

Exploring the Transformative Power of Partnerships Between Law Schools and University-Assisted Community Schools

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In this session:

- We will share real-world examples that illustrate how these collaborations can enhance community well-being by addressing critical issues such as housing instability, economic justice, and immigration challenges.
- Highlighting both the University of New Mexico School of Law and the UCLA Immigrant Family Legal Clinic we will demonstrate how law students and clinical professors provide essential legal services and fosters a supportive environment for students and families in community schools.

We are



UCLA COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Where we grow together

- TK-12 Public School in Koreatown
- Shared campus with 5 other community schools (RFK complex)
- LAUSD pilot school
- University-assisted Community School
- Teacher-Powered School





UCLA Partnership

- 100 Bruins each year
- Student teachers, lawyers, researchers, interns, guest lecturers, tutors and more
- Professional learning
- Enrichment programs
- Integrated Services
- Shared Governance
- Research-practice partnerships

Partnership Collective Priorities

Teaching and Learning

A shared commitment to making practice public, mentoring and modeling excellent teaching for the next generation of educators and informing the efforts of school transformation.

Advancing Research

Mutually-beneficial research-practice partnerships that tackle collective problems in order to inform practice, ensure accountability, and share the wealth of our community knowledge.

Student and Family Services

Opportunities for students and families within and beyond the classroom that affirm their identities, cultivate belonging, and that support them to thrive through services and enrichment opportunities.

A high-angle photograph of a young boy running across a basketball court. The court has a purple base color with green and white painted lines and shapes. The boy is wearing a red and blue plaid shirt, white pants, and a red cap. A semi-transparent white horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text 'UCLA Immigrant Family Legal Clinic' in a bold, dark blue font.

UCLA Immigrant Family Legal Clinic

UCLA Immigrant Family Legal Clinic (IFLC)

- Uniquely housed on the community school campus (15 mi distance)
- Opened in 2019
- Fourteen UCLA law students participated in the clinic in 23-24
- Social worker recently hired
- 4 undergraduate interns helped with translation and interpretation



Services for the RFK Community

Full representation: Pro bono representation in immigration court and/or on asylum and humanitarian visas - currently 150 individuals, 60 are active, the rest pending

- 37 SIJS cases (juvenile visas, asylum)
- Representing 26 unaccompanied minors and 15 family units

Consultation: free advice and counseling. Averaging 3 a week



“The mission of our clinic is to create a space on the school campus where community members - student, parents, teachers - can feel safe talking about legal issues and to feel a sense of both safety and power”

- Nina Rabin, IFLC Director and Clinical Professor of Law



UCLA Immigrant Family Legal Clinic (IFLC)



“The clinic provides life-saving services in an area of enormous need. At the same time the clinic is educating the next generation of advocates.”

UCLA law student

Case Study #1: Seeking asylum

- IFLC represented a family in removal proceeding who came to the legal clinic as an asylum seeking case.
- The family, a single mother with boys ages 12 and 16 in her care, would almost certainly have been ordered removed.
- After months of tirelessly advocacy by a team of three law students, their removal proceedings have been dismissed, **both boys are on a path to citizenship, and the mother will be able to obtain work authorization and pursued her asylum** claim affirmatively, rather than in court.



A family and law student Tess Joseph gathering after a successful gathering
Jazmin, a UCLA-CS alum is holding her little sister and current student

Case Study #2: Labor Rights

IFLC applied for “Deferred Action” for two parents who were victims of labor violations and bravely asserted their rights with labor enforcement agencies. This allowed them to be able to **qualify them for work authorization** and **protection from deportation**.

In both cases, we discovered the labor violation in the course of successfully representing their children in the community schools. Now both the children and their caregivers have **protection from deportation**.



Nina Rabin and a happy client with his mother, sister and law student representative Isaiah Zeavin Moss after a successful hearing

Case Study #3: Engaging the school community

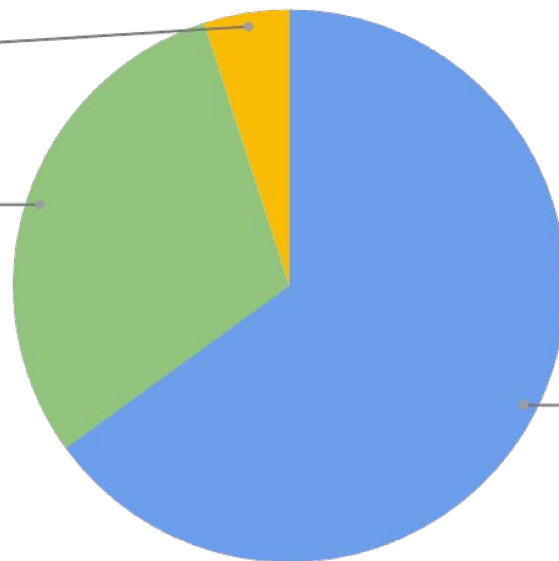
- Connected to a sanctuary schools movement
- Active university partners
- Knowing families, building trust and deep relationships
- Operationalized collaborative leadership

Connecting Families to Legal Services

School Event
5.0%

Parent/Student
30.0%

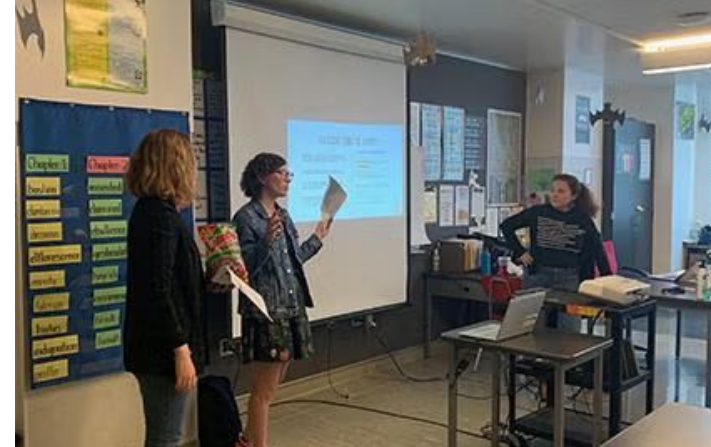
Teacher/Staff
65.0%



Case Study #3: Engaging the school community

Outreach:

- Workers rights presentations for undocumented parents
- General announcements at Coffee with the Principals
- Legal orientations for newcomers in newcomer advisories and seminars
- Workshops for “pro se” asylum seekers
- Trainings for counselors/staff
- Workshops in classrooms



UCLA-CS is a sanctuary school, a place of safety and security for students and families. To be in community, is not just about respecting cultural assets. It extends to the notion of struggle. You are embracing solidarity for immigrant rights."

Karen Hunter Quartz, director of the UCLA Center for Community Schooling



Additional Readings and Information

[Community Schools Revolution](#)

[Immigrant Family Legal Clinic Website](#)

[IFLC interviews](#)

[LPI Report: Celebrating Language, Culture and Community](#)

[Public Scholarship at UCLA Community School](#)



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The UCLA logo, consisting of the letters "UCLA" in white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a solid blue rectangular background.

Center for
Community Schooling