



March 10, 2021

Stephen Manning
On behalf of Oregon Worker Relief
smanning@ilgrp.com

Re: Universal Representation

Dear Mr. Manning:

On behalf of the University of Oregon School of Law, I write to express our complete support for the Universal Representation Program advanced by your coalition of community partners. This program fills a critical access-to-justice need within our state as it seeks to ensure the due process rights of vulnerable members of Oregon's immigrant communities are protected. Through the public fellowship program, it also creates a pipeline of highly qualified and effective lawyers who are prepared to serve the needs of immigrant communities throughout their careers.

As Oregon's flagship public law school, we are committed to training lawyers who are well-prepared to serve the public interest. In fact, well over half of our recent graduates pursued careers with public interest and public service employers. With our [nationally recognized public law and policy program](#), we attract students who are deeply committed to ensuring access to justice for all community members. That commitment is reflected through their pro bono efforts with various community-based organizations and through their work supported by initiatives like the Oregon Law Students Public Interest Fund and the Minoru Yasui Fellowship. Our students have a strong interest in serving immigrant communities and we are proud that their [work on behalf of asylum seekers](#) was recently recognized by [the Association of American Law Schools](#).

In addition to the rich opportunities for direct service our students enjoy, they also have the option to pursue a [concentration in international law](#), which includes immigration and human rights coursework. We are confident that Oregon Law graduates are well-prepared and ready to make an immediate impact as members of the fellowship cohort.

We appreciate the coalition's desire to prepare fellows for the practice through robust training and mentorship, with a focus on both skill and leadership development. We



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Dean
Dave Frohnmayer Chair
in Leadership and Law

applaud the plan to embed fellows within community partner organizations where they can both live and work among the populations they serve. And we commend the coalition's efforts to seek candidates who enhance the diversity of our bar and who have either first-hand experience with or a deep respect for the issues faced by the community members they serve.

Thank you for taking time to share more about this program with us. We are excited about the coalition's innovative proposal and it has our unqualified support.

Sincerely yours,

Marcilynn A. Burke

Dean

Dave Frohnmayer Chair in Leadership and Law

University of Oregon School of Law