



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

YOLANDA VERA
SENIOR HEALTH CARE DEPUTY
OFFICE OF L.A. COUNTY SUPERVISOR, MARK RIDLEY THOMAS

Yolanda Vera serves as the Senior Deputy for Healthcare Services and Advocacy for L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas. She has an extensive background in civil rights with a dedicated focus on health related matters. Her legal work included positions with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, the National Health Law Program, and the Western Center on Law and Poverty. Most recently as the Director of LA Health Action, a California Endowment-funded non-profit dedicated to improving the health of low-income Los Angeles County communities, Vera took the lead to preserve and improve healthcare throughout Los Angeles.

Vera also serves on the eight person Steering Committee of the Child Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles, a three year expansion of health coverage for children without health insurance in Los Angeles County. Prior to LA Health Action, Ms. Vera served as the Senior Health Policy Attorney of Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS). She specialized in health issues, including access to health care, Medi-Cal and immigrant health care and the interrelationships between health and welfare. Before accepting her position with LA Health Action, she was lead-counsel in Harris v. Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, a lawsuit filed on behalf of poor uninsured families in Los Angeles County. Harris successfully enjoined the County from closing Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center and cutting hospital beds at Los Angeles County USC Medical Center.

Vera has represented clients before the State Legislature, United States Congress and federal and state administrative agencies. She has drafted bills, including bills which simplify and streamline the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs, which expand Medi-Cal and Healthy Families eligibility to persons otherwise dependent on Los Angeles County's health care system, and which keep eligible persons from having their health care benefits unnecessarily interrupted. She has trained thousands of representatives from nonprofit agencies, health care and social service providers, and federal, state and county officials regarding complex health, immigrant and welfare policies. Yolanda also worked for the Western Center on Law & Poverty, National Immigration Law Center, the National Health Law Program and the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles.

Additionally, Vera was recognized by American Lawyer Magazine in 1997 as one of the country's top 45 public sector lawyers under age 45. She is a 1987 graduate of the UCLA School of Law where she received the University Fellowship Award and from which she received the 2001 UCLA Law School Public Interest Award. In 1983, she graduated from Loyola Marymount University (B.A. English) where she received the Marian Award for outstanding leadership and was a commencement speaker.