**From:** info=publicadvocates.org@mail.salsalabs.net on behalf of Public Advocates Inc.
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### President's Report: Celebrating a Living History

When President & CEO Guillermo Mayer joined hundreds of people at his church recently to commemorate Black History Month, the celebration provoked a different kind of reflection than what he experienced in the past. This time it was deeply personal. In his blog, Guillermo honors the members of the African American community who shaped his own journey as a Latino immigrant in the U.S.

Read Memo's blog

### An Unfulfilled Promise

Twenty years after President Clinton signed Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898 (see photo on left), many Environmental Justice (EJ) advocates are dissatisfied. Despite the strong federal commitments that every federal agency would "make achieving environmental justice part of its mission," disparities in health impacts abound, and the benefits of federal spending and other programs don't flow fairly to all. Managing Attorney Richard Marcantonio marked the executive order's anniversary last week by noting where the act has fallen short in practice, but why EJ advocates also have a great deal to celebrate.

Read Richard's blog

### Making Education Rights Real

As we learned after the *Williams v. California* settlement, our job doesn't end when a court victory is won or legislation passed. Those victories remain hollow unless low-income communities know about them and are engaged in how the policies are implemented in their local schools.

We've begun sharing with our community partners the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Our Common Core webinar by Law Fellow Brandon Greene and Policy & Legal Advocate Rigel Massaro is now available online. In addition, we're providing assistance and support to community partners in reviewing districts' CCSS spending and implementation plans and supporting their advocacy around the best use of LCFF funds at both the district level and school sites. For example, Managing Attorney John Affeldt spoke on the topic before hundreds of superintendents from around the state in a recent panel for the Association of California School Administrators.

Stay tuned as we continue to support community partners to understand their rights and watchdog school district activity on these important issues.

**Defending the Disparate Impact Standard: Part III**

In the final posting of her three-part series, Staff Attorney Marybelle Nzegwu concludes by returning her focus to the disparate impact standard, illustrating why it continues to be a vital tool for achieving civil rights.

Read Marybelle's blog
Read Part I and Part II

**Bragging Rights**

Our Pillars (alumni) have an impressive set of accomplishments. Add Heidi Basarab to the list, now that her essay "Did Mother, Maybe, Not Know Best?" has been published in the Modern Love feature in the Sunday New York Times. Congratulations, Heidi ... Social justice leader and distinguished Pillar Angela Glover Blackwell was recently named Richman Distinguished Fellow in Public Life at Brandeis University ... Welcome to our Spring law clerks, Raymundo Jacquez (3L, UC Davis), Sara Stephens (3L, Berkeley Law) and Tom Watts (2L, Harvard), plus development volunteer Nolan Avery.

**Voices of Conscience Celebration: April 24 – Honoring Dr. Nadine Burke Harris**

Save the date! And watch for your invitation in the next couple of weeks for the best social justice party of the year. Stay tuned for more details.

Become a sponsor

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