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For Immediate Release

The American Immigration Council Announces New Leadership of its Legal Action Center

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Washington, D.C. - The American Immigration Council (AIC) is pleased to announce a new leadership team at our Legal Action Center (LAC). Melissa Crow has joined our staff as the new Director and Beth Werlin has been promoted to Deputy Director of the LAC. These two incredibly talented lawyers bring a diverse set of skills and experiences that will strengthen and expand the important work of the Center.

[Melissa Crow](#) served as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, and previously as a Senior Policy Advisor, in the Office of Immigration and Border Security at the Department of Homeland Security. Prior to joining DHS, she was a partner with Brown, Goldstein & Levy in Baltimore, Maryland, where she developed a thriving immigration practice and undertook litigation to protect immigrants' rights in the workplace. As the past co-chair of the Worksite Enforcement Committee of the local AILA chapter, she played a critical role in responding to immigration raids in Maryland under the Bush Administration. Before entering private practice, Melissa served as Counsel to Senator Edward M. Kennedy during the 2007 debates on the U.S. Senate's comprehensive immigration reform bill. She also spent a year as the Gulf Coast Policy Attorney at the National Immigration Law Center. She has taught in the Safe Harbor Clinic at Brooklyn Law School and the International Human Rights Clinic at Washington College of Law.

[Beth Werlin](#) first joined the Legal Action Center in 2001 as a NAPIL fellow (now Equal Justice Works fellow) to work on issues surrounding the right to counsel for noncitizens in removal proceedings. After the completion of her fellowship, she continued her work at the LAC as a staff attorney, focusing on due process issues in removal proceedings and federal court litigation. In 2005, Beth led the LAC's efforts to launch the Litigation Clearinghouse, which has developed into an integral resource for immigration litigators nationwide. She has represented plaintiffs and *amicus curiae* in immigration litigation in the federal courts and before the Board of Immigration Appeals, and is the author of numerous practice advisories. In her work for the LAC Beth has earned a national reputation as one of the leading experts on immigration litigation.

The Legal Action Center of the American Immigration Council strives to increase the accountability of government agencies that administer the immigration laws and to ensure these laws are interpreted and implemented in a way that honors fundamental constitutional and human rights. To this end, the LAC engages in impact litigation and appears as *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) before administrative tribunals and federal courts in significant immigration cases on targeted legal issues. We also provide resources to lawyers litigating immigration cases and serve as a point of contact for lawyers conducting or contemplating immigration litigation. The LAC also works with other immigrants' rights organizations and immigration attorneys across the United States to promote the just and fair administration of our immigration laws.

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