



# Community, Commitment & Courage

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KATHARINE & GEORGE ALEXANDER COMMUNITY LAW CENTER

## ANNUAL CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 4, 2018  
5:30-7:30 P.M.

EDUCATION  
SERVICE  
ADVOCACY

*Celebrating over twenty  
years of providing free legal  
services to the community and  
educating law students to be  
social justice advocates*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to welcome you to the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center's Annual Celebration—Community, Commitment & Courage!

We have the unique privilege of educating law students to be social justice advocates while serving the legal needs of our low-income community in the areas of immigration, consumer law, and workers' rights. This year's theme recognizes the incredible strength of our client community and those who tirelessly advocate on their behalf. We salute our very own Margarita Alvarez, Law Center Clinical Faculty, who retired this summer.

We are indebted to the volunteer attorneys and community partners who help staff workshops, supervise advice clinics, take pro bono cases, and work with us in other ways. We also simply could not do our work without the financial support of law firms, attorneys, individuals, and granting entities such as the State Bar and Santa Clara County. We thank the clinical law students as well—you make us better teachers, lawyers, and learners. Our law students and alumni return and give back, like many of you here today. Thank you for your continued support.

Tonight's success is largely due to the stellar Celebration Committee led by our Advisory Board. We are grateful to Michael E. Engh, S.J., University President, and Lisa A. Kloppenberg, Dean of Santa Clara Law, for continuing to support our mission.

I am excited to announce that in 2019 the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center will celebrate 25 years of excellence in teaching, service, and advocacy. Together with our Advisory Board and supporters, we have the experience, heart, and vision to fortify our future and advance KGACLC's mission. We invite you to partner in the efforts.

To our sponsors and everyone here tonight, thank you so much. Have a good evening.

Deborah Moss-West J.D. '94



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# Program

## WELCOMING REMARKS

Lisa A. Kloppenberg  
Dean, Santa Clara Law

## CELEBRATORY REMARKS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Deborah Moss-West J.D. '94  
Executive Director, Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center

## INTRODUCTION OF HONOREE

Iustina Mignea J.D. '12, Advisory Board Member

## **RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR MARGARITA ALVAREZ**

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS — 1994–2019

Steven J. Kahn J.D. '04, Advisory Board Chair  
Delma V. Locke J.D. '95, Advisory Board Vice Chair

## CALL TO ACTION

Derek Timm, Friend and Supporter

## CLOSING REMARKS

*Mix & Mingle*

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

# Professor Margarita Alvarez

This summer, **Professor Margarita Alvarez** retired from Santa Clara Law after having advocated on behalf of workers for over 25 years.

After law school, Prof. Alvarez worked for Community Services Organization, providing consumer services to low-income clients in East Los Angeles. She then returned to Pomona College as an admissions officer responsible for developing outreach activities to Latino students. A presentation before the assembly subcommittee on post-secondary education led to a position with then Assemblyman John Vasconcellos as his legislative assistant.

In 1983, Prof. Alvarez moved to Santa Clara County and joined a small law firm engaged in employment law. After several years with that firm, she joined the Litigation Division of the Santa Clara County Counsel's office, continuing her work in employment law. In 1991, she opened her own practice in the field of workers' compensation, managing the office for 14 years before joining the Law Center's Clinical Faculty in 2005.

Prof. Alvarez's wealth of experience and community and industry contacts enriched the clinical experience. She is a thoughtful teacher, who equips, then challenges students to use newly acquired skills to obtain positive results for clients. Prof. Alvarez is an excellent advocate, recently winning a victory for a client that resulted in a \$75K attorneys' fee award for the Law Center. She brought wisdom, calm, and balance to the office. Her dog, Max, was often on hand to make everyone smile. Perhaps most importantly, Prof. Alvarez has a genuine interest in student success, both personally & professionally, that translates into an exceptional clinical and law school experience.

We are fortunate that the Law Center students, staff, and clients are near and dear to Prof. Alvarez's heart. So much so that after a summer break, she returned to the Law Center as a volunteer — we couldn't be more pleased!



*“Many years ago when I graduated from college, I was torn between dreams of becoming a lawyer or becoming a teacher. How wonderful it was, then, to top off a 40 year career in law to combine the practice of law and teaching at KGACL! I am so grateful for the opportunity to learn from knowledgeable and caring colleagues, and to engage with bright and committed students. I look forward to continuing to work with staff and students as a volunteer at the Law Center, even as I look forward to new adventures in travel, art, and other creative paths.”*

—MARGARITA ALVAREZ



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## Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center

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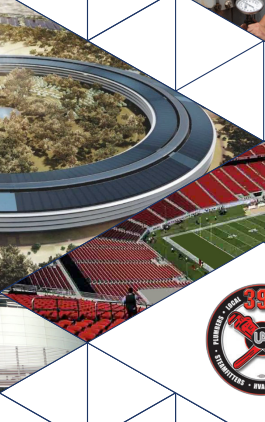


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GALINDO & ASSOCIATES, PC focuses on immigration and litigation.  
Our mission is to achieve social justice by providing high quality, sustainable legal services  
to the individuals and families in our diverse community.

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*\*as of September 26, 2018*

## Community, Commitment & Courage



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*With Heart-felt Gratitude*

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