

**MALDEF's 2012-2013 Law School Scholarship Recipients:**



**Estella Cisneros**

*Yale Law School*

Estella Cisneros is the daughter of Mexican immigrant farm workers in the California Central Valley. At Stanford University, she realized that she “was being called to serve the very community [she] had grown up in.” She interned for California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) in college and will return to CRLA as a Skadden Foundation Fellow after Yale Law School, providing direct representation of immigrant, low-wage dairy workers back in the California Central Valley.



**Cinthia Flores**

*University of California Irvine School of Law*

Cinthia Flores started working cleaning houses at the age of thirteen, but stopped when a math teacher recognized her talent and recruited her to work as a peer tutor instead; soon thereafter, she set her sights on UCLA. Active in campus life, including co-founding a Salvadoran student organization, Cinthia was the first Latina elected Student Body President in UCLA history. She “naturally gravitate[s] to community empowerment programs” and seeks to continue serving others after her graduation from UC Irvine School of Law.



**Jose Magaña**

*Baylor Law School*

Jose Magaña credits his mother’s sacrifices for enabling him to become the first person in his family to graduate from college. After Arizona State University, he enrolled at Baylor Law School, where he co-founded the Waco DREAM Act Alliance, provided legal services at AYUDA, and contributed to federal advocacy around the rights of immigrant students at MALDEF. He plans a career using “lawsuits, lobbying and legal research ... to defend ... DREAM Act laws and initiatives” and advance broader immigrant rights for all.



**David Morales**

*Columbia Law School*

David Morales was motivated by the courageousness of the immigrant families he encountered in a post-HB 56 Alabama while engaged in outreach for the Southern Poverty Law Center last summer. He says of the experience, “[I]t reminds me that every Latino community shares the same beginnings ... they all persevered.” An immigrant rights advocate since UC Berkeley, after his graduation from Columbia Law School, he will join the Northwest Justice Project’s Farm Worker Unit in Yakima, Washington.



**Maria Ignacia Rodriguez**

*University of California Los Angeles School of Law*

Maria Ignacia Rodriguez is this year’s Hernandez-Stern Law School Scholarship recipient. After graduating from Santa Monica Community College, she dedicated herself to grassroots organizing, working with the UCLA Downtown Labor Center, CARECEN, and CHIRLA. After graduating from UCLA School of Law, she plans to “help underrepresented and underprivileged communities through “community lawyering” ... and continue being an activist and advocate in the immigrant rights movement.”

**Posthumous Honor:**

*Soon after MALDEF selected Sadath Garcia as a 2012 Law School Scholarship Recipient, we learned of his tragic passing. With his family, MALDEF mourns this tremendous loss and honors the tremendous legacy of service that Sadath Garcia left behind.*



**Sadath Garcia**

*University of California Los Angeles School of Law*

Sadath Garcia was the eldest son of Mexican immigrants who came to the U.S. to provide his family educational opportunities they did not receive. Passionate about education, he graduated from University of Redlands and went on to become a proud member of the Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy at UCLA School of Law. Seeking to use media/communications to advance civil/LGBT rights issues, Sadath served at Cause & Affect, Participant Media, and most recently, in the White House Communications Office. Sadath wrote, “My entire life...I lived between two worlds: privileged academia...and the other, a more pressing world – inside the waiting room of emergency rooms, legal aid offices, and outside courts demanding equal

rights. My career goal has been to uplift others, all the while creating bridges between the diverse worlds that define me. I yearn to narrow the distance between “us” and “them” ....”