

Maronel Barajas is the Director of Litigation at the Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC). Ms. Barajas supervises all litigation efforts by DRLC. Throughout her career, Ms. Barajas has worked on complex civil rights cases in the areas of disability law, housing, education and employment. She has been litigating disability rights cases exclusively for approximately 10 years. A former Adjunct Professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, Ms. Barajas taught an upper division special education and the law course and regularly lectures on education law and policy. She participates in legislative and regulatory comment on disability rights issues. Ms. Barajas also oversees DRLC's Education Advocacy Program, Community Advocacy Program and Inland Empire Program.

Ms. Barajas is a 2003 graduate of Columbia Law School and 2000 graduate of the University of California, Irvine. While in law school, she was actively involved with Columbia's Tenants Rights Project and the Unemployment Action Committee. Ms. Barajas was also a member of the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review* and the *Columbia Journal of Gender and the Law*. She graduated *magna cum laude* and with departmental honors from the University of California, Irvine, where she received two Bachelor of Arts degrees. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the Golden Key National Honor Society.

Cases of note include:

- *Peter Johnson et al. v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department et al.*, USDC Case No. CV 08-03515 DDP (SHx) (a successfully settled class action currently in the monitoring stage on behalf of individuals with mobility impairments to obtain program and physical access while detained in the Los Angeles County Jail);
- *Ochoa et al. v. City of Long Beach et al.*, USDC Case No. CV 14-04307 DSF (FFMx) (a class action challenging the City of Los Angeles' failure to maintain pedestrian right of ways, including sidewalks and curb ramps for people with mobility disabilities);
- *C.S. v Public Safety Academy of San Bernardino and San Bernardino Unified School District*, EDCV-14-00941- RGK (DTBx) (successfully settled case of first impression in California federal court challenging charter school's use of a 2.0 grade policy to exclude students with disabilities); and
- *C.C. v. Cypress School District et al.*, USDC Case Number CV 11-00352 AG (RNBx) (successfully settled case of first impression in federal court allowing a student with autism to attend school with his service dog; preliminary injunction motion granted in favor of Plaintiff).