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Equal Rights Advocates Appoints New Executive Director

(San Francisco, CA) – Equal Rights Advocates (ERA), a national organization committed to protecting and securing equal rights and economic opportunities for women and girls, announced today the appointment of its new Executive Director. Arcelia Hurtado was selected following a thorough executive search process.

“As a national legal nonprofit serving women and girls, Equal Rights Advocates sought a leader with a combination of vision, compassion and management expertise,” said Betsy Cotton, Board Chair. “Arcelia has just this combination. Her wealth of public and community experience, track record of management success and commitment to women will be valued assets in our ongoing efforts to ensure women are treated fairly in the workplace.”

Hurtado joins Equal Rights Advocates with a 12-year background in human services and litigation experience. Her career portfolio includes work with organizations serving the needs of many different constituencies. Prior to joining ERA, she worked as an appellate attorney at the Office of the State Public Defender in San Francisco. In addition to her professional work, she is active with many community, non-profit and professional organizations.

“I was drawn to Equal Rights Advocates because of ERA’s commitment to women, community involvement and dedication, and for their recent momentum in advocacy and education programs to ensure women have a safe work environment, said Hurtado. “The mission, the philosophy and the values of the organization are an inspiration and entirely compatible with my personal and professional orientation.”

“I am grateful to have been selected as the Executive Director of Equal Rights Advocates from a pool of highly qualified candidates,” added Hurtado. “I look forward to working with ERA’s dedicated Board, talented staff and women across the nation to keep our mission alive.”

Hurtado holds a BA in Political Science and Chicano Studies from the University of California at Berkeley and a JD from Boalt Hall School of Law. During college, she also worked at La Raza Centro Legal, a San Francisco-based legal organization that primarily serves the Latino community. She currently serves on the Board of Women Defenders which provides professional, technical and social support networks for female criminal defense practitioners. She and her spouse Nicole Solis have been residents of San Francisco since 1998.

Founded in 1974, Equal Rights Advocates is a national non-profit organization based in San Francisco working to protect and secure equal rights and economic opportunities for all women through advocacy, education and litigation.

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