



Linda Aristondo, General Counsel
RDJ REFUGEE SHELTER



Linda Aristondo is a Latina bilingual woman of color and attorney championing the needs of vulnerable populations, so often also people of color, by representing them as well as empowering them to know and exercise their rights. Her field of interest is collaborating with nonprofit service organizations dedicated to serving the legally disenfranchised, including vulnerable undocumented immigrants and refugees. Linda was among the first-generation of students of color from extremely poor communities admitted to the most selective colleges, and subsequently to law school, as institutions of higher education began to recognize the importance of including multiple underrepresented voices in their student populations. Linda was in the forefront of the generation of women of color educated to lead their communities into the national consciousness; not as an afterthought, but as equal members of the professional class that previously attempted to disenfranchise entire swaths of people of color. Linda, a Harvard educated attorney, was an Encore Public Service Fellow; CORO Foundation's Hispanic Women Leadership Fellow and garnered an ABA CLEO Fellowship.

Organization's Mission and Work

We provide holistic care and support for asylum seekers who are experiencing housing insecurity by running a shelter for temporary housing and connecting each guest to supplementary services like legal and medical help and education. While New York City has numerous shelters, these shelters are often very dangerous places for our clients. Our clients are victims of torture, and nearly all are victims of trauma. Half of our guests identify as being LGBTQI and are victims of violence and persecution due to their sexuality. At RDJ Refugee Shelter, we provide both layers of services to achieve a holistic support system for the asylum seeker community.