PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:                        For More Information Contact:
February 25, 2015                              Gina Mannix, 212-633-6967
                                                  mannix@nclej.org

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LAW AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE ANNOUNCES THE HIRING OF MARGARITA ROSA AS ITS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

New York, NY – The National Center for Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ) is pleased to announce the hiring of Margarita Rosa as its new Executive Director. Ms. Rosa brings significant nonprofit and governmental experience to NCLEJ, having headed the Grand Street Settlement, located on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, for the past two decades. She will begin her new position at NCLEJ in April 2015.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors of NCLEJ, I am very pleased to welcome Margarita Rosa as our new Executive Director,” said NCLEJ Board Chair Jennifer Selendy. “Margarita has deep connections to the communities that NCLEJ serves and brings with her a sense, born of many years of experience, of the profound urgency of our mission to help alleviate the devastating effects of poverty on this country. We are especially grateful to have Margarita’s vision and leadership as we celebrate our 50th anniversary and redouble our efforts to combat the increasingly intractable scourge of poverty.”

“I am delighted to join NCLEJ.” Ms. Rosa said. “NCLEJ’s mission to ensure that no one lives in poverty or is denied basic human rights resonates with ‘people of conscience’ throughout the United States and beyond. Poverty is a reality faced by millions of Americans every day. Continued and tangible threats to supports for low-income people have the potential to make life even harder for those in need. NCLEJ is at the forefront of efforts to alleviate poverty in New York and nationwide, and I am excited by the important work ahead.”

Ms. Rosa will assume responsibilities as Executive Director from Mary R. (Gina) Mannix, who has served as Interim Executive Director of NCLEJ since August 2014. Ms. Mannix took over that role upon the retirement of Henry Freedman, who had served as Executive Director for 43 years.

Ms. Rosa served as Executive Director of the Grand Street Settlement since 1995, where she was responsible for the overall management and direction of the agency. Previously, Ms. Rosa was the
New York State Commissioner of Human Rights from 1990 through 1994. She was appointed by Governor Mario M. Cuomo and was the first woman, the first Hispanic, and the youngest person to serve in that position. Prior to being appointed as Commissioner, she served as the Executive Deputy Commissioner (1988-1990) and General Counsel (1985-1988) of the New York State Division of Human Rights. Before entering government, she worked as a Litigation Associate at Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman (1981-1984) and as a staff attorney at the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (1979-1981).

She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Princeton University and on the Boards of Directors of the Foundation for Child Development, the Community Service Society of New York, and the Princeton AlumniCorps. She has served on the Boards of Directors of the National Philanthropic Trust, NPower, the Human Services Council of NYC, the Non-Profit Coordinating Committee, United Neighborhood Houses, the Feminist Press of CUNY, the New York State Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, and the New York Civil Liberties Union, among others.

Ms. Rosa graduated cum laude from Princeton University with a Bachelor of Arts in History and received a juris doctor degree from the Harvard Law School.