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Volume Six

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CHICANO LAW REVIEW

Volume Six

1983

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A special thanks goes to those who contributed to the success of the *Latinos and the Law Symposium*: Jose Benavides, Jean Gonzales, Dennis Perez, former UCLA Law Students; Kathleen Staunton, whose input is immeasurable; Alberto Hernandez, a person whose optimism knows no bounds; Atlantic Richfield Company; and Dr. Vera Martinez, UCLA, Program Review, Evaluation and Research.

INTRODUCTION

Volume 6 of the Chicano Law Review departs in form from past issues. It consists primarily of an edited and supplemented transcript of the 1982 "Latinos and the Law: Meeting the Challenge" Symposium, which was conducted at the UCLA School of Law, and sponsored by various public and private organizations and student groups. The panelists discuss four major topics which cut across legal, political and social lines. Before the panels are presented, however, Professor Gerald Lopez discusses in a foreword the need for Latino lawyers to learn how to communicate effectively with, and for, the Latino community.

The first symposium topic deals with the Latino demographic picture that is developing as we move into the 21st century. Drs. Leobardo Estrada and Richard Santillán discuss the social and political implications of Latinos having the fastest growing population in the nation. Translating that growth into political clout, however, it is asserted, depends on the Latino's ability to utilize computer and information delivery systems. Attorney Esther Valadez addresses the Latina's emergence as a major force in developing Latino economic and political viability. Mr. Edward Avila, Executive Director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, suggests the need to create leadership which is firmly based in community organizations.

The Latino community's impact on the 1980-81 reapportionment process is the first topic of a very pointed discussion by Walter Zelman, Executive Director of California Common Cause; Elaine Zamora, Los Angeles Area Chairperson of Californios for Fair Representation, 1981-82; Assemblyman Ross Johnson, Vice-Chairman of the Election and Reapportionment Committee; Dr. Bruce Cain, Political Science Professor at the California Institute for Technology and Chief Consultant to the Chairman of the Assembly Election and Reapportionment Committee; and Alan Rosin, Chief Consultant to the Senate Elections and Reapportionment Committee, who wrote his responses included in the discussion. This panel also discusses the merits of a proposed non-partisan reapportionment commission.

Youth gangs are not new to the barrios of the Southwest. Some can be traced all the way to the turn of the century. The impact of this resilient phenomenon on Latino communities and the law enforcement agencies which deal with them was examined

by 25-year Los Angeles County probation officer, Miguel Duran, who now heads a special gang supervision program; Los Angeles Police Department Lt. Bob Martin, a member of a special task force designed to deal with youth gangs; and Deputy District Attorney Lance Ito, a member of the elite Hard Core Gang Unit, which specializes in prosecuting those charged with violent crimes. Due to time constraints, however, we have postponed inclusion of this panel's discussion.

Systems malfunction at times, especially large ones. The Los Angeles Police Department is no exception. A discussion of police misconduct in the form of excessive force is carried on between Sam Paz, President of the Southern California American Civil Liberties Union; Robert Loew, whose firm represents police officers; Gilbert Garcetti, a Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney, who is responsible for prosecuting police offenders; and Stephen Yslas, President of the Los Angeles Police Commission, which is the policy making body for the Los Angeles Police Department.

Supplementing the symposium reapportionment panel discussion, is an article by Dr. Richard Santillán, which analyzes the 1971-73 Los Angeles City reapportionment process. The author makes recommendations to improve conditions for electing a Latino representative to the 15-member city council, which has not had a Latino member for over 20 years. Also included in this volume is an abstract, and two book reviews which are reprinted from other publications because of their relevance to the issues raised in the symposium discussions.

LOUIE L. VEGA

