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Civil Society Forum

► June 6-7, 2022

Improving Migrants' Integration in the Americas



Maria Angélica Montesinos Licóna, Programs Coordinator, Asylum Access Mexico

Angélica Montesinos is a lawyer in International Refugee Law. She has a law degree from the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México (UAEM) and for 7 years she worked as a litigator in Civil Law and Family Law.

She has participated in lecture series on Constitutional Law, Human Rights, Psychology, and Family Law for the Judiciary of Mexico City. Her work as an advocate and promoter of the rights of refugees

began in Asylum Access Mexico in 2016 as Legal Advisor and Community Liaison, Case Management Attorney, Coordinator, and currently as Director of Programs following up on the implementation of the projects and objectives of the Organization.



Cynthia Juárez Lange, Senior Counsel at Fragomen, Lattin & Day Saint Charities

During her long legal career, Cynthia's has demonstrated a passion for fostering global cooperation and understanding. As a senior leader at Fragomen, Cynthia helped the firm become the largest immigration law firm in the world. She excelled at building global programs for multinational organizations, allowing them to move their talent around the globe. Cynthia led many initiatives at her firm, including serving as the Managing Partner of the firm's Silicon Valley practice for over 16 years where she built and

led an all-minority women leadership team. She is enthusiastic about mentoring and growing people, which, together with her passion for the law, motivated her to teach law school for 18 years at Southwestern University School of Law.

Cynthia is a frequent speaker, and has received numerous awards and recognitions, but is most satisfied when dedicating her spare time to pro bono work and assisting low-income immigrants. She has served on the boards of organizations dedicated to defending and advancing the rights people who can't advocate for themselves. She has served with both the National Immigration Law Center (NILC) the nation's leading organization dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of low-income immigrants in the U.S., and with the NILC Immigrant Justice Fund (IJF). NILC and the IJF strategically combine litigation, policy,

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communications, narrative change, and movement-building to effect transformational change.

Cynthia has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America, Chambers USA, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, and is AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell. In 2011 Cynthia was awarded the Franklin S. Richards Pro Bono Community Service Award from the J. Reuben Clark Law Society Worldwide organization "for granting access to the justice system to those who, but for your representation, may have been denied such access." Cynthia is a government affairs representative with LDS Charities and represents them before the OAS.



Leo Martellotto is the President of JA Americas, which is one of the top ten most influential NGOs worldwide at the dotgood ranking, and the largest NGO in the region dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people, activating them for the jobs of the future. Leo leads this network and is responsible for establishing the strategic direction of an organization that works every year with almost 40,000 volunteers and more than 2,000 companies and partners throughout the region. JA Americas reaches more than 1 million youth in 25 countries each year in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada. Leo is a JA Alumnus, graduated from the National University of Córdoba, Argentina, and currently attending the Harvard Business School Program for Leadership Development. He has participated as a panelist at the World Economic Forum of Latin America in different sessions on "Skills Gap" and "Employment Barriers". Leo has been awarded as a member of the Ferdi's List of JA Europe 2019, a recognition that acknowledges outstanding JA alumni around the world. Passionate about family and sports, Leo has participated in

countless Triathlon events around the world, including qualifying for three Ironman 70.3 World Championships



Maria G. Moreno is the Chief Executive Officer of the public charity USA for IOM - the International Organization for Migration - UN Migration based in Washington, D.C. Maria has more than 16 years of experience working with the public, private and philanthropic sectors in the United States and mobilizing investments in IOM programs worldwide. Her work highlights strategic alliances with governments, public nonprofits and NGOs, celebrities, philanthropists, corporations, and foundations to provide responses to different crises and humanitarian emergencies, social innovation programs, and socio-economic integration of migrants and internally displaced persons. Maria is a lawyer

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by profession with a degree from the University of Santa Cruz de la Sierra (UPSA). Prior to her work at IOM- UN Migration, Maria worked at the Organization of American States (OAS) and in several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean as a Corporate Lawyer and Legal Counsel.



Angelica Salas, Executive Director, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

Angelica Salas is an immigrant from Durango, Mexico. She came to the United States as a child to reunite with her parents, who came to provide a better life for their family. Angelica comes to her understanding of immigrants and immigration first hand, she and her entire family lived in the country undocumented, experienced deportation, and were able to legalize their status. In 2008, Angelica became a U.S. citizen. She makes Pasadena, California her home, the first city she arrived at as a child. She is married to Mayron Payes, an immigrant from El Salvador, and has

two children Ruben and Maya Payes.

Angelica joined CHIRLA in 1995 and became CHIRLA's Executive Director in 1999. In her role, she has transformed CHIRLA into a mass membership immigrant-led organization that empowers immigrants and their families to win local, state, and national policies that advance their human, civil, and labor rights. She has grown CHIRLA into one of the nation's largest and most effective immigrant rights organizations that organize, advocates, educates, and provides legal services to all immigrants. She has spearheaded ambitious statewide and national campaigns to expand immigrant rights. She has helped found organizations and coalitions to advocate for immigrant workers, youth, and families. Among her achievements include: winning in-state, financial aid and grant programs for California's undocumented students, establishing day-laborer centers that become national models, winning drivers' licenses for undocumented drivers, decoupling local police departments from immigration enforcement, expanding access to immigrant legal services and winning Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).