

# ***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

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## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

### **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL (Los Angeles, CA)**

*July 2025—Present: Associate Professor for Academic Success and Bar Preparation*

*May 2019—July 2025: Adjunct Associate Professor of Law*

- Teaching assignments:
    - Immigration Law and Crimes
    - Remedies (Traditional and SCALE)
    - 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, Masters 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 administrative hearings involving applications for immigration-related benefits and protection, custody status/bond, 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 United States legal 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 legal writing training program and managed local legal writing program.
- 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; conducted and defended depositions.
  - Examined witnesses at trial and pre-trial hearings.
  - Negotiated and drafted settlement agreements.
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**EVICTIION 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 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 Trial Advocacy Training Program)
    - Cross-Examination (DHS 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)
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