Flor Bermudez is the staff attorney for Lambda Legal’s Youth in Out-of-Home Care Project, which addresses the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) adolescents and adults involved with the country’s foster care, juvenile justice and homeless systems.

As a result of neglect, discrimination and abuse, many LGBTQ youth suffer at the hands of the child welfare systems charged to protect them. Inappropriate placement and widespread misunderstanding or ignorance of the needs of LGBTQ teens also endanger their health and safety. They are at risk of physical violence, substance abuse, unsafe sex and even suicide.

The Youth in Out-of-Home Care Project aims to increase the will and capacity of youth-serving organizations to prepare and support LGBTQ youth as they transition from adolescence to independence.

Prior to joining Lambda Legal, the nation’s oldest and largest legal organization working for the civil rights of lesbians, gay men and people with HIV/AIDS, Bermudez served as the founding executive director of Esperanza del Barrio, where she also worked as a staff attorney focusing on impact legal work and public education to advance the interests of Latina immigrants.

After graduating from law school in 2000, Bermudez was awarded a prestigious Skadden Fellowship, which allowed her to spend two years as a staff attorney at Mothers on the Move and the Urban Justice Center, where she brought affirmative civil rights litigation and conducted education workshops.