

December 2, 2009

Sally Meyner  
Attorney  
DLA Piper US LLP  
2000 University Avenue  
East Palo Alto, California 94303-2215 USA

Diego Ramos  
Partner IP&T  
DLA Piper España S.L.  
Paseo de la Castellana, 35  
Madrid 28046 SPAIN

Dear Sally and Diego:

It is with immense feelings of pride, solidarity and gratitude that we write to recognize the significant contributions of DLA Piper to our nonprofit organizations - Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres (FCAM, Central American Women's Fund), Central American Women's Connection/La Conexión, and Calala Fondo de Mujeres (Calala Women's Fund).

So much has taken place in the growth of these three women's funds over the past year, and we would be hard pressed to find the generosity and good spirit that the attorneys at DLA Piper have shown us. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the firm and the outstanding individual attorneys who are accompanying us on our journey toward our vision of a world where women are guaranteed their human rights, enjoy economic justice, live free from violence and make decisions about the issues that affect them every day.

All three women's funds are part of a global network of women's rights philanthropic institutions working to democratize the flow of resources from foundations, philanthropists, governments and private sector donors to the women's movement (NGOs and grassroots groups).

- FCAM has grown from giving \$13,000 in grants to five young women's groups in Nicaragua in 2004 to granting a total of \$1,707,073 to women's groups and networks in Mexico, Central America and South America over the past five years.
- La Conexión started raising funds and awareness in San Francisco in 2007 and today supports FCAM and leads multi-stakeholder partnerships in Latin America with allies

such as the Ford Foundation, the Dutch Government, and the international NGOs Oxfam and HIVOS.

- Calala, the newest fund, created just in the past few months, is seeking out and creating alliances with public and private donors in Spain and the rest of Europe and developing a program with La Conexión to address the multiple issues that women face as migrants, immigrants and as members of transnational families.

In a region which has been a site for foreign intervention and corruption, too often plagued by citizen and state-sponsored violence, lack of democratic rule and accumulation of power and wealth in the hands of an elite few, we support grassroots women's organizing, seeking to strengthen Central and Latin American civil society and women's – especially young women's – participation, voice and leadership.

Time and again, studies by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, UNICEF and others, demonstrate that when women are involved in civil society, in decision-making, in leadership positions and considered by all as subjects of human rights, education rates for girls increase, the health of all children improves, and economies grow.

We applaud and appreciate the contributions that DLA Piper is making through its pro bono services, to support human rights and charitable organizing worldwide, and particularly our work to strengthen young women's leadership and rights.

Groups that receive grants and training from FCAM (with financial support from La Conexión and eventually Calala) engage their members and communities in a variety of activities and projects to raise awareness and defend their rights. A few examples of our over 100 grantees follow:

- ❖ Through the project "Strengthening young indigenous women's leadership and participation in the southwest region of Petén", **Asociación Despierta –Awake Association**—is involving young indigenous women, belonging to the Q'eqchies ethnic group, in a training and education process to increase their participation in community activities and decision-making spaces. A group of 12 young women are serving as facilitators and are responsible for coordinating community activities.



- ❖ The **Integral Group of San Juan Women** formed in 2001 by indigenous Kaqchekes women who seek to strengthen leadership among young women (aged 14-30) in 13 communities in San Juan Sacatepequez, to work toward gender justice and equity in Guatemala.



With support from FCAM over the past three years, the group has established a Political

School for Young Women, which brings together 50 young women annually to talk and learn about self-esteem, ethnic diversity, gender equality, leadership, women and politics and other issues.

- ❖ ***Colectiva Juvenil Feminista de Mujeres de El Salvador (Young Salvadorian Women's Feminist Collective)*** is a group that aims to empower young women by training and educating them about their human rights and health. This group involves young women at a community and municipal level, who lead and participate in all activities. The members of the group have created workshops on feminist values and women's rights, as well as recreational and creative spaces for women, resulting in young women who have been able to advocate and negotiate with municipal governments for recognition of their rights and responsibilities.



DLA Piper's pro bono services contribute to the efficiency, transparency and value of our work. Your support over the past year and a half has covered many areas:

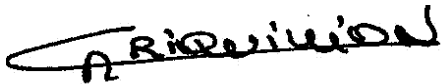
- In 2008, our close ally, the Global Fund for Women, recommended that the Central American Women's Connection – La Conexión (previously the Central American Women's Fund) contact DLA Piper for legal advice and support.
- Soon thereafter, in June of that year, we signed an engagement letter by which DLA Piper offered La Conexión pro bono services. From the filing of our 990 to reviewing various contracts and helping us with our name change, attorneys Sally Meyner (our US liaison), Angela Castro, Steve Gibson, Chiara Portner, Linda Pfatteicher and Yiman Zhang were quick and efficient in helping us to resolve a myriad of legal tasks.
- When our strategic vision reached across borders again, and our board of directors agreed that it was at last time to support the creation of a women's fund in Spain to continue to raise awareness and resources for women's human rights work in Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms. Meyner put us in touch with Elaine Radford, Head of CSR Europe and Asia.
- In March 2009, attorneys Diego Ramos and Paula Gonzales (among others) in DLA Piper's Madrid office began collaborating with La Conexión in our efforts to create a nonprofit foundation in Spain.
- Diego participated in several telephone conferences with our Barcelona representative, advising us on the pros and cons of the distinct legal structures for nonprofits in Spain as well as on the development of our bylaws. He and Paula continue to support Calala with advice via email.

- Paula met with us in Madrid in May 2009, and she and Diego continued to support and guide our efforts to create a Spanish foundation: reviewing bylaws, writing founding documents, coordinating with the US office on how La Conexión could be the “founder” of Calala, coordinating with a notary public and filing all of the necessary documentation with the Spanish Ministry for Health and Social Services.

Though we have thanked you many times in our email and telephone communication, sometimes words do not seem to be enough to express the gratitude and esteem we feel for you and your colleagues who have contributed to our funds.

DLA Piper’s contribution to our work has been significant, as our organizational growth over the past two years demonstrates. We congratulate you on the important, philanthropic contribution the firm has made to support women in Central and Latin America.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Criquillion", with a large, sweeping underline that extends to the left and loops under the name.

Ana Criquillion  
Founder and Executive Director  
Central American Women’s Connection-La Conexión

cc: Susana Cáceres, Assistant Director  
Angela Urata, Finance and Administrative Manager  
Central American Women’s Connection-La Conexión

Amanda Gigler, Executive Director  
Calala Women’s Fund