



Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.

A PROMISE OF OPPORTUNITY

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Contact: María Jesús Cervantes
Director of Media and Communications
Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.
(602) 257-0700 ext. 2120
(602) 622-5502 cell
mariajesus.cervantes@cplc.org

Chicanos Por La Causa Hires General Counsel

Phoenix— Maria Morales Spelleri joins Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. (CPLC) to serve in its newly-created General Counsel position. Ms. Spelleri brings over 13 years of legal experience in areas relating to finance, real estate, policy, governance, regulatory compliance, personnel and litigation matters.

“Maria possesses a diversity of knowledge as a finance and real estate attorney, as well as, experience in the not for profit sector. She was the ideal candidate for CPLC. We are very honored to have her on board,” said Edmundo Hidalgo, CPLC President and CEO. “This is another important step towards strengthening the management operations of our organization as we continue to evolve and position ourselves among the top community development corporations in the country.”

Prior to joining CPLC, Ms. Spelleri was a partner at Lewis and Roca LLP, counseling nonprofit organizations, public agencies, small manufacturers and affordable housing developers in financing or refinancing the acquisition, construction, renovation and equipping of new or expanding capital projects.

“I am excited for this opportunity to join CPLC and contribute to its mission of building stronger, healthier communities,” said Ms. Spelleri. “Having been in existence for more than 42 years, CPLC continues to make a powerful impact in the areas of economic development, education, health and human services, and housing in Arizona and increasingly throughout the country, all of which I am proud to be a part.”

Ms. Spelleri was recognized as one of Arizona’s top business lawyers in public finance in the April 2010 edition of *AZ Business’ Top Lawyers*. She is a member of the National Association of Bond Lawyers, the Arizona State Bar Association, the Maricopa County Bar Association and Los Abogados Bar Association.

Ms. Spelleri served as the immediate past Chairwoman of Valle del Sol, Inc.; currently serves as the Chairwoman of Phoenix Residential Investment Development Effort (PRIDE) and the Secretary of New Arizona Family, Inc.; and previously served as a member of the Phoenix Commission on Housing and Neighborhoods.

Ms. Spelleri received a law degree from Boston University School of Law and an MBA from Boston University School of Management. Ms. Spelleri's additional graduate studies included selection as a fellow in the Jesse Marvin Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program at Sacramento State University. In this capacity, Ms. Spelleri served in the California State Legislature as a consultant to the Assembly Human Services Committee. Ms. Spelleri received a B.A. in Political Science from San Jose State University and completed her degree while serving as an Assembly Legislative Aide in the California State Legislature.

Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. (CPLC) is a statewide community development corporation committed to building stronger, healthier communities as a lead advocate, coalition builder and direct service provider. The organization promotes positive change and self-sufficiency to enhance the quality of life for the benefit of those we serve.

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