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## THE INTEGRATION OF THE UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW, 1966–1978

Architects of Affirmative Action



MIGUEL ESPINOZA

## The Integration of the UCLA School of Law, 1966—1978

Architects of Affirmative Action



by Miguel Espinoza

“Access to education remains one of the great equalizers in America today. But for too many Americans— especially those from low-income communities of color— our nation's colleges and universities remain out of reach. This book tells the story of UCLA's pioneering effort to break down the barriers to higher education through one of the largest and most successful affirmative action programs ever created. As the fight for educational equality continues today, this book provides powerful evidence that affirmative action works, and serves as an important reminder of our obligation to ensure the doors of opportunity remain open to all.” —**Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa**

“In the 1960s, colleges and universities realized that prohibiting discrimination was not enough; affirmative action was essential for diversity. Miguel Espinoza has written a terrific book about the fight to create affirmative action programs in one institution: UCLA Law School. Espinoza's account is beautifully written and compelling. Anyone interested in the affirmative action debate today — and that should be all of us — would benefit greatly from reading this book.” —**Erwin Chemerinsky**, Dean and **Jesse H. Choper** Distinguished Professor of Law, University of California, Berkeley School of Law

### ABOUT THIS BOOK

In 1966, a group of UCLA law school professors sparked the era of affirmative action by creating one of the earliest and most expansive race-conscious admissions programs in higher education. The Legal Education Opportunity Program (LEOP) served to integrate the legal profession by admitting large cohorts of minority students under non-traditional standards, and sending them into the world as emissaries of integration upon graduation. Together, these students bent the arc of educational equality, and the LEOP served as a model for similar programs around the country. Drawing upon rich historical archives and interviews with dozens of students and professors who helped integrate UCLA, this book argues that such programs should be reinstated— and with haste— because *affirmative action worked*.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Miguel Espinoza** is an attorney living in Los Angeles.

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