

## Claudia Peña

Claudia is on faculty at UCLA School of Law and in the Gender Studies Department. Her scholarship addresses how trauma intersects with the legal system. She trains both students and attorneys how to practice "trauma informed" lawyering and is a transformative justice practitioner. She is Affiliated Faculty with the Prison Education Program at UCLA which creates innovative courses that enable faculty and students to learn from, and alongside, participants who are currently incarcerated.

She currently serves as the Executive Director of For Freedoms which is an artist-led platform for civic engagement, discourse, and direct action for artists in the United States. As a long-time creative, Claudia has performed on stage, produced media content, served as editor for a writing journal and is always "working" on a novel. She's also on staff and a member at the Guild of Future Architects which is a home, refuge and resource for people collaboratively shaping a kind, just, inclusive, and prosperous world.

Claudia is the Co-Founder of Repair, a Los Angeles-based organization focused on the health and the disabling effects of inequity, violence, exploitation. Prior to that, Claudia was the Statewide Director of the California Civil Rights Coalition (CCRC) for over five years. While there, she focused on racial justice, gender equity, voting rights, equal opportunity, progressive taxation policies and coordinating ballot initiative efforts. She was previously Equal Justice Society's Judge Constance Baker Motley Civil Rights Fellow where she researched and presented on issues of implicit bias and equal protection.

She graduated from UCLA School of Law with a specialization in Critical Race Studies (CRS) and as part of the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law & Policy. While at UCLA, Claudia served as the Prisoner Reentry Initiative coordinator, which is a collaboration between CRS and A New Way of Life, a non-profit organization in Watts, Calif., providing housing and reentry support to formerly incarcerated women and their children including clean slate services. She also co-founded the Prisoner Reentry Clinic.

Claudia has lived in multiple food deserts from Oakland to Los Angeles, so she understands the power and necessity of farmers markets. She uses her own garden to promote the sharing of crops through casual barter systems. She recently moved to Altadena where she and her partner focus on growing food and encouraging others to eat and feed their families more sustainably.