

A Note from President and CEO, Jessie Kornberg



Dear Friend,

After five and a half years with Bet Tzedek, I am moving on to become the President & CEO of the Skirball Cultural Center. While I am honored to assume the mantle of leadership at the Skirball, I will miss our work here so much.

I came to this work because I wanted to be at the epicenter of social justice in Los Angeles. With more than 50,000 people served in 2019, Bet Tzedek leads the nation in pro bono innovation, delivery of legal services to older and disabled adults, and the reclamation of basic rights for exploited workers and trafficking survivors. As proud as I am of the scope and scale of the work, the numbers still don't capture the true impact of the work. I leave Bet Tzedek forever changed by the stories of the clients I have met, and the dedication of our staff and volunteers.

I am beyond thrilled that my friend and colleague, Diego Cartagena will be the next President & CEO of Bet Tzedek. Though I was not in the room when the board made its choice, I am told the vote was unanimous. I am not surprised, but I am overjoyed. I truly think Diego is the most qualified and inspiring leader this organization has had yet. I have had the pleasure of working with Diego for the entirety of my time at Bet Tzedek. He is a builder, developing many of our flagship programs and nurturing our most important community partnerships. I am confident that under his leadership Bet Tzedek will continue to respond to our community's most urgent legal needs and innovate new solutions to the systemic challenges our client communities routinely face.

Bet Tzedek will always be my home. Thank you for your support; your generosity makes this work possible.

Best,



Jessie Kornberg

A Note from the Board Chair, Meryl Chae



Dear Friend,

I am sure you join me in thanking Jessie Kornberg for her outstanding tenure as President & CEO of Bet Tzedek. Jessie guided the organization to new heights. She leaves Bet Tzedek in a position of financial and programmatic strength. Under her leadership, Bet Tzedek has grown the number of clients it serves from 15,000 in 2014 to over 50,000 in 2019. We will be forever grateful for Jessie's intellect, vision, and deep commitment to social justice.

It is my privilege to announce that after a comprehensive four-month search, Bet Tzedek's next President & CEO will be Diego Cartagena. Diego has focused his entire legal career on addressing issues of access to justice. As a former Equal Justice Works Fellow and Teen Advocate with the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice's Teen LA project, Diego helped give low income teen mothers and fathers a voice in court by providing them with legal advocacy and outreach in the areas of family and immigration law. Diego then went on to serve as Pro Bono Director for The Alliance for Children's Rights, while simultaneously serving as the agency's Probate Legal Guardianship Program Director.



Diego joined Bet Tzedek in 2012 as a Director of Pro Bono Programs and was promoted to Vice President Pro Bono in 2015. Under his leadership, Bet Tzedek increased clinic participation opportunities for both law firms and in-house legal department volunteers. He also guided the building of Bet Tzedek's Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) program, capitalizing Bet Tzedek's organizational expertise in guardianship law. After witnessing the need for comprehensive legal services for small businesses and entrepreneurs in underserved communities. He launched the Small Business Legal Academies in 2016. In 2017, Diego became Bet Tzedek's Vice President of Legal Programs. Under his leadership, Bet Tzedek launched a number of the organization's flagship programs including: the Preventing and Ending Homelessness Project; Bet Tzedek's Rapid Response: Family Preparedness program; the Harbor UCLA Medical Legal Partnership; and the SSI Advocacy Project.

Diego is a tireless force for good in our city and our world. We know how lucky we are to have had him on the team all these years. We are luckier still that he will lead the organization into its 50th year and beyond.

Diego and Jessie will be working together over the next several weeks with Diego assuming the helm on February 1st. I hope that you will join me at our Annual Gala Dinner on February 27th to thank Jessie and to celebrate Diego. Tickets and sponsorship packages can still be purchased, including ads for our Tribute Journal that can be made in both of their honors (deadline is January 24th). More information can be found at bettzedek.org/2020gala.

This is an exciting time for Bet Tzedek; thank you for being a part of it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meryl Chae". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Meryl Chae, Board Chair