

My name is Marina Torres and I'm running to be your City Attorney.

I served as a federal prosecutor right here in Los Angeles, where I faced the worst of the worst – I battled corruption, I took on money launderers and fraudsters, and brought down international drug cartels.

But I didn't start off that way. My life started out as a child of undocumented immigrants from Michoacan and Jalisco, Mexico. Like many in LA, they came to this country for a better life. My mom worked at a chicken canning factory and my dad at a Sunkist orange packing plant. We were poor – really poor – especially after my dad died and left my mom to raise us on her own.

But, through a lot of hard work, opportunity and a lot of luck – we made it work. I made it to UC Berkeley, and then to Stanford Law School. I even got to work for President Obama, helping to write and implement DACA.

But still, I was the last one to think I'd be a federal prosecutor. I grew up avoiding gang turf wars and drive-by shootings. And the first time I ever went to a prison wasn't even as a prosecutor – but to visit family.

Likewise, I didn't expect to run for office – I'm a prosecutor, not a politician.

But between the dramatic rise in crime and homelessness – the rampant corruption in City Hall – and the City Attorney's office being raided by the FBI ... I knew I had to do something.

That's when I decided to run for City Attorney.

Because you have to understand what LA means to me. LA is the city my family came to this country for, the city I came back from the White House for, and the city I believe in. Because when I look at my city now, I don't just see encampments, or businesses that can't function, or families that don't feel safe. I see a loss of confidence, because people don't believe in our city's future and can't depend on their government.

I'll tell you what – running for office it's hard. But standing by and watching your city being run to the ground by corrupt and inept politicians is a lot harder.

As a prosecutor, I've seen first-hand the problems our city is facing. The reasons why people end up unhoused on our streets. The feeling of not feeling safe in our own city. The rise in crime and violence. Another politician getting led away in handcuffs – looking out for themselves, and not for us.

But I've gone after the most dangerous threats to Los Angeles before. And I'm ready to do it again.

I'm Marina Torres – federal corruption prosecutor running for LA City Attorney.