

DePaul University
Asylum & Immigration Clinic

Lilian Jimenez



Clinic Participation:
2009-2010
Graduated:
2011

*Associate Director, Office of Welcoming Centers for
Refugee and Immigrant Services*

Lilian Jiménez is an attorney specializing in policy, community building and government leadership. Lilian has two decades of experience working in non-profit and government settings promoting the rights of low-income communities of color around labor rights and immigrant rights.

Lilian currently serves as the Associate Director of the Office of Welcoming Centers at the Illinois Department of Human Services. The goal of the Office is to combine traditional social services with innovative strategies to promote the successful integration of immigrant and refugee communities.

In 2020 and 2021, Lilian oversaw over 100 million dollars in COVID response projects including a Community Health Navigator Project, Employment & Training Project and a Housing & Utility Project to support immigrant and refugee communities, including new refugees from Afghanistan and Haiti.

Lilian previously served as Chief of Staff for Jesus “Chuy” García at the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Manager of the Fair Labor Standards Division of the Illinois Department of Labor.

Lilian started her career at a labor organization, UNITE! and went on to organize families for immigration reform at Association House of Chicago and Erie Neighborhood House before working on policy and litigation at the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF).

A native of Chicago, Lilian Jiménez is proud of her Mexican and Puerto Rican roots. She was by an undocumented mother and a father who supported the family as a day laborer. Her first-hand experiences with poverty and low wage work fuel her passion for social justice and form the foundation of her commitment to reducing barriers and improving outcomes for low income families.

Lilian received her law degree from DePaul University College of Law in 2011, and her B.A. in Latin American and Latino Studies and Political Science from DePaul University in 2001.

What do you remember most about your time in the Clinic?

The trip to Harlingen.

What lessons from the clinic do you still use today or have used in your professional career?

Brief writing skills.

How did your involvement with the clinic help you connect with other professionals in the field?

My lifelong friendships with other students.