

EXPERIENCE

American Immigration Council

Managing Director of Programs ♦ Jan. 2019 – Present

Director of Policy and Media ♦ Oct. 2018 – Dec. 2018

Director of Policy ♦ Aug. 2016 – Sept. 2018

- Oversee operations and planning of the legal, policy, and communications teams, including supervision of 20 staff. Team portfolios include impact litigation, government transparency and oversight, legislative and administrative advocacy, policy analysis, and publication of highly respected research and resources.
- Direct strategic communications, including media outreach, constituent engagement, social media and web content development, and the editorial direction of a daily blog with over 800,000 pageviews/year.
- Manage the annual planning and budgeting process for programmatic work, ensure cross-departmental coordination, and track execution of deliverables.
- Engage with foundations, major donors, and other supporters to help sustain a \$10 million operating budget.
- Examine the role of racial justice in our advocacy and strive to create a more inclusive and equitable workplace.
- Extensively cited as an immigration law and policy expert in major media outlets.

National Immigrant Justice Center

Director of Policy ♦ Feb. 2013 – Aug. 2016

- Opened Washington, D.C. policy office to engage in legislative and administrative advocacy around immigration reform, access to counsel, humanitarian protection, interior enforcement, and detention issues.
- Served as co-chair of the ICE-NGO Enforcement and Detention Working Group, leading regular off-the-record stakeholder meetings with DHS and ICE leadership to facilitate information sharing and dialogue.
- Represented NIJC at meetings with White House officials, government agencies, Members of Congress, and foreign government officials. Cultivated strong and confidential working relationships with people at all levels.
- Presented at congressional briefings and engaged in legislative advocacy on immigration reform and appropriations.

Human Rights and Immigration Law Consultant

Apr. 2008 – Jan. 2013 (*Select projects listed below*)

- **Center for Global Development:** Co-authored “Migration as a Tool for Disaster Recovery: A Case Study on U.S. Policy Options for Post-Earthquake Haiti,” a Haiti-focused assessment of existing legal mechanisms and potential legislative changes to maximize migration as a tool for economic development (Apr. 2011). Successfully advocated for the inclusion of Haiti in the list of countries eligible to participate in the H-2A/B visa program.
- **The World Bank Nordic Trust Fund:** Conducted extensive interviews and research with bilateral and multilateral donors to produce a second edition of the OECD publication “Integrating Human Rights into Development.”
- **American Immigration Council:** Co-authored “Deportation in the Time of Cholera: DHS’s Mixed Response to Haiti’s Earthquake” (June 2011); “Second Annual DHS Progress Report: An Analysis of Immigration Policy in the Second Year of the Obama Admin.” (Apr. 2011); and “DHS Progress Report: The Challenges of Reform” (Mar. 2010).
- **Lawyers Earthquake Relief Network/Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti:** Participated in a delegation to Haiti to investigate the post-earthquake crisis of rape in the displaced persons camps. Co-authored “Our Bodies are Still Trembling: Haitian Women’s Fight Against Rape” (July 2010) and “Our Bodies are Still Trembling: Haitian Women Continue to Fight Against Rape” (Jan. 2011).
- **National Immigration Forum:** Conducted legislative research and analyzed themes that emerged during the 2007 congressional debate surrounding comprehensive immigration reform.

University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law

Adjunct Professor ♦ Jan. 2008 – Dec. 2012

- Prepared and taught an asylum and immigration law writing seminar to second and third year law students.
- Constructively critiqued students’ theses, outlines, and original papers on an immigration topic of their choice.

**Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of the Chief Counsel, Refugee and Asylum Law Division**

Associate Counsel ♦ Sept. 2002 – Aug. 2007; *Top Secret Clearance*

- Provided comprehensive legal counsel to USCIS components on immigration law, particularly as it pertains to asylum, refugee status, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, and Temporary Protected Status.
- Advised USCIS, ICE, and other agencies on cases involving national security issues, human rights abusers, and fraud.
- Represented views of DHS, USCIS, and the Office of the Chief Counsel in discussions with government agencies, including the National Security Council, ICE, the Office of Immigration Litigation, and the Department of State.
- Appointed as Special Assistant U.S. Attorney to facilitate judicial naturalizations in federal court.
- Drafted, analyzed, and commented on proposed legislative amendments, regulatory changes, Federal Register Notices, immigration forms, agency training materials, public affairs materials, and USCIS web site content.

Department of Justice, Immigration & Naturalization Service, Office of International Affairs

Presidential Management Fellow/Asylum Officer ♦ Sept. 2000 – Sept. 2002

- Managed communications with congressional offices and prospective adoptive parents regarding the suspension of Cambodian adoptions. Supervised three fellows who tracked developments in over 400 cases.
- Interviewed and adjudicated refugee applications in Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Guinea, and Kenya.
- Completed the Asylum Officer Basic Training Course at the Federal Law Enforcement Center; interviewed and adjudicated asylum cases in the Arlington Asylum Office (May – July 2001).

International Women's Human Rights Clinic, Georgetown University Law Center

Student Advocate ♦ Jan. – May 2000

- In collaboration with Ghanaian attorneys, researched and drafted a comprehensive legislative proposal addressing sex discrimination and sexual harassment in the Ghanaian workplace (passed into law as part of the Labor Act of 2003).
- Represented a survivor of domestic violence in DC Superior Court to obtain a Civil Protection Order.

Ayuda, Inc.

Law Clerk ♦ June – Aug. 1999

- Successfully represented a female Algerian asylum seeker in the Arlington, Virginia immigration court.
- Provided legal services to indigent clients who were applying for and renewing immigration benefits.

Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA

Research Fellow ♦ Guatemala City and Quetzaltenango, Guatemala ♦ June – Aug. 1997

- Conducted a human rights and development fact-finding mission with Guatemalan indigenous organizations.
- Reported on post-civil war needs including international aid requests and the priorities of Mayan women.

Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (now "Human Rights First")

Legal Intern ♦ Feb. – May 1997

- Assisted staff attorney with client intake and casework for African asylum seekers.
- Researched immigration regulations and the 1996 reforms to U.S. immigration law.

EDUCATION Georgetown University Law Center

Juris Doctorate, May 2000; Member of the New York Bar

- Georgetown Immigration Law Journal, Senior Editor
- Georgetown University Law Center Public Service Award

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Bachelor of Arts, *with distinction*, Political Science, Apr. 1995

Spanish-American Institute of International Education, Seville, Spain; Winter 1994