Guide to the Ricardo Cruz/Catolicos por La Raza papers CEMA 28

Finding aid prepared by Salvador Güereña, assisted by Alexander Hauschild in 2000

UC SANTA BARBARA

Library
UC Santa Barbara Library, Department of Special Collections
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, California, 93106-9010
Phone: (805) 893-3062
Email: special@library.ucsb.edu; URL: http://www.library.ucsb.edu/special-collections
Title: Ricardo Cruz/Catolicos por La Raza papers  
Identifier/Call Number: CEMA 28  
Contributing Institution: UC Santa Barbara Library, Department of Special Collections  
Language of Material: English  
Physical Description: 13.2 linear feet (18 boxes)  
Date (inclusive): 1967-1993  
Abstract: Ricardo Cruz (1943 - 1993) was a Chicano rights attorney during the Chicano Movement era. He is most well-known for his advocacy on behalf of the Latino poor people of the Los Angeles area. Cruz was a law school student at the time he founded the controversial organization known as Catolicos por la Raza. Through this organization, he led demonstrations against the Catholic Church for its neglect of the Latino community. His collection takes up 13.2 linear feet and is housed in 18 boxes, containing correspondence files, legal documents, transcripts, photographs, news clippings and ephemera. The preponderance of the Ricardo Cruz Papers, 11 boxes, the Legal Files series, represent his legal cases as a Los Angeles attorney. In this series is found copious information that sheds light on the forced sterilization of Latinas in Los Angeles during that period, and other legal issues.  
Physical Location: del Norte CEMA stacks  
Language of Materials: The collection is in English.  
creator: Cruz, Ricardo  
Acquisition Information  
Donated by Camilo Cruz on November 12, 1998  
Access Restrictions  
The collection is open for research.  
Use Restrictions  
Copyright has not been assigned to the Department of Special Collections, UCSB. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Head of Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Department of Special Collections as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which also must be obtained.  
Preferred Citation  
[Identification of Item], Ricardo Cruz/Catolicos por La Raza papers, CEMA 28. Department of Special Collections, UC Santa Barbara Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.  
Biography  
Ricardo Cruz was a Chicano rights attorney during the Chicano Movement era. He is most well-known for his advocacy on behalf of the Latino poor people of the Los Angeles area. Cruz was a law school student at the time he founded the controversial organization known as Catolicos por la Raza. Through this organization, he led demonstrations against the Catholic Church for its neglect of the Latino community. He is also know for his successful legal battle against Los Angeles County’s forced sterilization of undocumented workers, and for his successful defense of a young Latino wrongly convicted of murder.  
Cruz was born in 1943 and raised in Los Angeles. After graduating from California State University-Los Angeles in 1967, Cruz attended Loyola Marymount University School of Law. While a law intern with the California Rural Legal Assistance in Santa Barbara, Cruz helped to organize farm workers in Salinas.  
Cruz received the Juris-Doctor degree from Loyola Marymount School of Law in 1971. His attempts to practice law, however, were short-circuited by the California State Bar’s refusal to certify him. The State Bar claimed that his “moral corruption,” in disrupting a religious sermon, was inappropriate. With the support from The American Civil Liberties Union and others, Cruz was eventually admitted to the Bar.  
Later, in 1982, Cruz fought and won the dismissal of charges against a young Latino named Gordon Castillo Hall, an adolescent who was falsely convicted for the murder of a Duarte postman who was shot in 1978. Cruz died in 1993, following an unsuccessful battle with lung cancer.  
Series Descriptions  
Personal/Biographical Series. This series, limited to one box, consists of eleven folders that represent a time span from 1972 to 1993. Included here are Cruz’ writings consisting largely of undated essays, poetry and ruminations. Among the selections are “Chicanos in Mexico”, and "An Ode to Chicanos/Chicanas." General correspondence covers 1967-1982, made up of personal and official correspondence, including letters from then-Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. on the appointment of Cruz Reynoso to the California Supreme Court. His 1976 interview on “Chicanos, Catholicism, and Political Ideology”
gives insights into his personal history, his founding of Católicos por la Raza, and his philosophy on the Chicano Movement. In this series is a file that evidences his brief affiliation with the Los Angeles office of the Mexican Legal Defense and Education Fund. Also here, in the obituaries and memorial tributes, are news clippings detailing his personal history, his achievements, and commitment to social justice. Tributes from municipalities and government bodies are included here. There is an assortment of photographs of Cruz in social and family settings. Folder 12 contains his various resumes but also includes a court application to become a juvenile court attorney, and in this he provides a summary of his court cases and qualifications.

**Rosa Martínez Cruz Series.** Martínez Cruz was Ricardo Cruz’ first wife and their overlapping interests led them to work together on some common Chicano Movement issues and projects. This series is made up of two boxes. Martínez Cruz’ Socialist ideological convictions are manifested in her involvement with the Comisión Sin Fronteras and CASA/Hermanidad General de Trabajadores, whose internal bulletins are found here. She was on the staff of El Foro del Pueblo and Sin Fronteras and contributed her views to each through published articles. Sin Fronteras was the political and theoretical organ of the Comisión Sin Fronteras and had a key role in promulgating the ideology of this Leninist-based organization that was dedicated to liberation struggle on behalf of the Mexican people in the U.S. Significant Leninist polemical treatises in this series include *Fan the Flames: A Revolutionary Position on the National Chicano Question.*

**Political Activity Series.** There are two divisions represented here, one of which consists of Cruz’ involvement with law student organizations and the other made up of materials on his involvement with Católicos por la Raza. The latter includes news releases detailing activities directed against the Catholic Church, Católicos por la Raza meeting agendas, correspondence and news clippings spanning a relatively brief but significant period of winter 1969 through April 1970. The focus of this series is to document Católicos por la Raza’s activities leading to and following the demonstration at St. Basil’s Cathedral in Los Angeles.

**Legal Files Series.** This series contains the most extensive portion of the collection and is housed in ten boxes. It represents Cruz’ work as an attorney on legal cases, spanning the years 1972 to 1985. Included here is the very significant, successful legal challenge against Los Angeles County for the forced sterilization of undocumented patients at the County-USC Medical Center. Also in this series are several cases in which Cruz is the defendant, including his involvement in Católicos por la Raza’s demonstration at St. Basil’s Cathedral in Los Angeles. His hearings before the State Bar’s Committee of Bar Examiners, concerning his certification to practice law, are found here.

**Subject Files Series.** This series is housed in one box and folders 5-6 are especially insightful in their coverage of the Chicano Moratorium and the death of Ruben Salazar at the hands of Los Angeles County Sherriff’s deputies. Folder 3 is a file related to the work of the East Los Angeles-based Committee to Stop Home Destruction and consists of a study aiming to counteract the displacement of Latinos in East Los Angeles communities as a result of urban renewal practices.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Lawyers--California
Los Angeles (Calif.)--Trials, litigation, etc
Mexican Americans--California--Los Angeles--Politics and government--20th century
Mexican Americans--Civil rights--California--Los Angeles--History--20th century
Mexican Americans--Economic conditions
Mexican Americans--Legal status, laws, etc.--California--Los Angeles--History--20th century
Mexican Americans--Politics and government
Mexican Americans--Social conditions
Photographs
Political activists--Legal status, laws, etc.--California--Los Angeles--History--20th century

**Personal/Biographical Information**

Box 1, Folder 1  "La Batalla de Miguel García y Richard Cruz” 1972
Box 1, Folder 2  Essays, Narratives, and Poetry 1970-1975
Box 1, Folder 3  Friends of Richard Cruz Committee 1993
Box 1, Folder 4  General Correspondence, Incoming 1974-1982
Box 1, Folder 5  General Correspondence, Outgoing 1967-1981
Box 1, Folder 6  Interview-Chicanos, Catholicism, and Political Ideology December 18, 1976
Box 1, Folder 7  MALDEF 1976
Box 1, Folder 8  News Clippings-State Bar Certificaion 1973
Obituaries and Memorial Tributes 1993
Photographs 1963-1992
Resumes 1943-1971
Miscellany 1972-1983

Rosa Martinez Cruz

C.A.S.A.-Hermandad de Trabajadores 1976
Chicano Studies Research Center, UCLA Annual Report 1977-1978
Chicano Studies Institutes-Objective of Chicano Studies UCLA 1970

Comision Sin Fronteras
Asamblea Local 1976
Business Meetings 1975-1976
Círculo de Estudio Antonio Castillo Program of Study for Comision Sin Fronteras 1975-1976
Local Seminar Reports 1976
Political Reports of Local Committee, internal bulletins and readings 1974-1987
"La Propaganda Leninista" (Manuel De J. Gonzalez, undated) 1974
Puerto Rican Independence 1974
Publications
Essays and Articles on Marxist-Leninist Ideology 1973-1976
Fan the Flames: A Revolutionary Position on the Chicano National Question 1976
Marxist-Leninist Theory 1976

Rectification Papers 1976

Sin Fronteras (Newsletter) 1976

East Los Angeles Health Task Force
El Foro del Pueblo 1979-1980

Machete (Los Angeles City College) April 1969-October 1969

Miscellaneous Publications 1977-1982

Politics and Ideology 1968-1972

Political Activity

La Raza Law Students Association/Abogados de Aztlan
Political Activity
La Raza Law Students Association/Abogados de Aztlan

Box 4, Folder 1  1973-1986
Box 4, Folder 2  1968-1973
Box 4, Folder 3  1972-1973
Box 4, Folder 4  News Clippings (Minority Students Admissions Process) 1972-1973
Box 4, Folder 5  People's Law Office (Cruz, Villalobos, Ramos, Duran) Undated

Catolicos Por La Raza
Other Descriptive Information
See oversize Box 18 for Chicano newspapers on Católicos Por La Raza, on the Catholic church and Chicanos, and on the Chicano Movement.

Box 5, Folder 1  Agendas, Minutes, and Reports November 1969-December 1969
Box 5, Folder 2  General Correspondence 1969-1977
Box 5, Folder 3  News Releases December 1969-February 1970
Box 5, Folder 4-5  News Clippings 1969-1983
Box 5, Folder 6  Photographs (21 Photos: Protests, Marches, Rallies) 1969-1971
Box 5, Folder 7  Script for KNBC "Religion and the Chicano" Undated
Box 5, Folder 8  Political Essay Undated
Box 5, Folder 9  Miscellany 1970-1987

Legal Files

Castillo Hall (Gordon) Case

Box 6, Folder 1  Correspondence 1979-1982
Box 6, Folder 2  Ephemera (flyers and announcements) 1980-1982
Box 6, Folder 3  Fundraisers 1981
Box 6, Folder 4  Justice for Gordon Castillo Hall Committee 1980
Box 6, Folder 5  News Clippings 1971-1983
Box 6, Folder 6  Photographs-Victory Celebration June 4, 1982

Box 6, Folder 7  Cruz (Richard V.) and Associates (Notice and Demand to Members of the Teatro a la Brava, et al.) February 12, 1981


Box 7, Folder 1  Arbitration between Richard V. Cruz, Emma, and Edward Murrieta 1983-1991
Box 7, Folder 2  Application for Writ of Prohibition April 1982
Box 7, Folder 3  Correspondence 1984-1985
Box 7, Folder 4  Docket sheets October 21, 1980
Box 7, Folder 5  Notice of Filing of Notice of Appeal September 1983
Box 7, Folder 6  People vs. Christopher Anthony Avitea and Edward Frank Murrieta and Reporter’s transcripts of proceedings March 29, 1982
Box 7, Folder 7  People vs. Christopher, Avitea, Edward, Murrietta and Brian Powers- verdicts May 16, 1983
Box 7, Folder 8  People vs. Edward Frank Murrietta (Prohibition Officers report) July 1982
Box 7, Folder 9  People vs. Christopher Avitea, Edward Murrietta and Brian Powers- summaries of testimony October 1980-April 1983

Nolasco (Oscar) vs. Richard Cruz 1984-1985

Request for Dismissal April 4, 1985

Guide to the Ricardo Cruz/Catolicos por La Raza papers
CEMA 28
### People vs. Cruz et al. (St. Basil’s demonstration) Reporter's Transcription on Appeal, Jury Trial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 8, Folder 2</th>
<th>March 30, 1970</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 3</td>
<td>April 6, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 4</td>
<td>April 7, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 5</td>
<td>April 8, 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 6</td>
<td>April 8, 9, 10, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 7</td>
<td>April 13, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 8</td>
<td>April 13, 14, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 9</td>
<td>April 14, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 1</td>
<td>April 15, 1970 (9:30 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 2</td>
<td>April 15, 1970 (1:30 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 3</td>
<td>April 16, 1970 (8:30 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 4</td>
<td>April 16, 1970 (2:30 p.m.) - April 17, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 5</td>
<td>April 20, 1970 (9:00 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 6</td>
<td>April 21, 1970 (9:40 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 7</td>
<td>April 21, 1970 (1:30 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 8</td>
<td>April 22, 1970 (9:40 a.m.) - April 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 9</td>
<td>April 23, 1970 (1:30 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 10</td>
<td>April 24, 1970 (9:32 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 11</td>
<td>April 27, 1970 (9:21 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 12</td>
<td>April 27, 1970 (1:30 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 1</td>
<td>April 28, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 2</td>
<td>April 28, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 3</td>
<td>April 29, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 4</td>
<td>April 29, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 5</td>
<td>April 30, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 6</td>
<td>May 1, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 7</td>
<td>May 1, 1970</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### People vs. Cruz et al. (St. Basil’s demonstration); People vs. Alicia Escalante

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 10, Folder 8</th>
<th>May 8, 1970</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 9</td>
<td>June 5, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 10</td>
<td>June 8, 1970</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Box 11, Folder 1

**People vs. Jessie Guerrero 1984-1985**

### Box 11, Folder 2

**Police brutality case against Los Angeles County Sheriff deputies August 7, 1973**

### Box 11, Folder 3

**Ponce (Augustine B.) et al. vs. Laborers International Union of North America, Local 300, AFL-CIO, et al**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 11, Folder 3</th>
<th>Correspondence, flyers, newspapers 1972-1974</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 4</td>
<td>Court documents in legal cases against Union officers 1970-1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 5</td>
<td>Election of officers 1963, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 6</td>
<td>Fundraiser Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 7</td>
<td>Deposition of Carlos Enriquez January 8, 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 8</td>
<td>Deposition of Manuel Renteria December 28, 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 9</td>
<td>Mexico connections-Padilla and Renteria 1974-1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 10</td>
<td>Minutes of Executive board May 28, 1974-June 25, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 11</td>
<td>Miscellaneous publications 1971-1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 12</td>
<td>Photographs and negatives of laborers union Undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Legal Files

Ponce (Augustine B.) et al. vs. Laborers International Union of North America, Local 300, AFL-CIO, e...

Box 11, Folder 14


Ponce et al. vs. Local 300-Attorney notes and documents 1974-1975

U.S. Department of Labor vs. Local Union 300

Box 12, Folder 1

Attorney notes and documents 1974-1975

Box 12, Folder 2

Civil action for violation of Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 1972

Box 12, Folder 3

Civil Action February 1974

Box 12, Folder 4

Judgement Writ of Execution and Order 1978

Box 12, Folder 5

Notations/appeal costs 1987

Box 12, Folder 6

United States of America vs. Manuel Rentería, Ray Pasillas (Indictment) September 1970

Box 12, Folder 7

Writs and Exonerations-Ricardo Navarez 1973

State Bar

Reporter's Transcription of Committee of Bar Examiners' Hearing Subcommittee in the Matter of Richard Cruz, application for examination for admission to practice law, volumes I-XVI September 13, 1972-January 7, 1973

Box 13, Folder 1

Vol. 1: September 13, 1972

Box 13, Folder 2

Vol. 2: October 4, 1972

Box 13, Folder 3

Vol. 3: October 11, 1972

Box 13, Folder 4

Vol. 4: October 25, 1972

Box 13, Folder 5

Vol. 5: December 4, 1972

Box 13, Folder 6

Vol. 6: December 6, 1972

Box 13, Folder 7

Vol. 7: December 7, 1972

Box 13, Folder 8

Vol. 8: December 16, 1972

Box 13, Folder 9

Vol. 9: December 18, 1972

Box 13, Folder 10

Vol. 10: December 27, 1972

Box 13, Folder 11

Vol. 11: December 28, 1972

Box 14, Folder 1

Vol. 12: January 3, 1973

Box 14, Folder 2

Vol. 13: January 4, 1973

Box 14, Folder 3

Vol. 14: January 5, 1973

Box 14, Folder 4

Vol. 15: January 6, 1973

Box 14, Folder 5

Vol. 16: January 7, 1973

State Bar Certification-Correspondence and Documents

Box 14, Folder 6

State Bar of California (certification) 1972-1973

Sterilization Files

Box 15, Folder 1


Box 15, Folder 2

Summons on First Amended Complaint, Answer to First Amended Complaint, Affidavit on Nonappearance of Witness, Complaint for Damages June 10, 1975

Box 15, Folder 3

Exhibit A Chronology of Pleadings, History of L.A. County Hospital 1898-1968

Box 15, Folder 4-5

Correspondence 1972-1976

Box 15, Folder 6

Doctors' statements (1976) and report on hospitals' sterilization practices 1974

Box 15, Folder 7

Health research group-study on surgical sterilization October 29, 1973

Box 15, Folder 8

Los Angeles Regional Family Planning Council February 1974-June 1977

Box 15, Folder 9

Madrigal (Dolores) et al. vs. E.J. Quilligan et al. June 30, 1978

Box 15, Folder 10-11

Miscellaneous publications on sterilization December 1973-August 1979
Legal Files
Sterilization Files

Box 16, Folder 1
National Coalition against sterilization abuse December 4, 1976

Box 16, Folder 2-3
Paramo vs. County of Los Angeles et al. March 23, 1976-October 24, 1980

Box 16, Folder 4
Paramo Profile 1975-1978

Box 16, Folder 5
Synopsis/Federal Plaintiffs-Plaintiffs answers to defendants first set of written interrogatories May 24, 1971-March 7, 1974, Elidia Silva affidavit September 1974

Vasquez (Hector) vs. Abrams (Arnold)

Box 16, Folder 6
Vasquez (Hector) vs. Abrams (Arnold) July 14, 1982-August 28, 1984

Subject Files

Box 17, Folder 1
Cathedral High School September 1983-February 1986

Box 17, Folder 2
Chicano movement October 1971-June 1995

Box 17, Folder 3
Committee to stop home destruction 1974

Box 17, Folder 4
Minorities and Latinos September 1970-March 1973

Box 17, Folder 5-6
Ruben Salazar and Chicano Moratorium (see also Oversize Box 18) 1970

Box 17, Folder 7
United Farm Workers April-December 1970

Oversize Box

Box 18, Folder 1
Católicos por la Raza February 1965-January 1970

Box 18, Folder 2
Cruz (Ricardo V.) photograph 50th birthday celebration July 4, 1993

Box 18, Folder 3
Justicia...O (La Raza Law Students Association, Loyola University) November 1970-April 1977

Box 18, Folder 4
Machete (Los Angeles City College) December 4, 1969-January 8, 1970

Box 18, Folder 5
The People's Justice (National Lawyers Guild Southern California Chapter) December 1969-January 1973

Box 18, Folder 6
El Popo June 13, 1970

Box 18, Folder 7
La Raza December 1969-February 1970

Box 18, Folder 8
Ruben Salazar and the Chicano Moratorium (assorted original news clippings on or around the date Sunday, August 30, 1970)