

# ASISTA

## Announces New Legal & Policy Director

ASISTA Immigration Assistance is thrilled to welcome Cristina Velez to the team. Cristina will be overseeing ASISTA's programmatic work and leading the organization's federal policy efforts.

Cristina comes to ASISTA from the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NIPNLG), where she was a Supervising Attorney engaged in national advocacy, training, community defense, and litigation. She has represented immigrant survivors of trauma and gender based violence in many capacities throughout her career. Before joining NIPNLG, Cristina directed the immigration unit at Queens Legal Services of Legal Services NYC, specializing in removal defense and complex humanitarian relief for survivors of violence. Previously she spent several years leading the immigration practice at the HIV Law Project, where her practice encompassed humanitarian relief including VAWA, U and T visas, Battered Spouse Waivers, and asylum, as well as naturalization, removal defense, appellate, and amicus work. In between, Cristina worked at the NYU Immigrant Defense Initiative and the Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center (now Takeroot Justice). She clerked for the Honorable Denny Chin in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, and is a graduate of Cornell Law School and Oberlin College. In her spare time, Cristina enjoys cooking, yoga, and playing with her dear rescue dog Nugget.



Welcome, Cristina! We're so glad to have you on board.

With Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kirsten".

Kirsten Rambo, Ph.D.

ASISTA Executive Director