

PHILIP J. COSTA

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EDUCATION

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

J.D., *magna cum laude*, Order of the Coif, May 1992

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

B.A., *summa cum laude*, History, May 1989

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW, SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL (Los Angeles, CA)

July 2025—Present: Associate Professor of Law

May 2019—July 2025: Adjunct Associate Professor of Law

- Honors and Awards
 - *SBA Professor of the Year (SCALE) (2025-26)*
 - Teaching assignments:
 - Accelerated Trial Advocacy
 - LAWS I (legal analysis, writing, and lawyering skills)
 - LAWS II (appellate advocacy)
 - Remedies
 - Immigration Law and Crimes
 - Bar Skills and Strategies
 - Committee assignments:
 - Chair, Honor Code Committee
 - Online J.D. Program Committee
 - Externship Committee
 - Nevada Bar Licensure Committee
 - Member, Southwestern Law School American Inn of Court, Master's Level
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JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION JUDGE (Los Angeles, CA)

October 2010—June 2025 (retired)

- Presided over and issued decisions in formal hearings involving applications for immigration-related benefits and protection, custody/bond determinations, and potential removal from the United States.
 - Applied case, statutory, and regulatory precedent and resolved complex issues of first impression.
 - Exercised independent discretionary judgment in a manner that ensured due process and fairness, promoting confidence in the integrity of the justice system.
 - Mentored and trained new Immigration Judges and Judicial Law Clerks.
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ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (New York, NY)

July 2003—October 2010 (Deputy Chief Counsel)

June 1997—June 2003 (Assistant Chief Counsel) (predecessor agency)

- Supervised and managed teams of up to 30 trial attorneys.
- Led litigation teams focused on administrative prosecution of human rights violators.
- Chaired, managed, developed curriculum, and served as faculty for National Trial Advocacy Training Program.
- Formulated and coordinated training curriculum, oversaw faculty work product, and served as faculty for National New Attorney Training programs.
- Devised national and local legal writing training programs.
- Developed and implemented comprehensive training curriculum for New York office.
- Supervised, managed, and trained law student interns.
- Maintained individual trial responsibility for selected high-priority matters, with emphasis on human rights violators.

LITIGATION ASSOCIATE, CHADBOURNE & PARKE (New York, NY)

September 1992—June 1997

- Litigated complex federal and state court actions, including actions relating to breach of contract, corporate wrongdoing, fraud, employment, international letters of credit, insurance/reinsurance, accountants' malpractice, creditors' rights, and bankruptcy.

- Drafted briefs, pleadings, and written discovery; argued dispositive motions; and conducted and defended depositions. Examined witnesses at trial and pre-trial hearings. Negotiated and drafted settlement agreements.

EVICTION DEFENSE ATTORNEY, HOUSING COURT LITIGATION PROJECT
(Pro Bono Volunteer, NYC Bar Association/Legal Aid Society Joint Program) (New York, NY)
(1993—1995)

- Represented tenants in nonpayment/eviction proceedings. Aided clients in obtaining rent arrears payments and ongoing public assistance from social service agencies.
- Successful litigation results featured in the 1994 Legal Aid Society Annual Report.
- Received award for outstanding *pro bono* representation, as featured in the *New York Law Journal* (2/28/95 issue).

ADDITIONAL LEGAL TEACHING/PRESENTATION EXPERIENCE

Delivered hundreds of hours of CLE and professional training presentations on topics including:

- Trial Advocacy
 - Chair, DHS National Trial Advocacy Training Program
 - Oral Argument (DHS National Trial Advocacy Training Program)
 - Cross-Examination (DHS National Trial Advocacy Training Program)
 - Trial Advocacy: National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) (DHS faculty)
 - Witness Preparation (NYCLE)
 - Suppression of Evidence (NYCLE)
 - Objections to Documents and Related Evidentiary Issues (NYCLE)
- Human Rights Violators
 - Persecutor Law 101 (DHS National Human Rights Law Conference)
 - Human Rights Violators: Persecutor Law (NYCLE)
 - Human Rights Violators: The Intelligence Reform Act and Beyond (NYCLE)
- Immigration Law and Procedure
 - Prosecutorial Discretion (DHS Trial Advocacy Training Program)
 - Ninth Circuit Law: The Year in Crime (Immigration Judge Training Conference)
 - Criminal Grounds of Removability (NYCLE)
 - Crimes Involving Moral Turpitude (DHS New Attorney Training Program)
 - Cancellation of Removal and Section 212(c) Relief (NYCLE)
- Legal Writing and Ethics
 - Legal Writing (NYCLE)
 - Advanced Legal Writing (DHS National Experienced Attorney Training Program)
 - Basic Legal Ethics (NYCLE)