Brian R. Gallini
Dean & Professor of Law
245 Winter St. SE, Salem, OR 97301
bgallini@willamette.edu
willamette.edu/law
(503) 370-6024 (direct)

February 8, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Stephen Manning
Founder & Director
Innovation Law Lab
PO Box 8382
Portland, OR 97207

      Re: **Universal Representation**

Dear Mr. Manning:

On behalf of the Willamette University College of Law, I write to express our school's complete and enthusiastic support for Universal Representation for Oregon's immigrant communities.

As you may know, Willamette has long-offered clinics to enable our students to represent clients in projects that involve immigration, in particular immigration matters associated with asylum claims, human trafficking, and matters affecting children. Because of the popularity of our immigration law clinic, we recently began offering a new course – Immigration Litigation. As I hope you'll agree, the popularity of our curricular offerings in this space reflect the strong desire our students have to serve in this field.

Our new and recent graduates have similarly demonstrated an abiding interest in serving immigrant communities and would be eager to do so in the Universal Representation fellowship program. That program would provide them with the opportunity to support and learn from the best public interest lawyers in the field.

This fellowship program will moreover prove quite important for fulfilling Oregon's short-term and long-term promise to meet the legal needs for this underserved population. In the short-term, the program will enable established attorneys to have the support of passionate law graduates who seek opportunities to engage in this public service. In the long-term, this fellowship program will train a legion of experienced lawyers who are able to serve the unique needs of these communities for their entire careers.

As a law school, we believe that the leadership and skill development offered by the program will energize our graduates and the entire Oregon bar to continue to serve the public interest, particularly in these fields which require specialized practice knowledge.

Willamette commends the innovation that Universal Representation brings on this front and looks forward to supporting it in any manner possible.

Very truly yours,

Brian Gallini
Dean & Professor of Law