

David Dominguez



Professor David Dominguez grew up in South Central Los Angeles. Born to migrant workers, he grew up in a neighborhood full of perils to young Latino males. David relates, “It was in high school that I remember first getting this inkling that I wanted to do something outside of just watching the backs of the people who were closest to me. So began some community involvement in what back then was called the National Conference of Christians and Jews, NCCJ. And now it’s been changed to the National Conference of Communities and Justice.” This transforming experience, combined with hard work and incredible luck, took him out of the barrio to

Yale University, where he graduated with honors in Religious Studies. David then earned his Juris Doctor from University of California at Berkeley Law School.

Following several years as a trial attorney with the National Labor Relations Board, in 1989 David joined the law faculty at Brigham Young University. His subjects include community lawyering, legal problem solving for equal justice, criminal law, legal negotiation and settlement, labor law, individual employment rights, and public policy negotiation. Each semester David brings his law students into the Utah Valley community to engage in social justice work in such places as a troubled low-income housing complex and the juvenile detention center. Much of his social justice work is done in concert with the collaborative Community Dispute Resolution Services. Recently the CDRS joined with Provo educators to bring about Challenge Day at Independence High, a transformative, conflict dissolving event similar to what David had experienced in his own high school years.

David Dominguez has received numerous awards for his teaching and community work promoting social justice, including BYU Law School Teacher of the Year (2004), UVSC Excellence in Ethics Award (2007), Utah Minority Bar Association Pro Bono Award for Excellence in Criminal Law (2006), and the Brigham Award, BYU’s tribute to exceptional service to students and the larger community (2005).

Professor Dominguez will present his keynote speech at 11:00 January 16 in the Library Lecture Hall, Li 120. The quote above was taken from a May, 2008 interview. A participant in the UVU’s Oral History of Utah Peace Activists project, Professor Dominguez’s interview will soon be available in the UVU Library Archives and the Utah History Archives.