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**NO. 201201**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday March 8, 2012**

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**JO ANNE BERNAL TO BE PRESENTED WITH THE 2012 LA  
MUJER OBRERA AWARD**

El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal has been named one of the three recipients of the 2012 “La Mujer Obrera Award” for her advocacy work to fight domestic violence in El Paso County.

The awards recognize local community leaders that fight to promote and uphold the rights of women on the border.

The 2012 honorees are:

**Olivia Figueroa:** Executive Director of Project AYUDA for helping San Elizario colonias residents to have access to dignified housing.

**Dr. Yolanda Leyva:** Professor of History at the University of Texas at El Paso, for her advocacy work in support of labor & human rights.

**Jo Anne Bernal:** El Paso County Attorney for her work to address domestic violence through prevention campaigns targeting local youth, and her support for the creation of the first “Protective Order Court” in El Paso County.

Last year the County Attorney’s Office, along with the District Attorney’s Office, launched the educational campaign “[Don’t Let Yourself.](#)” The main objective of the campaign is to reduce the incidence of dating violence among teens in El Paso County, and also educate adults about the problem of domestic violence in our community.

Since February 2011, when the campaign was unveiled, it's materials have been used to educate more than 9,500 local students and parents, and the educational videos created for the program just recently won [3 Gold Addy Awards](#), including the best of show award, by the Advertising Federation of El Paso.

In an effort to better serve victims of domestic violence who live in the outlying areas of the County, the County Attorney's Office has also opened two satellite offices in Ysleta and Northeast El Paso. Now victims of domestic violence do not have to travel long distances to downtown El Paso to obtain a free protective order.

The "La Mujer Obrera" awards will be presented at the annual "International Women's Day Benefit Dinner," to be held on Thursday March 8, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at Mercado Mayapán, 2101 Myrtle, El Paso, TX

**WHO: El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal**

**WHAT: 2012 Mujer Obrera Awards Ceremony**

**WHEN: Thursday March 8, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.**

**WHERE: Mercado Mayapán, 2101 Myrtle Ave.**

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#### **About La Mujer Obrera**

For the past 30 years, La Mujer Obrera has worked to break the cycle of poverty through education and employment of displaced women workers in our community. Their Café Mayapán Restaurant, Mercado Mayapán, Mayapán Farmers' Market, Rayito de Sol Daycare, Uxmal Affordable Housing Complex, Museo Mayachén, Semillas Youth Project, and Chicanna Computer Center are vital contributions to our community. Their efforts towards sustainable community development integrating culture, health, fair trade, and community building have garnered several awards including "Best Practice for Access to Capital Award" by State Senator Eliot Shapleigh in 2009, and the "Agent of Change" denomination by the Christian Science Monitor in 2011. Most recently, Café Mayapán and their nutrition program were featured in the Texas PBS's 2012 documentary, "Feeding Minds: Texas Takes on Hunger and Obesity."

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