



# Board Appointment Form

City Clerk

Submitted On: Oct 3, 2022, 01:43PM MDT

Appointing Office	Representative District 1
Type of Agenda	Consent
Date of Council Meeting	Tuesday, October 11, 2022
Agenda Posting Language	Appointment of Linda Y. Rivas to the Committee on Border Relations by Representative Peter Svarzbein, District 1
Name of Board/Committee/Commission	Committee on Border Relations
Appointment Type	Regular
Special Qualification Category (if applicable)	
Nominated By	Representative Peter Svarzbein
Nominee Name	Linda Y. Rivas
Nominee Email Address	
Nominee Mailing Address	
Zip Code	
Nominee Primary Phone Number	
Does the proposed appointee have a relative working for the city?	NO
Has appointee been a member of other city boards / commissions / committees?	NO
List all real estate owned by appointee in El Paso County (by address, if none, enter 'N/A')	
Who was the last person to have held the position before it became vacant?	Maria Eugenia "Kenna" Ramirez
Incumbent Expiration Date	May 31, 2022
Reason person is no longer in office	Term Expired
Date of Appointment	October 11, 2022
Term begins on	June 1, 2022
Expiration Date of New Appointee	May 31, 2024
Term	1st Term
Upload File(s)	Linda Rivas Resume September 2022.pdf

# LINDA Y. RIVAS

## EDUCATION

**Loyola University New Orleans College of Law**, New Orleans, Louisiana

*Juris Doctor*, May 2011

**The University of Texas at El Paso**, El Paso, Texas

*Bachelor of Arts in Psychology*, May 2008 Law School Preparation Institute Minor in Legal Reasoning

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services**, El Paso, TX

*Children's Program Director*, April 2022-Present

- Manage and supervise all unaccompanied minor personnel including staff, interns, and volunteers.
- Assist with grant reporting to VERA.
- Work closely with HR department for management of staff, manage leave requests, conflict resolution.
- Supervise Managing Attorneys and Legal team with proper data management,
- Work closely with DMRS leadership on policies, and compliance of the organization
- Assist with hiring and training new staff.
- Work closely with Managing Attorneys, Data Manager and Social Services manager on training, team building, best practices, team dynamic, long term and short term goals for the team.
- Collaborate with grantor liaisons and entire VERA network.
- Collaborate with ORR facilities, local leadership and national leadership.

**Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center**, El Paso, TX

*Executive Director*, April 2015-Present

- Manage and supervise all office personnel including staff, interns, volunteers and contract workers.
- Manage, draft, and supervise all grants proposals and grant reports.
- Serve as liaison between the Board of Directors and the staff.
- Train volunteers and interns in social media, fundraising, and grant management.
- Work closely with Management Consultant in revamping of internal policies, including financial and HR policies.
- Administer weekly staff meetings and staff development training.
- Conduct Board training and strategic planning retreats.
- Cultivate and solicit donor gifts to meet fundraising goals.
- Coordinate social media and media communication.
- Testified before Congress for the Women's Working Group hearing on the detention of immigrant women.

**Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center**, El Paso, TX

*Managing Attorney*, November 2014-Present

- Represent clients in removal proceedings both in non-detained and detained docket before the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR).
- Represent clients in the appellate process before the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA).
- Litigate immigration cases including asylum, cancellation of removal and adjustment of status.
- Conduct legal research, draft and file motions and briefs before EOIR and the BIA.
- Supervise and collaborate with the legal staff of BIA accredited representatives and paralegals in the areas of Asylum, Deferred Action, Naturalization, Family Petitions, Removal Defense and Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA) and U-Visa protections.
- Provide consultations with prospective clients at Las Americas' office and at the immigration detention center to provide legal advice and to identify viable cases.
- Coordinate and create training for monthly meetings for the *Promotora* (Community Worker) team.
- Draft and coordinate community legal presentations regularly for use by staff and volunteers.
- Drafted and Conducts Know Your Rights and Family Safety Planning Presentation.
- Drafted and conducted training "Building Blocks of Asylum Law" for Continuing Legal Education credits.

**Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project**, El Paso, TX

*West Texas VAWA Legal Manager*, April 2013-November 2014

- Represented victims of domestic violence, trafficking and other serious crimes in VAWA, UVISA,

Adjustment of Status, Removal of Conditions submissions to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

- Represented clients in removal proceedings both in non-detained and detained docket before EOIR.
- Supervised and mentored paralegals legal clerks, interns, volunteers, and volunteer attorneys in all legal submissions and daily tasks.
- Supervised social work interns and acted as field liaison between the students their universities.

**Law Office of Thomas E. Stanton, El Paso, TX,**

*Legal Assistant*, August 2011-December 2012

- Researched and drafted Appellate Briefs to the Texas 8<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals concerning parental-rights termination cases.
- Researched and drafted various motions for personal injury defense cases.
- Assisted in preparation for child-welfare and family court hearings, including preparing clients for testimony.
- Met, interviewed, and worked closely with child welfare clients, their foster families, caseworkers, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and agency workers.
- Attended Texas Department of Family and Protective Services meetings, YISD, and EPISD school meeting regarding our minor clients.
- Drafted civil motions involving minor clients in the child welfare docket such as assisted supervising attorney with mediation scheduling, assisted in calendaring and office management.

**Public Defender's Office, Gretna, LA**

*Attorney/Client Spanish Interpreter*, August 2009- Present

- Interpreted for attorneys and their Spanish-speaking clients for pretrial motions, motions days, status hearings, and client visits.
- Drafted Waiver of Constitutional Rights and Notification for Sex Offenders documents from English to Spanish.

**Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review, New Orleans, LA**

*Intern*, September 21, 2010-October 27, 2010 and January 20, 2011-April 2011

- Surveyed Supreme Court and other immigration court opinions, drafted memos for Judge's review, surveyed and observed a variety of cases before the bench, including cancellation of removal, unlawful search and seizure, political asylum, unaccompanied minor, and VAWA cases.

**Capital Appeals Project of New Orleans, LA**

*Extern*, August 2009-March 2010

- Researched and prepared memos for supervising attorney.
- Research, prepare, and assist with filing memos for death row and life inmates, Conducted circuit court opinion surveys concerning inmate rights and issues.

**GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

**Texas State Bar Grievance Committee District 17**

*Panel Chair*, July 2020-Present

*Member*, July 2018-Present

- Chair investigatory hearings and panel meetings and draft final panel summary for the Office of Chief Disciplinary Council
- Attend investigatory hearings and panel meetings, review grievances filed in our district and review all evidence presented

**Borderland Immigration Council (BIC)**

*Founding Member*, July 2016,

*Steering Committee*, July 2016-present

- Co-Coordinates and promotes coalition building among immigrant and border advocacy organizations, attorneys and community members to join in a coalition against rampant abuse occurring in area detention centers, ports of entry and our border community at the hands of the Department of Homeland Security
- Leads media strategy in an effort to elevate local advocate voices regarding to immigration policies and practice
- Assisted in the research and final presentation of the "Discretion to Deny" Report co-authored by the Hope Border Institute in 2017.

**Dayton University Human Rights Center Executive Advisory Committee**

*Member*, May 2021- November 2021

- Consulted on Human Rights Projects, collaborating with human rights organizations and media strategy.

**El Paso Young Lawyers Association**

*President, May 2018-May 2019*

- Lead fundraising efforts, CLEs, community charitable events and monthly membership meetings.

*Secretary, June 2014-June 2015*

*Board of Directors, June 2014-August 2019*

### **Women's March El Paso**

*Lead Organizer, January 2018-March 2019,*

- Coordinated community wide advocacy efforts around progressive values, including reproductive rights, voter's rights,
- Organized several marches with over 3-5K people in attendance.

### **American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)**

*Member, April 2014-Present*

### **El Paso Bar Association**

*Member, May 2013-Present*

### **U-Visa Coalition**

*Founding Member, April 2015 – September 2018*

- Coordinated legal advocacy groups with the District Attorney's office to address the issue of U-Visa certification backlog and harmful policies to immigrant victims of crime. The group now meets on a quarterly basis with the DA's office and the policies in questions have been changed.

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

- Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center Border Hero 2022, October 2022
- Latinx Law Students Association (LLSA) Gala Keynote Speaker, October 2022
- State Bar of Texas, Presidential Resolution, April 2022
- El Paso Bar Association, Pro-Bono Award, April 2022
- National Immigration Forum "Keeper of American Dream" Honoree 2021
- Northeastern University School of Law Daynard Fellow Fall 2021
- Center for Democracy in the Americas 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Honoree December 2019
- League of Women Voters of El Paso Honoree 2019
- Border Network for Human Rights Human Rights Advocacy Award April 2019
- Illinois State University Featured Speaker "Immigration in a Global Context Series" 2018
- El Paso Community College Diversity Committee 2017 Mentor Award