



Jorge A. Alvarado

CCLS founding President and Executive Director Jorge A. Alvarado is an attorney with 35 years of experience in criminal and civil cases, including representation of juveniles in dependency and delinquency matters. He has held leadership positions in civil and criminal firms including leading juvenile divisions in public defender offices. He has experience in planning, organizing, directing and implementing policy for different sized for-profit and non-profit private organizations as well as governmental organizations. In 2013 the newly constitutionally created agency, the New Mexico Public Defender Commission appointed Jorge as its first Chief Public Defender for the Law Offices of the Public Defender (LOPD) for the State of New Mexico. He provided executive leadership growing the LOPD by approximately 19% during his tenure with a budget of approximately \$48.5 million. He served as the Director of Litigation, Training and Advocacy at the Public Law Center of Orange County from which he retired in May, 2019. He served as the Legal Director at Enlace Comunitario leading its Legal Department in providing legal services to survivors of Domestic Violence in their struggle to live a life free from further violence and abuse at the hands of their domestic partners. He was the Managing Attorney for the Albuquerque Office of New Mexico Legal Aid (NMLA) during which time he also served as the Interim Litigation Director/Deputy Director overseeing NMLA's statewide legal operations. Jorge served Riverside County as the Assistant Public Defender where among other duties lead and oversaw the countywide representation of children in Juvenile Court offices in which he established the Educational and Mental Health Rights Project. He also had a successful private practice and had extensive community involvement. His entire professional career has been dedicated to providing quality legal services to the underprivileged and indigent clients in both civil and criminal cases. He founded CCLS in order to help safeguard children's rights to live a safe and stable life as children and as adults. Jorge obtained his Juris Doctorate from Drake University Law School (1982) and a Bachelors of Arts degree in Political Science from California State University at Northridge (1979).