



paulsimoninstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 8, 2015

Contact: David Yepsen  
618-453-4009  
Delio Calzolari  
618-453-4001

### **TRASVIÑA NAMED TO PAUL SIMON INSTITUTE BOARD**

CARBONDALE – Dean of the University of San Francisco School of Law and former general counsel for the late U.S. Senator Paul Simon, John Trasviña, has been appointed to the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute Board of Counselors at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

The principal responsibilities of the Board of Counselors include making recommendations to the president of the university regarding the hiring, and if necessary, the termination of the Institute's director. The Board meets at least once per year to review the Institute's programmatic and fiscal performance and its fidelity to its bipartisan mandate.

“I am thrilled to have John join our team!” said Martin Simon, Board Chair and son of the late senator. “Having worked closely with my father on a range of issues during his Senate years, John brings a unique perspective that will help the institute stay true to the causes that Dad held dear”.

Trasviña has devoted his career to public service at both the national and local levels. Before his position as dean of the University of San Francisco School of Law, he was the

assistant secretary for fair housing and equal opportunity in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development nominated by President Barack Obama. Trasviña led 43 offices enforcing fair housing laws.

“I admired Senator Simon in innumerable ways.” said Trasviña. “It was a true honor to work for him and I look forward to carrying on his legacy as a member of the Board of Counselors.”

A San Francisco native, he graduated from Harvard University and Stanford Law School. After law school he was Deputy City Attorney in San Francisco, then legislative counsel to the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) in Washington, D.C. Trasviña worked for Senator Paul Simon as general counsel and then as staff director for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution. President Clinton appointed him as special counsel for immigration related unfair employment practices at the U.S. Department of Justice – he later served as the deputy assistant attorney general for legislative affairs at the U.S. Department of Justice and later became special counsel.

He later returned to California as director of the Discrimination Research Center at Berkeley. For his second tenure at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, he was president and general counsel. He has been a member of the San Francisco Elections Commission, ABA Commission on Immigration, and president of the Harvard Club of San Francisco. John has served on numerous other boards including: La Raza Lawyers Association, Latino Issues Forum, Campaign for College Opportunity, Lowell High School Alumni Association, and the Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership.

Dean Trasviña has won numerous awards for his service including the Lifetime

Achievement Award from the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (2012), Person of the Year from the Asian Real Estate Association of America (2011), and Attorney of the Year from the Hispanic National Bar Association (2006).

John Trasviña is a member at large, appointed by the board for his public service and illustrious career. The Board consists of 16 voting members who are unpaid volunteers. Nine at-large members nominated by the Board itself, two members of the Simon family chosen by the family, one member appointed by the chair of the Illinois State Republican Party, one member appointed by the Illinois State Democratic Party, and the previous past director. The Board also contains two voting ex-officio members: the chancellor of the university and the vice chancellor for development and alumni relations of the university. More information about the Board and a list of members can be found at [www.paulsimoninstitute.org/board](http://www.paulsimoninstitute.org/board).

###