

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA (NCLR)

 alipac.us/f9/national-council-la-raza-nclr-307117/

Users Browsing this Thread

1. 

Join Date

May 2005

Location

Heart of Dixie

Posts

35,466

www.DiscoverTheNetwork.org

Date: 7/13/2014 1:17:12 PM

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA (NCLR)

1126 16th Street, NW - Suite 600
Washington, DC
20036-4845

Phone 202) 785-1670
Fax 202) 776-1792
Email :comments@nclr.org
URL :<http://www.nclr.org/>

-
- Largest Hispanic organization in the U.S.
 - Lobbies for racial preferences, bilingual education, stricter hate crimes laws, mass immigration, and amnesty for illegal aliens
 - Views America as a nation rife with white racism and discrimination

See also: [Raul Yzaguirre](#) [Sonia Sotomayor](#) [Cecilia Munoz](#)

With more than 300 affiliate organizations in 41 U.S. states, the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) is currently the largest national Hispanic civil-rights and advocacy organization in America. It is also one of the most influential, as reflected in the fact that NCLR representatives have been called to testify at Congressional hearings more than 100 times since the 1970s.[1]

NCLR's roots can be traced back to the early 1960s, when a group of young Mexican Americans in Washington, DC decided to form a coordinating body to bring existing Hispanic groups which were generally small and isolated together into a single united front, which they called the National Organization for Mexican American Services (NOMAS). Soon thereafter, NOMAS presented a funding proposal to the Ford Foundation, which in turn issued a large grant to finance a major, first-of-its-kind UCLA study of Mexican Americans and the major issues they faced.

Before long, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights began to hold a series of influential hearings on the status of Mexican Americans and, later, other Latino groups residing in the United States. In addition, the Ford Foundation initiated a second (though less academic) investigation of the same subject. To carry out that study, Ford hired three Mexican Americans: Dr. Julian Samora (a community activist who helped pioneer the field of Latino Studies); Dr. Ernesto Galarza (a professor who was widely considered the dean of Chicano activism); and Herman Gallegos (a San Francisco-based community organizer who had previously worked with his mentor, Saul Alinsky, to establish a Mexican-American political action group.[2] These three men traveled throughout the Southwest to meet with other Hispanic activists vis a vis policies and programs that could be developed to help Mexican Americans. These consultations resulted in the publication of two reports showing that Mexican Americans faced numerous obstacles, especially with respect to poverty; needed more local, grassroots programmatic and advocacy organizations; and could benefit from a sustained national advocacy campaign on their behalf.

To address these issues, Galarza, Samora, and Gallegos collaborated to co-found the Southwest

Council of La Raza (SWCLR) NCLR's predecessor in Phoenix, Arizona in February 1968. SWCLR's major funding was provided by the Ford Foundation, the National Council of Churches, and the United Auto Workers union. Gallegos became SWCLR's first executive director, while Galarza served as a consultant to the nascent organization. In the summer of 1968, SWCLR began to help establish and support barrio (community) groups committed to promoting empowerment, voter registration, leadership development, and other forms of advocacy.

At the end of 1972, SWCLR became a national organization and changed its name to the National Council of La Raza (NCLR, often simply called La Raza) to reflect its commitment to represent and serve all Mexican Americans in all parts of the country. The following year, the group relocated its headquarters from Phoenix to Washington, DC. Thanks in large measure to continued support from the Ford Foundation (totaling approximately \$40 million in grants over the next four decades), NCLR would grow into a behemoth of the left-wing civil rights and social justice establishment.[3]

Controversy over the Name La Raza

The words La Raza (Spanish for The Race) in NCLR's name have long been a source of considerable controversy. Critics claim that the name reflects an organizational commitment to racial separatism and race-based grievance mongering. By NCLR's telling, however, such critics have mistranslated the word Raza. The term 'La Raza,' says the organization, has its origins in early 20th century Latin American literature and translates into English most closely as 'the people' or, according to some scholars, 'the Hispanic people of the New World.' According to NCLR, the full term, which was coined by the Mexican scholar José Vasconcelos, is la raza cósmica, meaning the cosmic people. NCLR describes this as an inclusive concept whose purpose is to express the fact that Hispanics share with all other peoples of the world a common heritage and destiny.

NCLR's interpretation of Vasconcelos's explanation, however, is inaccurate. As Guillermo Lux and Maurilio Vigil (professors of history and political science, respectively, at New Mexico Highlands University) note in their 1991 book, *Aztlan: Essays on the Chicano Homeland*:

"The concept of La Raza can be traced to the ideas and writings of Jose Vasconcelos, the Mexican theorist who developed the theory of la raza cosmica (the cosmic or super race) at least partially as a minority reaction to the Nordic notions of racial superiority. Vasconcelos developed a systematic theory which argued that climatic and geographic conditions and mixture of Spanish and Indian races created a superior race. The concept of La Raza connotes that the mestizo is a distinct race and not Caucasian, as is technically the case."

In short, Vasconcelos was not promoting "an inclusive concept," but rather, the notion of Hispanic racial superiority.

NCLR's claim is further contradicted by the Council's own race-specific statements about its activities and objectives. For example, NCLR says that it welcomes affiliation from independent Hispanic groups which share its goals; that it assists Hispanic groups that are not formal Affiliates; that it supports and strengthens Hispanic community-based organizations nationwide especially those that serve low-income and disadvantaged Hispanics; that it seeks to increase policymaker and public understanding of Hispanic needs and to encourage the adoption of programs and policies that equitably serve Hispanics; that it serves all Hispanic subgroups in all regions of the country; and that its political and ideological message is reaching millions of Hispanics each year.

The Early Years

In 1974 Raul Yzaguirre began a 30-year tenure as NCLR's national director. Under his stewardship, NCLR in 1975 not only started to concentrate more heavily on public-policy issues but also began to gradually broaden its focus from one that was solely on Mexican Americans, to one that included all Chicanos and other Hispanics. This expanded constituency became official NCLR policy in 1979 when the organization's board of directors affirmed the Council's role as an advocate for all Hispanics.

The most prominent individual associated with the fledgling NCLR was the legendary union activist Cesar Chavez, who was elected to Council's board. He was unable to serve in any meaningful way, however, because of the demands of his principal occupation as head of the United Farm Workers of America.

Maclovio Barraza, a Tucson-based labor organizer who claimed that the injustices inherent in American society had turned Mexican Americans in the Southwestern U.S. into one of the most disadvantaged segments of our society, served as NCLR's board chairman during the organization's first 9 years. Notably, the federal government's Subversive Activities Control Board had identified Barraza as a Communist Party member.[4]

NCLR's Opposition to Post-9/11 Homeland Security Policies

NCLR strongly opposed most of the U.S. governments post-9/11 counterterrorism efforts alleging, in most cases, that they undermined the rights of noncitizen Latinos. Some examples:

- NCLR opposed the Aviation Transportation and Security Act of 2001, which required that all U.S. airport baggage screeners many of whom were Hispanics be American citizens. Tying together citizenship and security without any evidence that the two are linked sets a new and dangerous precedent in the United States said NCLR staffer Michele Waslin.
- NCLR endorsed the December 18, 2001 Statement of Solidarity with Migrants, which was drawn up by the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. This document called upon the U.S. government to end discriminatory policies passed on the basis of legal status in the wake of September 11
- NCLR was a signatory to a March 17, 2003 letter exhorting members of the U.S. Congress to oppose Patriot Act II on grounds that it contain[ed] a multitude of new and sweeping law enforcement and intelligence gathering powers that would severely dilute, if not undermine, many basic constitutional rights.
- In 2003, NCLR endorsed the Community Resolution to Protect Civil Liberties campaign, a project that tried to influence city councils to pass resolutions of non-compliance with the provisions of the Patriot Act.
- A June 2003 issue brief funded by the Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and George Soros's Open Society Institute gave an extensive overview of NCLR's view of border issues under the heading Counterterrorism and the Latino Community Since September 11. Regarding the recent dissolution of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the incorporation of immigration enforcement into the newly formed Department of Homeland Security, the report stated: Placing the immigration agency within a new mega-national security agency jeopardizes our country's rich immigration tradition and threatens to make the already poor treatment of immigrants by the federal bureaucracy even worse.
- NCLR endorsed the Civil Liberties Restoration Act of 2004, which was designed to roll back, in the name of protecting civil liberties, vital national-security policies that had been adopted after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.
- Post-9/11, NCLR cooperated with groups such as the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and the Arab American Institute to protest the deportation of Arabs living in the United States illegally.
- NCLR also cooperated with socialist/Marxist groups such as Refuse&Resist!, which likened those lawfully arrested and deported, to the disappeared political prisoners of banana republics.

Current Programs of NCLR

To promote the interests of Hispanics in the United States, NCLR currently engages in research, policy analysis, and advocacy in 8 major program areas:

1) Advocacy & Empowerment

NCLR's Advocacy & Empowerment (A&E) program aims to help Latinos assert their rightful place in American society, where they are suffering from higher rates of unemployment and foreclosure than other communities. Asserting that our [Latinos'] voting rights are threatened in states throughout the country, the A&E program concentrates on advocacy activities at state and local levels and seeks to strength[en] Latino participation in the political process. It does this by encouraging eligible applicants to become citizens; motivating citizens to register and vote; and creating a new generation of Latino leaders to educate voters about issues affecting Hispanics and to advocate for local, state, and national policies that will help build a strong Latino community and a stronger country. Further, the A&E program helps non-citizen Hispanics to become citizens through its Citizenship, Its Time! and Citizenship Assistance initiatives, the latter of which provides grants to naturalization programs run by community-based organizations. Similarly, A&E promotes Hispanic voter-registration and voter-mobilization through its ya es hora ¡VE Y VOTA! (Its Time, Go Vote!) and Latino Empowerment and Advocacy projects. Some additional facts:

- NCLR opposed the REAL ID Act of 2005, which required that all drivers-license and photo-ID applicants be able to verify they are legal residents of the United States, and that the documents they present to prove their identity are genuine. According to La Raza, this law opens the door to widespread discrimination and civil rights violations.
- At the 2008 Take Back America conference sponsored by the Campaign for America's Future (CAF), NCLR proudly announced that it would be joining a number of fellow left-

wing organizations in the most expensive (\$350 million) voter-registration, voter-education, and voter-mobilization effort in history during that year's election season. Other members of the coalition included ACORN, the AFL-CIO, CAF, MoveOn.org, Rock the Vote, and the Women's Voices Women Vote Action Fund.

- In January 2014, NCLR and the Mi Familia Vota Education Fund (MFVED) jointly waged a "Mobilize to Vote 2014" campaign whose goal was to register (by mail) at least 250,000 new Hispanic voters for that year's midterm elections. The mailings targeted three pools of potential registrants: newly eligible 18-year-olds, registered voters who had relocated and thus needed to re-register, and the broader Hispanic voting-age population. Geographically, the mailings targeted potential voters in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Florida, and California.

A January 2014 NCLR press release said: "While Latinos have increased their electoral participation in the last decade, today there are almost as many eligible but inactive Latino voters (11.1 million) as active Latino voters (12.2 million). To help close this gap, NCLR and MFV Ed Fund are implementing a large-scale register-by-mail program ..."

2) Children & Youth

NCLR's Children & Youth program was created to represent the interests of this fastest-growing segment of the American population. A key component of the program is its Líderes Initiative, a national campaign designed to build the skills of Latino youth and increase their leadership capacity.

3) Civil Rights & Justice

NCLR's Civil Rights & Justice (CRJ) program founded on the premise that discrimination severely limits the economic and social opportunities available to Hispanic Americans conducts civil rights-related policy analysis and advocacy activities to promote and protect equality of opportunity in voting, justice issues, education, employment, housing, and health care for all Americans.

A matter of particular concern to the CRJ program is racial profiling, which, according to La Raza, occurs when an individual's race or ethnicity is used to establish a cause for suspicion of a crime. Such tactics, says NCLR, not only violate civil rights, they also undermine the ability of law enforcement to enforce the law effectively and cause Hispanics who are targeted to lose trust in the integrity of law enforcement. To address this issue, NCLR works with policy-makers, law enforcement, and the community to eliminate the use of racial profiling.

The CRJ program also focuses heavily on the matter of juvenile justice, lamenting that Hispanic youth: (a) have disproportionate contact with all stages of the juvenile justice system, from being stopped by law enforcement to their arrest, detention, waiver to adult criminal court, and sentencing; (b) are at substantial risk of being detained with adults, which has been shown to lead to increased rates of recidivism and suicide; and (c) need a range of special services targeted specifically toward them, including greater access to culturally and linguistically competent delinquency-prevention services and alternatives to detention. Among NCLR's more noteworthy publications on this subject are: School-to-Prison Pipeline: Zero Tolerance for Latino Youth; Reauthorizing the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act: The Impact on Latino Youth; Latino Youth in the Juvenile Justice System; and Latino Youth, Immigration, and the Juvenile Justice System.

In 2009, NCLR complained that the proposed Gang Abatement and Prevention Act, which sought to punish violent gang crime more harshly, would have a disproportionate and negative impact on youth of color, particularly Latino youth, who are subjected to racial-profiling, 'gang enhanced' sentencing guidelines, and imprisonment in adult facilities where they are abused, assaulted and ultimately groomed into hardened criminals. Rejecting punitive measures designed only to punish and not to reform, La Raza seeks to shift the emphasis from punishment to prevention and rehabilitation.

4) Economy & Workforce

NCLR's Economy & Workforce program promotes policies to boost Hispanic employment in good jobs, provide safe and fair workplaces, bridge Latino workers education and skills gaps, and offer a secure retirement. One such policy is the Escalera initiative created by NCLR in collaboration with (and through the support of) the PepsiCo Foundation and PepsiCo, Inc. which seeks to eliminate barriers to employment and economic mobility by means of career exploration, technology skills development, leadership development, personal development, and academic support. In pursuit of a similar end, NCLR's Career Pathways Initiative aims to steer low-skilled and limited-English-proficient adults toward the green, health care, and customer service sectors.

5) Education

NCLR's Education program is dedicated to increasing educational opportunities, improving achievement, supporting college-readiness, and promoting equity in outcomes for Latinos. Toward these ends, La Raza offers capacity-building, training, and technical assistance to help its Affiliates serve the needs of the Hispanic community at each critical stage of the education pipeline.

6) Health & Nutrition

NCLR's Health & Nutrition (H&N) program seeks to address the widespread lack of health insurance and [the] inadequate supply of language services [that] currently prevent Latinos from gaining access to quality care. It also aims to eliminate the incidence, burden, and impact of health and environmental problems in Latinos. In pursuit of these goals, NCLR's Office of Research, Advocacy, and Legislation conducts policy analysis and advocacy at the federal level.

One of the most significant aspects of the H&N program is its strong opposition to any legislation which would inhibit immigrant access to health care because of mandates that require inquiry or documentation of immigrant status. In other words, it favors healthcare benefits for illegal aliens.

7) Immigration

NCLR's Immigration program calls for comprehensive immigration reform that would encourage the 12 million undocumented people in our country to come forward, obtain legal status, learn English, and assume the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; crack down on unscrupulous employers whose practices undermine conditions for all workers; unclog legal channels to reunite families and allow future workers to come in with the essential rights and protections that safeguard our workforce; and enact proactive measures to advance the successful integration of new immigrants into our communities.

- The Immigration program supports the DREAM Act, which would provide a path-to-citizenship for long-term illegal immigrants who first came to the U.S. as minors, have a relatively clean criminal record, hold a high-school diploma or GED, and are not older than age 30. The DREAM Act also contends that illegal immigrants who wish to attend college in their state of residence should be eligible for the same, heavily discounted tuition rates that are available to in-state students who are legal residents.
- NCLR advocates immigration reform based on a grant of earned amnesty that would confer legal status upon illegal aliens.
- In 1990 NCLR published a report, authored by Cecelia Muñoz, asserting that Congress had a moral obligation to repeal the unconscionable employer sanctions (against those who hired illegals), which were inherently discriminatory and infringe[d] upon the civil rights of Americans. The report also advocated a second legalization program for illegal immigrants who came to the United States after the enactment of the 1986 amnesty.
- NCLR strongly opposed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, a welfare-reform bill that: required recipients of certain welfare benefits to begin working after two years of receiving those benefits; placed a lifetime limit of five years on benefits paid by federal funds; and tightened enforcement of child-support compliance. NCLR's major complaint was the fact that the law banned new legal immigrants from receiving federal public benefits during their first five years in the United States.
- In 2001, NCLR formed focus groups to study how the American public felt about the word amnesty as it pertained to immigration policy. After the focus groups reported that the public's reaction was extremely negative, La Raza national director Raul Yzaguirre advised then-Mexican President Vicente Fox to avoid using the term ever again. He urged Fox instead to employ such euphemisms as regularization, legalization, normalization, permanence, earned adjustment, and phased-in access to earned regularization.
- In 2003, NCLR joined the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee in a failed lawsuit that tried to prevent federal authorities from entering immigration information into a national crime database and to prevent local police officers from accessing that data.
- NCLR is adamantly opposed to permitting local and state police to enforce immigration laws, on the theory that such officers are not adequately trained in the complexities of those laws and thus are likely to abuse their authority. In 2003 and 2005, for example, La Raza warned that the proposed Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal Act would result in higher levels of racial profiling, police misconduct, and other civil rights violations.
- In 2006, NCLR opposed what it described as a punitive bill that sought to control the flow of people illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. Nonetheless, La Raza rejects the

notion that it is an open-borders advocate, stating that it has repeatedly recognized the right of the United States, as a sovereign nation, to control its borders.

- NCLR opposed President Bush's signing of the Secure Fence Act of 2006, which authorized the construction of 700 miles of new fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border.
- At many of the massive pro-immigration rallies that NCLR members attended in 2006, their signature slogan was: La Raza unida nunca sera vencida! (The united Race will never be defeated!)
- In 2007, NCLR commissioned the Urban Institute to conduct a study on how the children of illegal immigrants are negatively affected when their parents are apprehended in workplace immigration raids. The findings were published in a report titled Paying the Price: The Impact of Immigration Raids on Americas Children, which said that such children commonly exhibit depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, separation anxiety, aggressive behaviors, sleep patterns that are changing, changes in appetite, and exaggerated mood swings. One child, said the report, was diagnosed with having suicidal thoughts.
- In 2007, NCLR opposed the state of Oklahoma's tough, enforcement-first immigration laws, which cut off welfare benefits to illegal aliens, stiffened sanctions against employers who hired illegals, and strengthened cooperation and information-sharing between local and federal authorities.
- In April 2010, Arizona state that had experienced an explosion in serious crimes committed by illegal aliens signed into law a bill deputizing state police to check with federal authorities on the immigration status of criminal suspects whose behavior or circumstances seemed to indicate that they might be in the United States illegally. The heart of the law, which explicitly disallowed racial profiling and was a mirror image of longstanding U.S. federal law, was this provision: For any lawful contact [i.e., instances where an officer questions or detains someone who has violated some law, usually a traffic infraction] made by a law enforcement official or a law enforcement agency where reasonable suspicion exists that the person is an alien who is unlawfully present in the United States, a reasonable attempt shall be made, when practicable, to determine the immigration status of the person. Citing this law as evidence that many people were now under attack just for being Latino, NCLR initiated a boycott against Arizona to discourage other states from enacting similar laws.
- NCLR portrays illegal immigrants as vital contributors to the American economy. As La Raza staffer Michele Waslin has put it, Important sectors of the labor market are increasingly dependent on undocumented workers.
- NCLR believes that illegal immigrants should be permitted to obtain driver's licenses, on the theory that such a policy would improve public safety and lower insurance costs.
- La Raza lawyers have waged a relentless assault on local and national efforts to enforce existing American immigration laws by promoting sanctuary city policies that prevent police from checking the immigration status of criminals, verifying resident status in the workplace, or securing the nations borders.

Wealth Building

NCLR's Wealth-Building (WB) program, lamenting that Latino families own just nine cents for every dollar owned by White families, features a Housing and Community Development component and a Wealth-Building Policy Project devoted to helping low-income Latino households build wealth through tangible assets, such as homes, cars, and savings. Specifically, the WB program seeks to help Latinos purchase their first home, avoid foreclosure, access their tax refunds, and make prudent financial decisions. It also lobbies for policy changes that would hold banks and lenders more accountable to Latino families for their services, protect against deceptive lending practices, and increase access to financial products and decision-making tools.

- The foregoing objectives are rooted in the premise that lending institutions commonly try to exploit Latinos. As a logical outgrowth of that premise, NCLR has long pressured banks to lower their qualification standards for home loans to Hispanic borrowers. When large numbers of banks ultimately succumbed to such pressure (which was augmented by similar mandates from the federal government), there was a dramatic spike in the number of subprime loans that were issued to Hispanics (and, for the same reason, to African Americans). Thus the stage was set for the housing market crisis of 2008, which in turn caused Hispanics as a whole to lose fully two-thirds of their net worth. (For details about the correlation between watered-down mortgage-lending standards and the housing-market crisis, click here.)
- NCLR has also sought to partner with banks that conduct business with illegal aliens.

NCLR's Charter Schools

NCLR supports a network of some 115 charter schools across the United States, to provide

Hispanic children with "a better educational option than the nearby traditional public schools." A number of these charter schools openly advocate ethnic separatism and anti-American, anti-white attitudes. Some examples:

- *The Mexicavotl Academy* in Nogales, Arizona is structured and developed around the concepts of identity, culture, and language. It supports local ethnic lobbying efforts to right social injustices by educating the community and helping create social change. Under the heading Greatest Achievements, the school's website once listed a visit the school had received from the Marxist academic fraud Rigoberta Menchu.
- *La Academia Semillas del Pueblo* is a Los Angeles public school that teaches children Aztec math and the Mexican indigenous language of Nahuatl. The school's principal, Marcos Aguilar, is an ethnic separatist who believes that the White way, the American way, the neo liberal, capitalist way of life will eventually lead to our own destruction.
- *The Aztlán Academy* in south Tucson, Arizona seeks to integrate a meaningful Chicano Studies program into [students] lives, language, and academics, as a means of developing their intellects as well as their pride and self-esteem. (Aztlán is the separatist name for the Southwestern United Statesan area that, according to such separatists, rightfully belongs to the government and people of Mexico.)
- The *Dolores Huerta Preparatory High School* in Pueblo, Colorado is named after the Latina labor-union activist who is a board member of the Democratic Socialists of America.
- The *Academia Cesar Chavez Charter School* in Saint Paul, Minnesota supports the federal DREAM Act, which would provide a path-to-citizenship for long-term illegal immigrants who first came to the U.S. as minors, have a relatively clean criminal record, hold a high-school diploma or GED, and are not older than age 30. The DREAM Act also contends that illegal immigrants who wish to attend college in their state of residence should be eligible for the same, heavily discounted tuition rates that are available to in-state students who are legal residents.

Aztlan and the Question of Reconquista

According to the late Rep. Charlie Norwood (R-Georgia), NCLR teaches that Colorado, California, Arizona, Texas, Utah, New Mexico, Oregon and parts of Washington State make up an area known as 'Aztlán' a fictional ancestral homeland of the Aztecs before Europeans arrived in North America. Norwood stated that La Raza views this region as the rightful property of the government and people of Mexico, and thus seeks to bring about a Mexican Reconquista (Reconquest) of these southwestern states. But such a reconquest won't end with territorial occupation and secession, Norwood added. The final plan for the La Raza movement includes the ethnic cleansing of Americans of European, African, and Asian descent out of 'Aztlán.' Norwood also characterized NCLR as "a radical racist group one of the most anti-American groups in the country, which has permeated U.S. campuses since the 1960s, and continues its push to carve a racist nation out of the American West."

John Stone, president of the U.S. Freedom Foundation and former chief of staff to Rep. Norwood, similarly maintains that NCLR has ties to a number of separatist Reconquista groups.

In 2007, La Raza's website stated explicitly that NCLR's mission is the empowerment of our gente [people] and the liberation of Aztlán.

NCLR, however, says it is a misconception to believe that it has ever, at any time, endorsed the notion of a 'Reconquista' or 'Aztlán.'

La Raza's Support of Separatist Groups

While claiming that it has never supported, and does not support, separatist organizations, NCLR acknowledges that in 2003 it provided the Georgetown University chapter of MEChA an openly separatist Chicano student group with a \$2,500 grant. But NCLR defends that grant by asserting that MEChA's primary objectives are educational to help Latino students finish high school and go to college, and to support them while at institutions of higher education.

NCLR's Motto

It has been widely reported that NCLR's official motto is Por La Raza Todo, Fuera de La Raza Nada, which means For The Race Everything, Outside the Race Nothing. But NCLR says it unequivocally rejects this statement, which is not and has never been the motto of any Latino organization.

The Premise That America Is Racist, Hateful, and Discriminatory

NCLR has succeeded in defining, on its own terms, the parameters of the immigration debate by smearing critics of its agendas as anti-immigrant racists. Typical was a 2008 campaign called We Can Stop the Hate. Launched by NCLR with the assistance of the Center for American Progress, Media Matters, and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), this campaign was overtly designed to silence critics who raised alarms about mass illegal immigration into the United States, and who opposed amnesty and open borders. The La Raza campaign portrayed such concerns as the rhetoric of hate groups, nativists, and vigilantes.

Some additional illustrations of NCLR's bedrock belief that America is inherently racist and unjust:

- NCLR calls for lawmakers to expand the coverage of hate-crimes legislation and toughen the penalties therein, in part because such crimes are often used to deter racial, ethnic, or religious minorities from living where they choose.
- NCLR periodically holds educational seminars and roundtables to expose and explore the causes of discrimination against Afro-Latinos and Indigenous Latinos.
- In 1994, NCLR released Out of the Picture, the first extensive content analysis of prime-time TV portrayals of Hispanics. According to NCLR, this production documented both the severe underrepresentation as well as the excessively negative portrayals of Latinos on network television.
- NCLR supports affirmative action (i.e., racial and ethnic preferences) in higher education and the business world.
- NCLR supports increased funding for affordable housing (i.e., taxpayer subsidies for low-income people's housing costs) and programs to combat housing discrimination.
- NCLR rejects Voter ID laws as barriers to voting that disproportionately affect nonwhite minorities and the poor. As such, La Raza denounces such laws as an absolute disgrace.
- NCLR contends that there is a great need for enhanced gender pay equity in the workplace, a claim rooted in the demonstrably false premise that women are routinely paid less than their equally qualified and credentialed male counterparts.

Opposing Assimilation

NCLR opposes legislation that would make English the official language of the United States. Former La Raza president Raul Yzaguirre once declared that U.S. English America's oldest, largest citizens'-action group dedicated to preserving English as the national tongue is to Hispanics, as the Ku Klux Klan is to blacks.

Strongly supportive of bilingual education and the provision of bilingual ballots for Spanish-speaking voters, NCLR in 1998 joined other left-wing groups in filing a lawsuit designed to prevent Proposition 227, California's ballot initiative for bilingual-education reform, from becoming state law.

NCLR Leadership and Major Figures

NCLR is governed by a Board of Directors that includes 21 elected members who are representative of all geographic regions of the United States and all Hispanic subgroups. The organization also receives guidance from a Corporate Board of Advisors, which consists of senior executives from 24 major corporations and their liaison staff. These corporations are: AT&T, Bank of America, Chevron, Citi, the Coca-Cola Company, Comcast Corporation, ConAgra Foods, Ford Motor Company, General Mills, General Motors, Johnson & Johnson, Kraft Foods, McDonalds Corporation, MillerCoors LLC, PepsiCo, Prudential, Shell, State Farm Insurance Companies, Time Warner Inc., Toyota Motor North America, UPS, Verizon, Walmart, and Wells Fargo. Moreover, NCLR has an Affiliate Council composed of executive directors and senior executive staff members from 12 community-based organizations affiliated with La Raza.

NCLR's president since 2005 has been Janet Murguía, who worked in Bill Clinton's White House from 1994-2000, ultimately serving as deputy assistant to the president. Murguía was subsequently the deputy campaign manager and director of constituency outreach for the Gore/Lieberman presidential campaign of 2000. In 2001, Murguía joined the University of Kansas as executive vice chancellor for university relations. When Arizona voters in 2004 approved Proposition 200, a public referendum requiring state residents to prove citizenship before registering to vote, and to prove citizenship or legal immigration status before applying for public benefits, Murguía characterized the measure as anti-immigrant. Moreover, Murguía contends that hate speech should not be tolerated, even if such censorship were a violation of First Amendment rights.

Other major figures in NCLR history, in addition to those previously mentioned, include Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor (who is a longtime member of La Raza) and Cecilia Munoz (a longtime policy analyst with the organization).

NCLR's Think Tank

NCLR administers a Policy Analysis Center that it describes as America's preeminent Hispanic think tank. The Center's broad-based agenda encompasses such issues as immigration, education, free trade, affordable housing, health policy, and tax reform.

NCLR's Partners and Allies

NCLR works closely with the American Civil Liberties Union and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. It also shares major agendas and values with Latino Justice PRLDF (formerly the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund), and the League of United Latin American Citizens. Further:

- NCLR has participated in a series of campaigns in conjunction with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund, calling on all Americans to be tolerant of diversity.
- NCLR has participated in a number of joint initiatives with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, and the National Urban League, to identify and denounce hate crimes and other acts of intolerance.
- NCLR has participated in public-service campaigns with the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, the Childrens Defense Fund, the National Fair Housing Alliance, and other partners to prevent housing discrimination against minorities, families with children, and individuals with disabilities.

Support From Barack Obama

During his presidential campaign in 2007 and 2008, Barack Obama addressed NCLR, lauding the organization for its "extraordinary" work. For details of Obama's remarks, click here.

NCLR's Funders

NCLR receives more than two-thirds of its funding from corporations and charitable foundations; the rest comes mostly from government sources. Among the foundations that have supported the organization are the Aetna Foundation, Allstate Foundation, the American Express Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the AT&T Foundation, the Bank of America Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Fannie Mae Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the HKH Foundation, the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, the Open Society Institute, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Verizon Foundation, and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

To view a list of additional NCLR funders, click here.

In addition, as of February 2011, some 30 major corporations were officially listed as financial supporters of NCLR. One of the organization's most noteworthy corporate funders is Citigroup:

- On March 5, 2003, Citigroup announced a \$105 million strategic partnership with NCLR. The core component of this partnership was Citigroup's pledge to provide up to \$100 million to finance the creation of affordable housing and community facilities in areas with large Hispanic populations. Meanwhile, the Citi Foundation awarded NCLR a \$5 million grant to support the group's community-development initiatives in Hispanic neighborhoods.
- In 2008, Citigroup and the Citi Foundation gave a \$1 million grant to NCLR, to support the latter's efforts to build the capacity of its nearly 300 state and local affiliates nationwide.
- During 2008-09, the Citi Foundation donated some \$1.75 million to NCLR, which used part of the money to fund its Preserving Neighborhoods and Creating Homeowner Opportunities initiative. This program helps NCLR affiliates acquire, maintain, and repurpose foreclosed, vacant, bank-owned properties in urban communities with high foreclosure rates and large concentrations of Latino residents. The initiative began in Phoenix and later expanded to such places as Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, and the District of Columbia.

In 2011, a Judicial Watch investigation revealed that federal funding for NCLR and its affiliates had skyrocketed since President Barack Obama had hired its longtime senior policy analyst, Cecilia Muñoz, to be his director of intergovernmental affairs in 2009. During Muñoz's first year in the White House, government funds earmarked for La Raza totaled approximately \$11 million far above the \$4.1 million figure for the previous year. Fully 60 percent of that \$11 million came from the Department of Labor headed by Hilda Solis, who has close ties to the La Raza movement. Further, in 2010 the Department of Housing and Urban Development gave NCLR \$2.5 million to fund its housing-counseling program; the Department of Education contributed almost \$800,000 to NCLR; and the Centers for Disease Control gave approximately \$250,000.

Moreover, NCLR affiliates nationwide collected tens of millions of government grant and recovery dollars in 2010. An NCLR offshoot called Chicanos Por La Causa, for example, saw its federal funding nearly double to \$18.3 million following Muñoz's appointment. Ayuda Inc., which provides immigration law services and guarantees confidentiality to assure illegal aliens that they will not be reported to authorities, took in \$600,000 in 2009 and \$548,000 in 2010 from the Department of Justice. (The group had not received any federal funding between 2005 and 2008.)

NOTES:

[1] Deirdre Martinez, *Who speaks for Hispanics?: Hispanic Interest Groups in Washington* (SUNY Press, 2009), p.27. Cited in David Horowitz and Jacob Laksin, *The New Leviathan* (New York: Crown Forum, 2012), p. 67.

[2] David Horowitz and Jacob Laksin, *The New Leviathan* (New York: Crown Forum, 2012), p. 66.

[3] In addition to the \$30 million which the Ford Foundation awarded to NCLR from 1972-2002, Ford also gave nearly \$10 million more from 2003-2012. (*Information courtesy of the Foundation Center*)

[4] David Horowitz and Jacob Laksin, *The New Leviathan* (New York: Crown Forum, 2012), pp. 65-66.

(Information on granters courtesy of The Foundation Center, GuideStar, ActivistCash, the Capital Research Center and Undue Influence)

<http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/p....asp?grpid=153>