

Jose Luis Perez
LatinoJustice PRLDEF Deputy General Counsel

Jose Perez has served as *LatinoJustice PRLDEF's Legal Director* since September 2007. He has been the lead lawyer in a number of LatinoJustice's precedent-setting immigrants' rights cases including establishing eviction protections for undocumented rent regulated tenants in NYC; precluding private landlord from inquiring about immigration status of prospective tenants; limiting local police enforcement of administrative immigration warrants; and precedential *Cesar Vargas NY bar admission* case establishing that the Court Character & Fitness Committee can determine dacomented law graduate's bar admission eligibility without any prior enabling state legislation authorizing such professional licensing; and that a dacomented law graduate can fulfill state character and fitness bar admission licensing requirements.

Jose is a 1985 graduate of St. John's University School of Law where he created the nationally recognized and award winning *Spanish Street Law* community education program. He began his legal career as a prosecutor with the *Queens County District Attorney's Office*, and subsequently worked in *NYCHA's Anti-Narcotics Strike Force*, the Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights and Civil Divisions as a staff and supervising attorney, and as a supervising attorney at *Hofstra University Law School Housing Rights and Disability Law clinics*. Prior to joining *LatinoJustice*, he served as an Assistant Attorney General, Deputy Chief, and Acting Bureau Chief of the *NYS Attorney General's Consumer Frauds & Protection Bureau* where he developed the OAG's *Latino immigration services ("notario") fraud consumer protection initiative*.

Jose also works very closely with *LatinoJustice's* many innovative pre-law pipeline programs, and has mentored numerous college and law students of color over the past three decades.