

**Mr. Peter Markowitz**

Founder & Director

Kathryn O. Greenberg Immigration Justice Clinic, Cardoza Law School

Mr. Peter L. Markowitz is a Professor of Law at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and is the founding faculty member and co-director of the Kathryn O. Greenberg Immigration Justice Clinic. The clinic focuses on the intersection of immigration and criminal law and on immigration enforcement issues. It provides deportation defense representation to individuals and represents community-based and national advocacy organizations on impact projects. The clinic and Professor Markowitz have played a central role in many critical innovations in the field of immigration law, for example: creating the nation's first public defender system for detained immigrants (the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project); developing the concept of detainer discretion (sanctuary laws); developing the first national immigration fellowship program (the Immigrant Justice Corps); and initiating the nation's first full-service in-house immigration unit located in a public defender's office (at the Bronx Defenders). Under Professor Markowitz's leadership, the clinic has been honored with numerous awards, including the Daniel Levy Award for outstanding and innovative advocacy and recognized by the New York City Council for groundbreaking work on behalf of immigrant communities.

**Ms. Yaritza Mendez**

Associate Organizing Director

Make the Road New York

Ms. Yaritza Mendez was attracted to the mission and work of Make the Road New York (MRNY) at age 14 and decided to pick it as her preferred internship site to meet the requirement of the leadership program she was in during high school. She is now the Associate Director of Organizing. After graduating university, she was the Legal Assistant at Disability Rights Advocates (DRA- NY), one of the leading non-profit disability rights legal centers in the nation. At the end of 2015, she became the Citywide Outreach Coordinator at MRNY, where she oversaw providing outreach support and training to all ActionNYC's Outreach partner CBO's. Ms. Yaritza also became the Immigration and Civil Rights Coordinator to capture all the other work that she was doing