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**GUIDE TO THE
CRUZ, RICARDO/CATÓLICOS POR LA RAZA PAPERS
1967- 1993**

Collection Number: CEMA 28.

Size Collection: 13.2 linear feet, 18 boxes.

Acquisition Information: Donated by Camilo Cruz Date: November 12, 1998.

Access restrictions: None.

Use Restriction: Copyrights and production rights reside with donor.

**Processing Information: Processed by Salvador Güereña, assisted by Alexander Hauschild.
Completed December 2000.**

Location: Del Norte.

BIOGRAPHY

Ricardo Cruz was a Chicano rights attorney during the Chicano Movement era. He is most well-known for his advocacy on behalf of the Latino poor people of the Los Angeles area. Cruz was a law school student at the time he founded the controversial organization known as Católicos por la Raza. Through this organization, he led demonstrations against the Catholic Church for its neglect of the Latino community. He is also known for his successful legal battle against Los Angeles County's forced sterilization of undocumented workers, and for his successful defense of a young Latino wrongly convicted of murder.

On Christmas Eve, 1969, Cruz led a march of several hundred demonstrators to the newly constructed, four million dollar church, known as St. Basil's. The demonstrators, several of whom were members of Católicos por la Raza, picketed outside the cathedral in Los Angeles. Cruz, as well as the picketers, were demanding that the church become more involved in the concerns of the Latino community. The Católico members, as well as the local Latino community, felt that the Catholic Church was not addressing the social and economic needs of the surrounding Latino area. The demonstration led to 21 arrests, and Cruz was among these.

Cruz was born in 1943 and raised in Los Angeles. After graduating from California State University-Los Angeles in 1967, Cruz attended Loyola Marymount University School of Law. While a law intern with the California Rural Legal Assistance in Santa Barbara, Cruz helped to organize farm workers in Salinas. It was Cesar Chávez, that Cruz, a devoted Catholic, cemented his intentions to seek the Catholic Church's support in the table grapes boycott. Cruz received the Juris-Doctor degree from Loyola Marymount School of Law in 1971. His attempts to practice law, however, were short-circuited by the California State Bar's refusal to certify him. The State Bar claimed that his "moral corruption," in disrupting a religious sermon, was inappropriate. With the support from The American Civil Liberties Union and others, Cruz was eventually admitted to the Bar. One of Cruz' high profile legal cases occurred when he was an attorney in East Los Angeles. Cruz won the legal case against Los Angeles County, in the controversial 1970s forced sterilization of poor and/or undocumented patients at County-USC Medical Center. Cruz argued that the policy was unconstitutional and discriminatory against Latinos.

Later, in 1982, Cruz fought and won the dismissal of charges against a young Latino named Gordon Castillo Hall, an adolescent who was falsely convicted for the murder of a Duarte postman who was shot in 1978. After Hall's conviction, Cruz won the teenager's release from prison a little over three years later. Cruz stated that the young man had inadequate legal representation and had received an unfair trial. According to Cruz, several witnesses claimed that they saw Hall a few blocks away at a party when the shooting occurred.

The demonstrations at St. Basil's are credited with prompting changes within the Catholic Church, including the commission of several Latino cardinals in the Southwest and a church-supported Campaign for Human Development. Another result of the advocacy by Católicos por la Raza was in the increased support by the Archdiocese for Cesar Chávez's United Farm Workers Union and in incorporating more Latino customs in the church's masses, such as mariachi music.

Cruz died in 1993, following an unsuccessful battle with lung cancer.

SCOPE NOTE

This collection takes up 13.2 linear feet and is housed in 18 boxes, containing correspondence files, legal documents, transcripts, photographs, news clippings and ephemera. The preponderance of the Ricardo Cruz Papers, 11 boxes, the Legal Files series, represent his legal cases as a Los Angeles attorney. In this series is found copious information that sheds light on the forced sterilization of Latinas in Los Angeles during that period, and other legal issues, including the State Bar hearings on his certification to practice law following his role in the demonstrations at St. Basil's Catholic church. The Legal Files series include detailed transcripts of his trial as a defendant in the case. Additional related material on the subject is in the Political Activity series. Insights into Cruz' ideological underpinnings can be found in the interview in box 1 of the Personal/Biographical Information series.

Files that represent his political activity take up only 2 boxes. These involve news reports on his fight to be certified to practice law and his activist days as a law school student with the organization he formed, *Católicos por la Raza*, and those files cover a limited time period, from late 1969 to early 1970.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Personal/Biographical Series. This series, limited to one box, consists of eleven folders that represent a time span from 1972 to 1993. Included here are Cruz' writings consisting largely of undated essays, poetry and ruminations. Among the selections are "Chicanos in Mexico", and "An Ode to Chicanos/Chicanas." General correspondence covers 1967-1982, made up of personal and official correspondence, including letters from then-Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. on the appointment of Cruz Reynoso to the California Supreme Court. His 1976 interview on "Chicanos, Catholicism, and Political Ideology" gives insights into his personal history, his founding of *Católicos por la Raza*, and his philosophy on the Chicano Movement. In this series is a file that evidences his brief affiliation with the Los Angeles office of the Mexican Legal Defense and Education Fund. Also here, in the obituaries and memorial tributes, are news clippings detailing his personal history, his achievements, and commitment to social justice. Tributes from municipalities and government bodies are included here. There is an assortment of photographs of Cruz in social and family settings. Folder 12 contains his various resumes but also includes a court application to become a juvenile court attorney, and in this he provides a summary of his court cases and qualifications.

Rosa Martínez Cruz Series. Martínez Cruz was Ricardo Cruz' first wife and their overlapping interests led them to work together on some common Chicano Movement issues and projects. This series is made up of two boxes. Martínez Cruz' Socialist ideological convictions are manifested in her involvement with the Comisión Sin Fronteras and CASA/Hermanidad General de Trabajadores, whose internal bulletins are found here. She was on the staff of El Foro del Pueblo and Sin Fronteras and contributed her views to each through published articles. Sin Fronteras was the political and theoretical organ of the Comisión Sin Fronteras and had a key role in promulgating the ideology of this Leninist-based organization that was dedicated to liberation struggle on behalf of the Mexican people in the U.S. Significant Leninist polemical treatises in this series include Fan the Flames: A Revolutionary Position on the National Chicano Question.

Political Activity Series. There are two divisions represented here, one of which consists of Cruz' involvement with law student organizations and the other made up of materials on his involvement with *Católicos por la Raza*. The latter includes news releases detailing activities directed against the Catholic Church, *Católicos por la Raza* meeting agendas, correspondence and news clippings spanning a relatively brief but significant period of winter 1969 through April 1970. The focus of this series is to document *Católicos por la Raza*'s activities leading to and following the demonstration at St. Basil's Cathedral in Los Angeles.

Legal Files Series. This series contains the most extensive portion of the collection and is housed in ten boxes. It represents Cruz' work as an attorney on legal cases, spanning the years 1972 to 1985. Included here is the very significant, successful legal challenge against Los Angeles County for the forced sterilization of undocumented patients at the County-USC Medical Center. Also in this series are several cases in which Cruz is the defendant, including his involvement in *Católicos por la Raza*'s demonstration at St. Basil's Cathedral in Los Angeles. His hearings before the State Bar's Committee of Bar Examiners, concerning his certification to practice law, are found here.

Subject Files Series. This series is housed in one box and folders 5-6 are especially insightful in their coverage of the Chicano Moratorium and the death of Ruben Salazar at the hands of Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies. Folder 3 is a file related to the work of the East Los Angeles-based Committee to Stop Home Destruction and consists of a study aiming to counteract the displacement of Latinos in East Los Angeles communities as a result of urban renewal practices.

**CONTAINER LISTING FOR THE RICARDO CRUZ/CATOLICÓS POR LA RAZA
PAPERS**

SERIES: PERSONAL / BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	"La Batalla de Miguel García y Richard Cruz" 1972
1	2	Essays, narratives and poetry 1970-1975
1	3	Friends of Richard Cruz Committee-1993
1	4	General correspondence, incoming 1974-1982
1	5	General correspondence, outgoing 1967-1981
1	6	Interview-Chicanos, Catholicism, and Political Ideology Dec. 18, 1976
1	7	MALDEF 1976
1	8	News clippings-State Bar Certification 1973
1	9	Obituaries and memorial tributes 1993
1	10	Photographs ca 1963-1992
1	11	Resumés 1943-1971
1	12	Miscellany 1972-1983

SERIES: ROSA MARTINEZ CRUZ

Box	Folder	Contents
2	1	C.A.S.A-Hermandad de Trabajadores 1976
2	2	Chicano Studies Research Center, UCLA annual report 1977-1978
2	3	Chicano Studies Institutes-objective of Chicano Studies UCLA, 1970
		Comisión Sin Fronteras
2	4	Asamblea local 1976
2	5	Business meetings 1975-1976
2	6	Círculo de Estudio Antonio Castillo Program. of Study for Comisión Sin Fronteras 1975-1976
2	7	Local seminar reports 1976
2	8	Political Reports of Local Committee, internal bulletins and readings 1974-1987
2	9	"La Propaganda Leninista" (Manuel de J. González, n.d.) 1974
2	10	Puerto Rican independence 1974 Publications
2	11	Essays and Articles on Marxist-Leninist Ideology 1973-1976
2	12	<i>Fan the Flames: A Revolutionary Position on the Chicano National Question</i> 1976
2	13	Marxist-Leninist Theory 1976
2	14	Rectification papers 1976
2	15	<i>Sin Fronteras</i> (Newsletter) 1976
3	1	East Los Angeles Health Task Force
3	2	<i>El Foro del Pueblo</i> 1979-1980
3	3	<i>Machete</i> (Los Angeles City College), April 1969-October 1969
3	4	Miscellaneous publications 1977-1982
3	5	Politics and ideology 1968-1972
3	6	Racial issues 1991-1992

SERIES: POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Box	Folder	Contents
4		La Raza Law Students Association / Abogados de Aztlán
4	1	1973-1986
4	2	1968-1973
4	3	1972-1973
4	4	News clippings (Minority Students Admissions Process), 1972-1973
4	5	People's Law Office (Cruz, Villalobos, Ramos, Duran) (n.d.)

Box	Folder	Contents
		Católicos Por La Raza
5	1	Agendas, minutes and reports Nov. 1969-Dec. 1969
5	2	General correspondence 1969-1977
5	3	News releases Dec. 1969-Feb. 1970
5	4-5	News clippings ca 1969-1983
5	6	Photographs (21 photos: protests, marches, rallies) 1969-1971
5	7	Script for KNBC "Religion and the Chicano" (n.d.)
5	8	Political essay (n.d.)
5	9	Miscellany 1970-1987

See OVERSIZE Box 18 for Chicano newspapers on Católicos Por La Raza, on the Catholic church and Chicanos, and on the Chicano Movement.

SERIES: LEGAL FILES

Box	Folders	Contents
		Castillo Hall (Gordon) Case
6	1	Correspondence 1979-1982
6	2	Ephemera (flyers and announcements) 1980-1982
6	3	Fund raisers 1981
6	4	Justice for Gordon Castillo Hall Committee 1980
6	5	News clippings 1971-1983
6	6	Photographs-Victory Celebration June 4,1982
6	7	Cruz (Richard V.) and Associates (Notice and Demand to Members of the Teatro a la Brava, et al., February 12, 1981
		Murrieta (Edward) Case 1980-1991
7	1	Arbitration between Richard V. Cruz, Emma, and Edward Murrieta 1983-1991
7	2	Application for Writ of Prohibition April 1982
7	3	Correspondence 1984-1985
7	4	Docket sheets October 21,1980
7	5	Notice of Filing of Notice of Appeal September 1983
7	6	People vs. Christopher Anthony Avitea and Edward Frank Murrieta and Reporter's transcripts of proceedings March 29,1982
7	7	People vs. Christopher, Avitea, Edward, Murrieta and Brian Powers-verdicts May 16,1983
7	8	People vs. Edward Frank Murrieta (Probation Officers report), July 1982
7	9	People vs. Christopher Avitea, Edward Murrieta and Brian Powers-summaries of testimony October 1980-April 1983

Nolasco (Oscar) vs. Richard Cruz 1984-1985

8 1 Request for Dismissal April 4,1985

People vs.Cruz et al. (St. Basil's demonstration) Reporter's Transcription on Appeal, Jury Trial

8 2 March 30,1970

8 3 April 6,1970

8 4 April 7,1970

8 5 April 8,1970

8 6 April 8,9,10,1970

8 7 April 13,1970

8 8 April 13, 14,1970

8 9 April 14,1970

9 1 April 15,1970 (9:30 a.m.)

9 2 April 15,1970 (1:30 p.m.)

9 3 April 16,1970 (8:30 p.m.)

9 4 April 16,1970 (2:30 p.m.)-April 17,1970

9 5 April 20,1970 (9:00 a.m.)

9 6 April 21,1970 (9:40 p.m.)

9 7 April 21,1970 (1:30 p.m.)

9 8 April 22,1970 (9:40 a.m.)-April 23

9 9 April 23, 1970 (1:30 p.m.)

9 10 April 24, 1971 (9:32 a.m.)

9 11 April 27, 1970 (9:21 a.m.)

9 12 April 27,1970 (1:30 p.m.)

10 1 April 28,1970

10 2 April 28,1970

10 3 April 29,1970

10 4 April 29,1970

10 5 April 30,1971

10 6 May 1,1970

10 7 May 1,1970

People vs. Cruz et al. (St. Basil's demonstration); People vs. Alicia Escalante

10 8 May 8,1970

10 9 June 5,1970

10 10 June 8,1970

People vs. Jessie Guerrero (1984-1985)

11 2 **Police brutality case against Los Angeles County Sheriff deputies
August 7,1973**

**Ponce (Augustine B.) et al. vs. Laborers International Union of North America,
Local 300, AFL-CIO, et al.**

11 3 Correspondence, flyers, newspapers 1972-1974

11 4 Court documents in legal cases against Union officers 1970-1974

11 5 Election of officers 1963,1969

11 6 Fundraiser (n.d.)

11 7 Deposition of Carlos Enriquez January 8,1975

11 8 Deposition of Manuel Rentería December 28, 1972

11 9 Mexico connections-Padilla and Rentería ca 1974-1975

11 10 Minutes of Executive board May 28,1974-June 25,1974

11 11 Miscellaneous publications 1971-1975

11 12 Photographs and negatives of laborers union (n.d.)

11 13 Ponce, Esquivel, and Pesqueira vs. Laborers International Union, Local 300, AFL-CIO, and Manuel Rentería (Court Appeal, Second District), March 3,1978

11 14 Ponce et al. vs. Local 300-Attorney notes and documents ca 1974-1975

U.S. Department of Labor vs. Local Union 300

12 1 Attorney notes and documents ca 1974-1975
 12 2 Civil action for violation of Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act
 of 1959 (1972)
 12 3 Civil Action February 1974
 12 4 Judgement Writ of Execution and Order 1978
 12 5 Notations/appeal costs 1987
 12 6 United States of America vs. Manuel Rentería, Ray Pasillas (Indictment,
 September) 1970
 12 7 Writs and Exonerations-Ricardo Navarez 1973

State Bar

Reporter's Transcription of Committee of Bar Examiners' Hearing
 Subcommittee in the Matter of Richard Cruz, application for examination for
 admission to practice law, volumes 1-XVI Sept. 13,1972-Jan. 7,1973

13 1 Vol.1: September 13,1972
 13 2 Vol.2: October 4,1972
 13 3 Vol.3: October 11,1972
 13 4 Vol.4: October 25,1972
 13 5 Vol.5: December 4,1972
 13 6 Vol.6: December 6,1972
 13 7 Vol.7: December 7,1972
 13 8 Vol.8: December 16,1972
 13 9 Vol.9: December 18,1972
 13 10 Vol.10: December 27,1972
 13 11 Vol.11: December 28,1972

14 1 Vol.12: January 3,1973
 14 2 Vol.13: January 4,1973
 14 3 Vol.14: January 5,1973
 14 4 Vol.15: January 6,1973
 14 5 Vol.16: January 7,1973

State Bar Certification-Correspondence and Documents

14 6 State Bar of California (certification) 1972-1973

Sterilization Files

15 1 Affidavits of Karen E. Benker, M.D. (May 1970) and Warren Hern, M.D. 1972
 Andrade (Virginia), et al. vs. Los Angeles County, et al. May 30,1978.
 15 2 Summons on First Amended Complaint, Answer to First Amended
 Complaint, Affidavit on Nonappearance of Witness, Complaint for
 Damages June 10, 1975
 15 3 Exhibit A Chronology of Pleadings, History of L.A. County Hospital, 1898-
 1968
 15 4-5 Correspondence 1972-1976
 15 6 Doctors' statements (1976) and report on hospitals' sterilization practices ca. 1974
 15 7 Health research group-study on surgical sterilization October 29, 1973
 15 8 Los Angeles Regional Family Planning Council February 1974- June 1977
 15 9 Madrigal (Dolores) et al. vs. E.J. Quilligan et al. June 30,1978
 15 10-11 Miscellaneous publications on sterilization ca December 1973- August 1979
 16 1 National Coalition against sterilization abuse December 4,1976
 16 2-3 Paramo vs. County of Los Angeles et al. March 23,1976-October 24,1980
 16 4 Paramo Profile 1975-1978
 16 5 Synopsis/Federal Plaintiffs-Plaintiffs answers to defendants first set of written

interrogatories May 24,1971- March 7,1974, Elidia Silva affidavit,
September 1974

Vasquez (Hector) vs. Abrams (Arnold)

16 6 Vasquez (Hector) vs. Abrams (Arnold) July 14,1982 -August 28,1984

SERIES: SUBJECT FILES

Box Folder Contents

17	1	Cathedral High School September 1983-February 1986
17	2	Chicano movement October 1971- June 1995
17	3	Committee to stop home destruction ca 1974
17	4	Minorities and Latinos September 1970-March 1973
17	5-6	Ruben Salazar and Chicano Moratorium (see also OVERSIZE Box 18) 1970
17	7	United Farm Workers April-December 1970

OVERSIZE BOX

18	1	Católicos por la Raza ca February 1965-January 1970
18	2	Cruz (Ricardo V.) photograph 50th birthday celebration July 4, 1993.
18	3	<i>Justicia . . . O</i> (La Raza Law Students Association, Loyola University) November 1970-April 1977
18	4	<i>Machete</i> (Los Angeles City College) December 4,1969-January 8,1970
18	5	<i>The People's Justice</i> (National Lawyers Guild Southern California Chapter) December 1969-January 1973
18	6	<i>El Popo</i> June 13, 1970
18	7	<i>La Raza</i> December 1969-February 1970
18	8	Ruben Salazar and the Chicano Moratorium (assorted original newsclippings on or around the date Sunday, August 30, 1970)