



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS PAY TRIBUTE TO TOMAS RIVERA POLICY INSTITUTE'S 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**(LOS ANGELES, CA)** May 23, 2006 – National prominent figures from the political, corporate and entertainment arenas gathered Thursday, May 18 to salute The Tomás Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI) at its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner at the Center at the Cathedral Plaza in Downtown Los Angeles.

TRPI, known for its work to improve public policies affecting Latinos and underserved communities through objective research, honored **Bank of America**, the **Lozano Family**, founders of *La Opinión*, Claremont Graduate University President Emeritus **John D. Maguire**, former Congressman **Edward Roybal** (*in memoriam*) and Congresswoman **Lucille Roybal-Allard**. The honorees were selected for their work to benefit the Latino community through philanthropy, media, academia, and policymaking.

Los Angeles **Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa** delivered the keynote address, along with prominent presenters, including: **Ed Avila**, President, Alliance for a Better Community, **Henry Cisneros**, chairman & CEO American CityVista, **Solomon D. Trujillo**, CEO, Telstra Corporation Ltd., and **Daniel D. Villanueva**, managing partner, RC Fontis Partners.

Those who attended the gala include: **Leticia Aguilar**, National Foundation Director and Market President of Greater Los Angeles, Bank of America, **Hector Barreto**, Administrator for the Small Business Administration, **Deborah Bowen**, California State Senator, **Gil Cedillo**, California State Senator, **Montezuma Esparza**, Producer, **Eric Garcetti**, President of LA City Council, **Janet Murguia**, President and CEO, NCLR, **Fred Niehaus**, Senior VP of Public Affairs, First Data Corporation/Western Union, **Ed Reyes**, Councilmember, LA City Council, **Margarita Thompson**, Press Secretary for the Governor of California, **David Tokofsky**, LAUSD Superintendent, and **John Trasvina**, President, MALDEF.

## **About TRPI**

*Founded in 1985, the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute advances critical, insightful thinking on key issues affecting Latino communities through objective, policy-relevant research and its implications, for the betterment of the nation. TRPI is an affiliated research unit of the University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning, and Development, and is associated with the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy at Columbia University. To learn more about the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute or the gala dinner visit the Institute's website at <http://www.trpi.org>.*

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