

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE DEAN  
SCHOOL OF LAW  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

June 27, 1978

Mr. Herman Baca  
Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc.  
1837 Highland Avenue  
National City, CA 92050

Dear Mr. Baca:

Thank you for your communication concerning minority admissions at the UCLA School of Law.

You will recall that during the recent disruptions the contention was made that the faculty was cutting back on Chicano admissions at the Law School. I think a progress report might be useful in this regard.

Despite a Chicano applicant pool smaller than we have had in the past, we have thus far accepted 46 Chicanos for admission next Fall. So far we have received 31 written acceptances. Our usual goal is 32 Chicanos in our entering class. It looks as though we will exceed that goal this year. It should be clear to all that we are not cutting back on Chicano admissions at UCLA.

I think that we at UCLA deserve some credit for our efforts in the area of Chicano law school admissions. As of 1977-78 the American Bar Association reports that there were 1,412 students classified as "Mexican Americans" in approved U.S. law schools. Of these, 101 were registered at the UCLA School of Law. This compares with 69 at Berkeley, 66 at Hastings (a law school with an enrollment half again larger than UCLA), 35 at Davis, 26 at USC, and 25 at Stanford. Thus, one in every 14 Mexican American law students is enrolled at UCLA. This is a record of which we are proud.

Like all good law schools, we insist that all our admittees be capable of graduating and becoming productive lawyers. Applying decent admissions standards does not weaken a program but strengthens it. For the last ten years the UCLA Law School has maintained a commitment to minority legal studies that I believe merits the respect and trust of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William D. Warren". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

William D. Warren  
Dean



Chicano Law Students Association  
School of Law  
Los Angeles, California 90024

July 18, 1978

Dear

On June 27, Dean Warren sent a letter to all persons and organizations who had expressed concern over the admissions controversy at UCLA. While the Dean's figures regarding Chicano admissions may accurately reflect the current situation, a careful examination of the administrations "efforts" to achieve an entering class of 32 is required, before his request for "the respect and trust of the community" is granted.

Prior to the strike, only 32 of the 87 Chicanos who had completed the application process and had met the faculty's established minimum qualifications were deemed qualified. At this point the admissions committee considered the process completed and the 55 remaining applicants were rejected as unqualified. The Dean of Admissions warned that based on past experience, only 14-15 students would ultimately enroll at UCLA if only 32 applicants were accepted.

The Dean stated in his letter that 46 Chicanos had thus far been accepted. What he fails to acknowledge is that 14 additional students were accepted in a direct and calculated response to the strike. He also fails to mention that his admission committee outstepped LEOP guidelines in admitting these additional students, and completely eliminated student participation in the process. The input of Chicano students into the admissions process is required by the program, and is vital to its existence and its strength.

The Dean further states that 31 Chicanos have already submitted written acceptances. He fails to mention that all applicants were called by various faculty members, taken to lunch by the Dean and other faculty, and sent free copies of the Chicano Law Review and UCLA Law Review. In response to pressure the Dean has mounted a campaign to secure the enrollment of Chicanos never before witnessed at UCLA.

The Dean speaks proudly of UCLA's efforts to recruit Chicano students, and often mentions the faculty's commitment to Chicano legal education. However, since the program's inception LEOP has come under various attacks by the administration which seeks to limit its size, and raise the standards of admissions beyond the reach of most Chicano applicants.



Chicano Law Students Association  
School of Law  
Los Angeles, California 90024

We wholeheartedly agree with Dean Warren that UCLA needs a strong minority admissions program which produces good students and productive lawyers. Our differences arise however when the issue of who is qualified and who is not is discussed. It is our contention that merely having a Spanish surname does not qualify one for special admissions. Factors such as community involvement, economic and educational deprivation should be given substantial weight in consideration of Chicano students for admission. The administration has consistently ignored these factors and given more consideration to standardized test scores and G.P.A.'s, which works to eliminate otherwise qualified Chicano applicants.

The Dean seeks credit for the 100 Chicano students now attending UCLA. Once again he fails to acknowledge that it has taken years of struggle to ensure that the UCLA Law School is accessible to the Chicano student. It is not the administration's benevolence which makes it possible for Chicanos to attend UCLA but the constant vigilance and struggle of the Chicano community.

Hasta la Victoria

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pete Espinoza".

Pete Espinoza  
Chairperson



Chicano Law Students Association  
School of Law  
Los Angeles, California 90024

Herman Baca  
Committee On Chicano Rights, Inc.  
1837 Highland Avenue  
National City, Cal. 92050

Dear Herman

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your support during the recent struggle against special admissions cutbacks at the UCLA Law School. Your assistance proved valuable not only in helping us to apply pressure to the faculty and administration but also in demonstrating that we had widespread support from the community.

Our response to the cutbacks was a general eight day shutdown of the law school, which included rallies, petitions, leaflets, a boycott of classes, and a takeover of the law school library and administration office. Although the administration refused to compromise on any major issue, our efforts have ensured that there will be no reduction in the number of Chicanos entering the law school next year.

The administration refused to follow the guidelines of the LEOP program by admitting students who did not participate in the student interview process. We believe that the strength of special admissions at UCLA lies in the ability of minority law students to interview and present applicants to the admissions committee based on the special insight we possess as members of minority groups regarding the legal needs of our communities. By disregarding this input, the administration has circumvented both the purposes and the procedures of the LEOP program.

Since the inception of LEOP, the program has been subject to repeated attacks. This year the decision is to take the initiative ourselves not merely to preserve the program, but also to expand and improve it. With these goals in mind, we have formed a broad-based coalition of student groups and community organizations throughout California. We are prepared to present informal talks upon request to any interested group. We would also like to invite you to an organizational meeting which will take place on July 5, at 7:00 P.M. at the Community Services Organization (C.S.O.) building on the corner of 1st and Chicago in East Los Angeles. For further information, please contact this office.

Hasta La Victoria,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Espinoza".

Pete Espinoza  
Chairperson, Chicano Law  
Students Association