

*Center for International Studies – Albuquerque International Association*

***IMMIGRATION: “A PERFECT STORM”?***  
***Immigration-Related State Statutes and Local Ordinances***

*By Dr. Michael A. Olivas*

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National Hispanic Cultural Center, Wells Fargo Auditorium

*Plyler v. Doe* in 1982 was the high water mark of immigrant rights. With a torrent of state legislation related to immigration, it is clear that things today are decidedly worse. Concerns addressed by states have included education, employment, identification, driver’s licenses, law enforcement, legal services, public benefits, housing and rental, trafficking, voting, and miscellaneous issues such as alcohol and tobacco purchase identification, gun and firearms permits, residency/domicile determinations, and juvenile reporting requirements. This extraordinary rise in such legislative interests is undoubtedly due to overburdened locales, well-publicized and highly polarized federal attention to immigration, a sharp rise in conservative media flogging the issue, and a decline in President Bush’s popularity, all of which have led to a leadership vacuum in the field. In some ways, it is a “perfect storm” of anti-immigrant factors.

**Michael A. Olivas** is the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law at the University of Houston Law Center and Director of the Institute for Higher Education Law and Governance at UH. In 1989-90, he was a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin, and Special Counsel to then-Chancellor Donna Shalala. In 1997, he held the Mason Ladd Distinguished Visiting Chair at the University of Iowa



College Of Law. He holds a B.A. (Magna Cum Laude) from the Pontifical College Josephinum, an M.A. and Ph.D. from the Ohio State University, and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. He is the author or co-author of twelve books on immigration. In 2010, Harvard University Press will publish his 13<sup>th</sup> book, on the subject of undocumented immigrant children. He has been elected to membership in the American Law Institute and the National Academy of Education, the only person to have been selected to both honor academies. He was elected to the American Bar Foundation (ABF). He served as General Counsel to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) from 1994-98. He has chaired the AALS Section on Education Law three times, and has twice chaired the Section on Immigration Law. In 1993, he was chosen as Division J’s Distinguished Scholar by the American Educational Research Association, and in 1994, he was awarded the Research Achievement Award by the Association for the Study of

Higher Education (ASHE). ASHE also gave him its 2000 Special Merit Award. He has been designated as a NACUA Fellow by the National Association of College and University Attorneys.

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