the poorest areas in the country — and has a population that is more than 90 percent Latinx and nearly 30 percent foreign born.

Sadly, in 2018, people around the world saw the worst evils targeting immigrants, border communities, and people fleeing violence. We saw the federal government appropriate billions of dollars to build a border wall that would trample over the rights of landowners and threaten to destroy a beautiful, bi-national community. We saw the ever-increasing links between immigration enforcement and local law enforcement. And in the summer, we saw the evils of family separations, driven by the zero-tolerance policy, that tore thousands of families apart.

The administration’s unprecedented attacks on immigrant families and borderland communities in Texas meant that our team was on the frontlines of addressing issues in 2018, including:

- Stopping the separation of families seeking safety in the United States and reuniting those who are still separated.
- Defending the rights of landowners living along the Rio Grande Valley as the Border Wall is constructed in their backyards.
- Ending the militarization of the borderlands and stopping the widespread human rights abuses against migrants at the hands of federal agencies.

The following pages provide a glimpse of some of the work our program accomplished in 2018.
Reuniting Families Separated at the Border

Beginning in late May 2018, our team has been in the courtroom in McAllen, day after day, interviewing parents who were separated from their children and monitoring the ever-evolving situation of family separations on the ground. While the crisis tested the limits of our hearts and minds, our team rose to the challenge to meet this crisis head on as the eyes of the world focused on us and on the border.

Throughout the crisis, we worked closely with a range of partners, including RAICES, ProBAR, Justice In Motion and hundreds of volunteers from across the country, to locate parents and their children in hopes of facilitating reunification of the 382 families we encountered at the federal court house in McAllen, Texas. **Currently, more than 200 are now reunited.** We plan to continue fighting until every family is reunited or our efforts are exhausted. We will hold the administration accountable for the damage it inflicted on thousands of families.

*(left)* Vilma was one of our first five clients who courageously stepped forward to take their case to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. After being separated from her 11-year-old son for 58 days, she was finally reunited with Sergio on July 21. They originally fled to the U.S. seeking asylum after Vilma’s husband was murdered. Together, they are now seeking asylum and rebuilding their lives.

*(bottom)* We saw a deluge of outrage from regular people across the country, rightfully upset at the stories of separated families at the border. In addition to our legal advocacy to reunite families, we collaborated with local and national groups to begin a hunger strike that would call attention to the Trump Administration’s cruel zero-tolerance policy. The Break Bread Not Families Action saw dozens of people committing to hunger strike until family separations ended.
On or about July 5, 2018, Mario, an indigenous Guatemalan whose primary language is Mam, was separated from his two year old daughter after a Border Patrol agent accused him of not being the biological father of the child. In interviews with Mario, we confirmed that he spoke very little Spanish and had limited understanding of what happened when the agent took his daughter away. We quickly mobilized to negotiate with the Department of Homeland Security to secure his release and reunification with his daughter. After Mario’s story reached national attention, we were able to reunite him with his daughter. Had we not interviewed this father early in the process, it is highly likely that Mario would have been deported without his daughter, and his child unlawfully orphaned in the United States.

In June, our client, Misael, was deported back to Honduras without his six-year-old daughter, Marianita. For three and a half months, Marianita waited in a federal facility in New York State while her parents spent months sending documents and speaking with attorneys in both the United States and Honduras to try and get their daughter back. After weeks of public advocacy from TCRP and a critical news story on PBS NewsHour, Marianita was finally reunited with her parents in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

In addition to working toward reunification, we filed action before the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights, which ruled that family separation is a form of torture. To help in our efforts, we recruited top-notch pro bono legal counsel to represent dozens of our clients in their underlying immigration and asylum claims, and, throughout this crisis, we worked diligently to amplify the families’ stories, increasing political pressure to reunite all separated families as soon as possible and reform our immigration system.
Defending Our Communities Against the Border Wall

2018 was also a pivotal year for our work to defend border communities against the threat of a wall along the Texas-Mexico Border.

As the politics of fear reached a fever pitch in Washington, we did not wait to take action. In 2017, we launched a campaign to inform landowners of their rights in eminent domain proceedings, including producing short, easy-to-understand “know your rights” brochures and videos in English and Spanish. We continued that extensive work in 2018 by doubling down on our outreach and education efforts — hosting multiple public fora along the border to bring our message to as many border landowners and residents as possible. By educating landowners on their rights and the government’s obligations before any condemnation action starts, we started to build a network of landowners ready to protect their community.

(right) Our education efforts are not limited to the Rio Grande Valley — we have also informed policy makers and other elected officials about eminent domain issues and landowner rights. Our Outreach Coordinator, Robert Lopez, participated in a delegation of border communities organized by the Southern Border Communities Coalition to Washington, DC to speak to Senators about our clients and eminent domain issues.

(bottom) The map shows planned border wall sections for South Texas. The ratings appear to be based on topography and the legal difficulty of taking over the land. City of Roma, Starr County, Project RGV-002 not included in this map rendition. Map designed by Jen Reel of the Texas Observer, based on Army Corps of Engineers’ map acquired under FOIA.
In March of 2018, Congress passed an initial $1.6 billion in funding to begin construction of 33 miles of border wall in the Rio Grande Valley, threatening not only the rights of individual landowners but also cherished public spaces such as the National Butterfly Center, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, and the historic La Lomita Chapel. Now, with the recent appropriation of funds to build an additional 55 miles of border barrier as well as the Administration’s National Emergency Declaration, the threat to our borderlands is ever-increasing.

We signed on over a dozen low-income landowners contacted by the federal government about a “Right of Entry Request” to conduct surveying work — the Entry Request and surveying are the first steps towards constructing the border wall on our clients’ land. We are also gearing up to leverage our vast network of pro bono attorneys, many of whom have already agreed to take on these cases, to expand our capacity to defend the dozens of cases that are expected.

Perhaps one of the most powerful forces in the fight to protect the human rights of border communities is exposing the misguided wall’s devastating and destructive impact and amplifying public outcry against it. In conjunction with our legal advocacy and litigation, we are working closely with a network of border-based organizations to change the narrative surrounding construction of the border wall. Our work has told the stories of our clients in the *New York Times*, *the Los Angeles Times*, *The Atlantic*, and on *NBC News*, among others. And in the spring of 2019, we partnered with the preeminent virtual reality firm, Emblematic, to showcase “Border Stories,” an immersive experience which transports users onto the lands which will be destroyed by the wall and “meet” and hear from TCRP staff and individuals who will be directly affected by its construction.
The right to vote is fundamental, yet voting rights in Texas have been in peril for decades. In particular, keeping people of color, young people, the poor, and people with disabilities from voting has been politically advantageous for those in power in the state.

But 2018 did bring glimmers of hope to Texas’ democracy. A wave of renewed civic engagement and democratic participation swept across the state during the 2018 midterm election. Voter registration and turnout rates surged in almost every county — especially among young people who participated in our democracy in record levels.

Despite these successes, we still have a long way to go. Millions of eligible voters remain shut out of the democratic process and Texas’ overall turnout rate was still the eleventh lowest in the nation. To turn the tide, our Voting Rights Program focused its work on tackling the systemic issues that suppress voting rights in Texas – from voter registration to the moment an individual casts their ballot. We provide zealous, creative, and exceptional legal support to individual voters and our partners in the resurgent voting rights movement to expand the franchise and ensure that every eligible Texan can cast a vote that counts.

In 2018, we focused our efforts on:

- Expanding access to voter registration by ensuring that state agencies complied with federal voting rights laws, including the National Voter Registration Act.
- Easing access to the ballot box and fighting voter suppression by piloting the largest non-partisan Election Protection program in Texas.
- Empowering grassroots allies with direct legal assistance through our Take Back the Vote Program that paired civic engagement groups with our attorneys to add to their capacity.

The following pages provide a glimpse of some of the work our program accomplished in 2018.
Protecting the 2018 Election in Texas

Voters from all across the state broke records as 8.3 million Texans cast a ballot in the 2018 midterm elections.

It is an astounding figure, especially considering that about 4.6 million voted in the midterms just four years ago. We are so proud to have been a part of this historic election through our nonpartisan Election Protection efforts. By directly working with voters, advocates, attorneys, and so many others, Election Protection allowed us to fight back against the voter suppression pursued by those in the highest levels of power.

(right) Our Senior Staff Attorney, James Slattery, leading a training for our Election Protection volunteers. Over 500 people were deployed to field or legal help sites in Austin, Dallas, San Antonio, Houston, the Rio Grande Valley and dozens of other sites across the state.

(bottom) On the second day of early voting, we heard that there were hundreds of students waiting to vote at Texas State University — many had skipped lunch or even classes to ensure they could cast their ballot. This was because the county had only designated 24 hours for voting on campus. We immediately sprang into action and sent a letter, on behalf of our partners MOVE Texas, the League of Women Voters of Hays County and two Texas State University students, to the County informing them that they were in violation of state and federal law and we threatened to sue. The next day, the County agreed to reopen the on-campus polling location and it proved to be one of the busiest in Hays County.
Election Day was just as busy for our team. Starting at 7:00AM, when the polls should have opened in Harris County, we began to hear reports of many sites experiencing delays or not being open at all. With record turnout, voters who could not afford to wait in line any longer began to leave. That day, along with the Texas Organizing Project, we filed a lawsuit against the County to keep nine polling locations open for an extra hour, all located in predominately communities of color. **And we won.**

Our Election Protection efforts would not be possible without the team of individuals and organizations that helped us extend our reach. This year, we trained over 400 field volunteers to monitor polls across the state. We also recruited more than 100 legal volunteers to staff our voter-support centers in Austin, Dallas, Houston, the Rio Grande Valley, and San Antonio. These legal volunteers directly answered voters’ questions and helped troubleshoot any problems that arose. Our legal advocacy would not have been possible without these individuals and we thank them for their commitment to protecting the vote.

(top left) As part of our efforts, we recruited dozens of attorneys to staff Voter-Support Centers across the state — like the volunteers in our Dallas Center. These individuals were tasked with taking escalated calls from voters who needed more technical assistance.

(bottom left) The outpouring of attention and support from individuals was pivotal in allowing us to keep our eyes and ears open to election problems in Texas. We worked with over two dozen organizations and partners to spread the word about the Election Protection hotline available to voters in more than 10 languages. We ran television, radio, and digital ads and worked with reporters in every major metropolitan area to get the word out. **In total, we reached over 3 million Texans with information about the free Election Protection Hotline.**

(bottom right) Jeanne Sommerfield, one of our field volunteers, provided direct assistance to voters at polling booths who had questions or concerns about casting a ballot.

**FREE HOTLINE**

866 OUR VOTE
Own Our Vote for Texas’ High School Students

The state of Texas has a little-known and largely unenforced state law that requires high schools to offer voter registration opportunities to eligible students at least twice a school year. Our schools must prepare young Texans for the future; this includes teaching them about the core tenets of our American democracy.

Still, too many schools and teachers do not know about our unique law. Nearly 340,000 young Texans should be given the opportunity to register to vote in their senior year of high school — in reality, however, two-thirds of Texas’ high schools fail to take the first basic step in complying with the high school voter registration law. In 2018, we doubled down on our broad-based efforts to ensure that state officials are empowering every single high school to register eligible students to vote.

After months of analysis, we published our groundbreaking compliance report showing that only 34 percent of Texas high schools comply with the voter registration law. The report helped shed light on the state’s failures to properly educate and empower school administrators to register eligible students. Accompanying the report, we also published the first-ever data map of every single high school in Texas which allows the public to see if a school in their community is currently helping students register to vote. This easy to use tool has allowed hundreds of people across the state to connect with our efforts.

Find your school at
www.ownourvote.org/school-map/
In addition to our report, we also collaborated with grassroots civic engagement groups, parents, teachers, civic organizations, and school administrators to launch the **Own Our Vote campaign** to build a community of empowered young Texans to get registered and create a culture of civic engagement in their high schools. By providing toolkits, information, and support, we are turning the tide to ensure that more and more high schools comply with the existing law and dramatically increase the percent of young Texans registered to vote.

The **Own Our Vote Advisory Council** helps lead the effort to ensure that every eligible Texas high school student can register to vote. Made up of Texans who are leaders in their respective fields — including education, politics, business, and culture — this all-star team represents the diversity of communities across our state. They advise Own Our Vote and work to push the issue of high school voter registration to the forefront.

Current Members: Former Mayor of Houston Annise Parker, High School Student Kelsey Tasch, Entrepreneur Liz Lambert, Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, High School Student Paige Cromley, Recording Artist SaulPaul, Entrepreneur Tim League, Former Texas State Senator Wendy Davis.

As part of the Own Our Vote campaign, we also published two, first-of-their kind, toolkits that break down the high school voter registration law for students, parents, teachers, and other school administrators. The toolkits walk through each step of the process for registering students to vote, suggest some best practices for how to comply with the law, and share more critical information for community members. **In the absence of state action, we are stepping up our own efforts to empower our community.**
Criminal Justice Reform

Texas locks up more people than any other state and our criminal justice system is in crisis. Abuse and discrimination are pervasive, while voices lifting up community needs and demanding human dignity are unheard.

Texas is particularly quick to incarcerate poor Texans and persons of color, funneling them into inhumane conditions that thwart meaningful rehabilitation and ultimately prevent successful reentry and reintegration. Our Criminal Justice Reform Program fights to transform the current criminal justice system by litigating to decriminalize and decarcerate mental illness and poverty, to remove racism from our criminal justice system, and to demand dignity in the treatment of people by police, jailers, and ultimately by society itself.

In 2018, we made great strides towards our goal. We continued to challenge both the front-end systems that funnel too many people into our criminal justice system and the back-end of the system that left hundreds of thousands of people languishing in our jails and prisons. We focused on:

- Ending Dallas’ juvenile curfew ordinance that funneled the city’s youth, mostly black and brown, into the justice system.
- Ending the use of Debtors’ Prisons in Texas. In May 2018, we successfully reached a settlement to protect tens of thousands of Texans each year from jail in El Paso for being unable to pay fines.
- Ending inhumane use of indefinite solitary confinement for Texas prisoners. This practice creates and exacerbates mental health problems, thwarting meaningful rehabilitation.
Ending Torturous Heat Conditions in Texas’ Prisons

“This is a new day in Texas prison history.”

With those words in May 2018, U.S. District Judge Keith Ellison ended our years-long lawsuit over prison heat conditions and finalized a settlement proposal that included permanently installing air conditioning at the Wallace Pack prison in East Texas.

We filed the suit in June 2014 with Edwards Law after hearing reports that inmates in the Pack Unit were housed in dorms with metal exterior walls that “hold heat like a parked car,” creating indoor temperatures that routinely exceed 100 degrees in the summer — as mentioned by inmates in the original complaint. In the course of the litigation, the state confirmed that 22 people had died of heat strokes in prisons since 1998. For years, the state fought back against the suit, claiming it took adequate measures to deal with the sweltering Texas summers, like providing ice water and fans.

Because of the settlement, living areas at the Pack Unit will be cooled, beginning with the temporary air conditioning that will be available during the next two summers as part of the agreement. The state also agreed to request legislative approval for a permanent cooling system to be installed by 2020 at the facility. Despite this great victory, much still remains to be done. Over 70 percent of Texas’ prisons still do not have air conditioning — leading to intense heat and sweltering conditions that affect thousands of people every summer. Our efforts to demand dignity for people in our criminal justice system will continue.

(bottom) Keith Cole was among the Wallace Pack Unit inmates who sued to end the sweltering conditions in the prison.
The outpouring of attention and support from individuals in 2018 was pivotal in giving us the courage, resources, and capacity we need to work around the clock to continue our work.

Never before in our history have we seen this so strongly as the summer of 2018 at the height of the family separation crisis. As the crisis initially unfolded, millions of people across the world watched the stream of alarming news stories on TV and decided to turn their frustration into action. In a few short weeks, tens of thousands of people gave their time, energy, and money to assist us in our efforts to end family separations and reunite the hundreds of clients we onboarded over the summer. We are grateful to each and every person who gave what they could to ensure that we remained strong and ready to meet even more challenges in the future.
At the height of the crisis in late June, we were honored to be a part of the Concert for America in the historic Great Hall of The Cooper Union in New York City. The concert was organized by artists and celebrities Tina Fey, Idina Menzel, Andrew Rannells, Matt Bomer, Audra McDonald, Brian Stokes Mitchell, and many others to raise funds for four organizations, including us, working at the frontlines to protect the human and civil rights of families affected by the zero-tolerance policy. We were so honored by their support.

18 years ago, Chef Adalberto Diaz was detained at the Port Isabel Detention Center, where many of our clients were detained. In early July, he traveled all the way from Salt Lake City, Utah to our office to hand deliver a check for $15,000 to help reunite families — money he raised through a bake sale at Fillings & Emulsions, the bakery he founded after earning the title of National Pastry Chef of the Year by the American Culinary Federation. We could not be more grateful for his contribution and the journey that made it possible.
Bill of Rights Dinner 2018

History will remember those who took action.

In 2018, we saw unrelenting attacks against the most vulnerable people from state and federal officials who are hell-bent on keeping communities under a boot of oppression. Our annual Bill of Rights Dinner gathered hundreds of our supporters and partners at our annual tradition to recommit to the long-haul fight to defend Texas’ communities and envision bold ways to fight back and win tangible change.

This year, we honored Cecile Richards, the former President of Planned Parenthood, with the 2017 Social Justice Award for her efforts to build a movement that has worked for more than 100 years to build a healthier and safer world for women, young people, and marginalized communities.

Additionally, we honored Liz Lambert, founder and COO of Bunkhouse Group in Austin, with the Renato Ramirez Community Empowerment Award and artist and musician SaulPaul with the Rising Leader Award. Finally, we honored Jeff Edwards, Scott Medlock, and Wallis Nader of Edwards Law, Enrique Moreno and Lynn Coyle of El Paso, Adam Schramek and Ryan Meltzer of Norton Rose Fulbright and Brian East, Lia Davis, and Molly Broadway of Disability Rights Texas, and Azalea Aleman-Bendiks, Assistant Federal Public Defender, and Roxana Treviño, Investigator, in the Southern District of Texas with the Kristi Couvillon Pro Bono Awards. These honorees went above and beyond their duties and commitment to Texas’ most vulnerable communities and we were honored to recognize their achievements.
Our Pro Bono Partners

Our legal advocacy depends heavily on our pro bono partnerships, which help expand the fight for justice in Texas. Every year, we work with dozens of law firms and lawyers who give their time and commitment on a range of diverse projects from legal research to civil rights trials to appellate work. In 2018, our pro bono partners went beyond the call to action during the family separation crisis — flying into South Texas and taking on immigration cases for clients across the country.

We want to thank all of our partners:

- Baker Donelson
- Blackburn & Brown, LLP
- DLA Piper
- Edwards Law
- Fish & Richardson
- Flores Tawney & Acosta, PC
- Garcia & Garcia Attorneys at Law, PLLC
- Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody
- Haynes and Boone, LLP
- John Escamilla Law Firm
- King & Spalding, LLP
- Kirkland & Ellis LLP
- Law Office of Carlos Eduardo Cardenas, PC
- Law Office of Enrique Moreno
- Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
- Mukerji Law Firm
- Norton Rose Fulbright
- Reynolds Frizzell, LLP
- Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, LLP
- Scott, Douglass & McConnico, LLP
- The Law Office of Lynn Coyle, PLLC
- The Nielsen Law Firm
- The Singley Law Firm, PLLC
- Vinson & Elkins, LLP
- Waters Kraus & Paul
- Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP
- Williams, Birnberg & Andersen, LLP

(left) Maggy Krell was among the dozens of attorneys who came to our South Texas office to help represent separated families. She helped our client, Brenda, reunite with her son after weeks of being separated.

(bottom) The peak of family separations reached a fever pitch in mid-June when our team of attorneys and advocates interviewed 30 to 50 parents at the federal courthouse each day. Thankfully, dozens of pro-bono attorneys and law firms stepped up to the plate to support our efforts. These volunteers took cases, helped us conduct intake, assisted in connecting us to other legal networks, and even flew down to the border to help clients directly. Here our Legal Director, Efrén Olivares, gives an orientation to volunteers from Ropes & Gray LLP, Haynes & Boone LLP, and Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in our South Texas Office.
Our Financials

Our financial activities for 2018 Fiscal Year began on January 1, 2018 and ended on December 31, 2018. Final numbers are subject to small changes pending our annual audit.

For more financial documents, including our past audits and IRS 990 forms, please visit: www.texascivilrightsproject.org/who-we-are/our-financials/

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Income by Category

Expenses by Category
Our Staff

- Ash Hall, Digital Coordinator
- Beth Stevens, Voting Rights Legal Director
- Chris Rainbolt, Paralegal & Office Manager
- Chris Rivera, Paralegal & Office Manager
- Efrén Olivares, Racial & Economic Justice Legal Director
- Emily Eby, Staff Attorney
- Emma Hilbert, Staff Attorney
- Georgina Guzman, Paralegal & Office Manager
- Hani Mirza, Senior Staff Attorney
- Jackie Portillo, Community Engagement Coordinator
- James Slattery, Senior Staff Attorney
- Joaquin Gonzalez, Fellow/Staff Attorney
- Karla Vargas, Senior Staff Attorney
- Laura Derrick, Institutional Partnerships Manager
- Meagan Harding, Senior Staff Attorney
- Megan Garcia, Accounting & HR Coordinator
- Melissa Elfont, Operations Coordinator
- Mimi Marziani, President
- Natalia Cornelio, Criminal Justice Reform Legal Director
- Peter Steffensen, Justice Catalyst Fellow/Staff Attorney
- Ricky Garza, Fellow/Staff Attorney
- Robert Lopez, Outreach Coordinator
- Rolando Pérez, Legal Manager
- Ryan Cox, Senior Staff Attorney
- Stephanie Schweitzer Garza, Director of Strategic Partnerships
- Taylor Keenan, Director of Finance and Administration
- Zach Dolling, Fellow/Staff Attorney
- Zenén Jaimes Pérez, Communications Director

Our 2018 Board

- Kenneth S. Marks (Chair)
- Carlos Moctezuma García (Vice-Chair)
- Alan Schoenbaum (Secretary)
- Alex Andrade
- Melissa Fruge
- Tom Gutting (Treasurer)
- Rita Lucido
- Gina Millin
- Genesis Draper
- Oscar Rodriguez
- M. Kyle Wright
Join the Fight

For 28 years, working hand-in-hand with grassroots partners and ordinary people across the state, we have fought to ensure that all Texans can thrive with dignity, justice, and without fear. We are, uniquely, Texas lawyers for Texas communities.

1. Make a contribution

You can fight for the rights of Texas’ communities by donating to the Texas Civil Rights Project. Donations to TCRP directly support our legal advocacy both in and out of the courtroom and are tax deductible.

Learn more at http://texascivilrightsproject.org/donate/

To give by mail, please make a check payable to the Texas Civil Rights Project and mail it to:

Texas Civil Rights Project
Attn: Development Department
1405 Montopolis Dr.
Austin, TX 78741

There are many ways to give. Explore more options at www.texascivilrightsproject.org/get-involved/ways-to-give or contact us at development@texascivilrightsproject.org or at (512) 474-5073 ext. 102.

2. Join the Conversation

From internships to our pro bono network, there are many ways to get involved with TCRP.

You can get more updates about our work and other actions you can take by signing up to our email list at: www.texascivilrightsproject.org or following our social media pages:

- www.facebook.com/TexasCivilRightsProject
- www.twitter.com/txcivilrights
- www.instagram.com/txcivilrights