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CLINIC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEPARTS AFTER 16 YEARS AT HELM

Washington, D.C. – Donald Kerwin, Executive Director of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), has announced he will leave the agency in mid-October.

Kerwin began work at CLINIC in 1992 and has led the agency since 1993. Under his leadership, the CLINIC network has grown from 17 to 173 charitable immigration agency members. He has led CLINIC’s collaborative efforts to create several national projects that serve detainees, immigrant farm workers, unaccompanied minors, victims of domestic violence, and other vulnerable immigrants. Presently, CLINIC has the nation’s largest network of charitable immigration programs serving low-income immigrants.

“Don has been a significant catalyst of CLINIC’s growth and presence in the immigrant advocacy community. His vision and legal expertise has made CLINIC a leader in the field of immigration legal services and advocacy,” said Bishop Jaime Soto, CLINIC’s board chairman. “He has also been a prominent, prophetic voice on the Church’s work with immigrants. In the face of growing hostility toward immigrants Don has been an undaunted promoter of the Church’s teaching about *welcoming the stranger* and the contributions newcomers bring to American society.”

Under Kerwin’s direction, CLINIC partnered with two immigration organizations to found the Detention Watch Network, the only national coalition that works primarily on detention reform. He also led CLINIC’s creation of its inaugural management program which has trained hundreds of immigration program directors on good

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management practices. CLINIC also initiated a pilot program that launched the workshop model as a tool for group naturalization applications. He oversaw the creation of CLINIC's Division of Religious Immigration Services (DRIS), which is known for its excellence in the field of immigration services for religious organizations and communities that rely upon foreign-born priests, nuns and other religious workers.

"Don has helped CLINIC through a period of significant growth, initiating important collaborative efforts and creating a model for other advocacy organizations, that was little envisioned in 1988 when CLINIC was created," said Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, CLINIC's founder and board member. "His unparalleled leadership in the field will certainly be missed."

"I am very proud of CLINIC, its expert staff and network, and the immense amount of work that we have done collectively for immigrants over the past 16 years," said Kerwin. "CLINIC is strong on all fronts – operationally, financially and organizationally. On the heels of our 20th anniversary, I believe CLINIC is poised to continue to grow as a leader in service to low-income and at-risk immigrants and in support of the Catholic Church's call for immigration reform."

Prior to his appointment as chief operating officer in 1993, Kerwin coordinated CLINIC's political asylum project for Haitian refugees. He joined CLINIC in 1992. Before he came to CLINIC, Kerwin worked for the D.C.-based law firm of Patton Boggs LLP.

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