

ANDREA V. RAMOS
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EXPERIENCE

Southwestern Law School

Clinical Professor and Director of the Immigration Law Clinic, July 2008 to present

Director of Clinical Programs, July 2022 to present

Created and developed the curriculum and the clinic design for the Immigration Law Clinic.

Teach clinic seminar on immigration law including U nonimmigrant status (U Visa), U-Based Adjustment of Status and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), interviewing and counseling, and lawyering skills. Supervise students on cases.

Represent survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes in their U Visa petitions and U-based adjustment of status applications; represent children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned before the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in SIJS petitions and adjustment of status applications.

Served as co-counsel in class action lawsuit that successfully challenged an unlawful government policy denying Special Immigrant Juvenile Status to foster children, including obtaining a preliminary injunction enjoining the government from denying SIJS cases and from initiating removal against SIJS petitioners based on the policy.

Provide technical assistance to attorneys and advocates regarding SIJS and U Visa; engage in local and statewide advocacy regarding SIJS, U Visa and U Visa law enforcement certification policies to improve the U-certification process for survivors of domestic violence and other crimes.

Co-organize LA VAWA Network U Certifier meeting for non-profit attorneys and law enforcement representatives; serve as LA VAWA Network liaison to U Certifier coordinator of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

Public Counsel**Staff Attorney, Children's Rights Project, 1997 to 2005****Directing Attorney, Children's Rights Project, 2005 to 2007**

Represented children and caretakers in probate and dependency courts. Represented children in immigration matters. Provided technical support and training to lawyers and social service providers; trained and supervised law student interns and *pro bono* attorneys on children's rights casework. Organized youth testimony and lobbied legislators in support of California Higher Education Bill for immigrant students (AB 540). Worked with Executive Director and Development Director on fundraising efforts and procuring foundation and fellowship funding.

USC Gould School of Law, 2004 to 2007**Adjunct Professor**

Children and the Law

Co-taught course on the child welfare system, including an overview of California dependency law, adoptions and guardianship practice.

Tuttle & Taylor, 1992 to 1997**Litigation Associate****Summer Associate (Summer 1991)**

Argued motions in state and federal district courts; drafted pleadings and briefs; took and defended depositions; negotiated and drafted settlement agreements; second-chaired jury and bench trials. Substantial *pro bono* work included representation of Ethiopian client seeking political asylum, preparation of wills and guardianships on behalf of terminally ill parents, and co-author of *Amicus* brief on behalf of National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers regarding police interrogation after invocation of *Miranda* rights.

USC Gould School of Law, Summer 1990 to Spring 1991**Post-Conviction Justice Project****Law Student Supervisor**

Represented federal prisoners convicted of armed robbery and other felony offenses; drafted *habeas corpus* petitions; represented Cuban Marielitos at legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service hearings; represented clients at parole hearings. Supervised law students enrolled in clinical program.

EDUCATION

USC Gould School of Law

J.D., 1992

Southern California Review of Law & Women's Studies, Staff Member

Arizona State University

B.A., *magna cum laude*, Sociology, 1988

PROFESSIONAL HONORS, AWARDS AND SERVICE

The Anahid Gharakhanian Endowment Excellence in Teaching Award, 2020

USC Public Interest Law Foundation, Attorney of the Year Award, 2008

USC La Raza Law Students Association, Inspirational Alumnus Award, 2007

Served on ABA site inspection teams for Lewis & Clark Law School (2025), University of California College of the Law, San Francisco (2023), Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University (2021), Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law (2020), Fordham University School of Law (2016), University of Dayton School of Law (2014), Willamette University College of Law (2014).

Served as inaugural steering committee member of the End SIJS Backlog coalition, a nationwide coalition working to propose solutions caused by the SIJS visa backlog. This included advocating for amendments to the Immigration and Nationality Act and agency regulations and other policy changes to mitigate the harmful effects of the visa backlog on children and advocating for executive action by the Biden Administration.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

2025

Protecting Immigrant Youth, Families and Caregivers, Speaker, UCLA School of Education & Information Studies, Los Angeles, CA, January 2025

Immigration Options for Children, Speaker, Principals Leadership Institute, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, April 2025

2024

Best Practices for U Visa Certification Policies, Speaker, Southern and Central California child welfare agencies, Los Angeles, CA, October 2024

Hot Topics in Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, Children's Advocacy Group, San Bernardino, CA, October 2024

Stories from the Bench: What Judges Can Tell You about Lawyering, Moderator, Southwestern Law School Writing Center, Storytelling Workshop, Los Angeles, CA, October 2024

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status: Advanced and Emerging Issues, Juvenile Court judges, Riverside County Juvenile Court, Speaker, Riverside, CA, September 2024

2023

Crimmigration, Panelist, Immigration Law Student Association, Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles, CA, April 2023

Immigration Options for Children, Speaker, Principals Leadership Institute, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, April 2023

2022

U Visa Updates, Speaker, Los Angeles Police Department U Visa Coordinator meeting, Los Angeles, CA, September 2022

Immigration Options for Children, Speaker, Principals Leadership Institute, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, April 2022

2021

Immigration Options for Children and Families, UCLA Pritzker Center, Summer Child Welfare Academy, Los Angeles, CA, July 2021

Immigration Options for Children, Speaker, Riverside County Bar Association, Juvenile Law Section and Riverside County Public Defender's Office, Riverside, CA, July 2021

DACA Updates 2021, Speaker, Oscar De La Hoya Animo Charter High School, Los Angeles, CA, June 2021

Drafting Declarations, Speaker, Southwestern Law School Writing Center, Storytelling Workshop, Los Angeles, CA, February 2021

Hot Topics in Immigrant Rights, Moderator, Breakout Session, Judge Harry Pregerson Public Service Boot Camp, Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles, CA, January 2021

2020

A Conversation About Deported Americans, Panelist, Southwestern Law School Law Review Symposium, Los Angeles, CA, October 2020

Immigration Options for Children and Families, Speaker, Principals Leadership Institute, Speaker, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, April 2020

2019

Teaching in the Clinical Setting, Co-Facilitator, Breakout Session, Southern California Clinical Conference, University of California, Irvine School of Law, Irvine, CA, October 2019

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status: Hot Topics: 2017 to 2019, Southern California Counties International Services Committee Meeting (sub-committee of the California Child Welfare Directors Association), Keynote Speaker, Orange, CA, October 2019

Immigration Options for Children and Youth, Speaker, Children's Advocacy Group, San Bernardino, CA, May 2019

No Child Left Behind? Asylum, DACA, SIJS and OMG, Immigration In The Trump Era, Panelist, Southwestern Law School Law Review Symposium, Los Angeles, CA, February 2019

2018

Serving Immigrants and Their Families: The Los Angeles County Response, Speaker, County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA, October 2018

Closing the Justice Gap for California's Youth: Denial of Basic Human Rights, Moderator, Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles, CA, October 2018

Assisting Undocumented Students, Walking Towards Revolutionary Healing – Politics & Pedagogy Collective, Speaker, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, May 2018

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status: Overview of the law, Speaker, Ventura County Public Defender's Office, Oxnard, CA, April 2018

2017

Assisting Undocumented Students, John Burton Advocates for Youth - Blueprint for Success Conference, Speaker, Los Angeles, CA, October 2017

Creating a School Plan to Protect Immigrant Youth and Families, Teaching, Leading, and Living in Solidarity Conference, Speaker, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, April 2017

Immigration Options Post-Election, Speaker, Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services, Santa Monica, CA, March 2017

2016

Immigration Options for Children and Youth, Speaker, Children's Institute, Long Beach, CA, June 2016

2015

U Visa Hot Topics, Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) Seminar: U Visas and Humanitarian Relief, Presenter, Los Angeles, CA, October 2015

2014

Challenges and Opportunities with Non-Traditional Clinical Models, Presenter, NAFSA: Association of International Educators, Internationalizing Legal Education Colloquium, San Diego, CA, May 2014

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, ILRC Seminar: Advanced and Emerging Issues in Immigration Humanitarian Relief: SIJS, Asylum, VAWA and U Visa Issues, Presenter, Los Angeles, CA, October 2014

Human Trafficking: The Global and Domestic Coercion of Sex & Labor, Moderator, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, CA, May 2014

2013

The Unwelcome Phoenix: Resurrection of Local Ordinances Impacting Undocumented Immigrant Communities, Austerity and the Possibilities of the Political, ClassCrits VI Workshop, Panelist, Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles, CA, November 2013

Immigration Options for Children and Youth: SIJS and U Visa, San Bernardino County Children and Family Services, San Bernardino, CA, October 2013

Shattered Families, The Future of Children in International Law Symposium, Panelist, Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles, CA, February 2013

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Clinician Crew co-facilitator, American Association of Law Schools, 2022-2023, 2024-2025

Member, Los Angeles VAWA Network, 2008 to Present

Students Overcoming All Roadblocks (SOAR), Scholarship Committee, 2013 to Present

Member, Admissions Committee, Southwestern Law School, 2016 to Present

Member, (Chair) Public Interest Law Committee, Southwestern Law School, 2008 to Present

Member, Externship Committee, Southwestern Law School, 2020 to 2024

Member, Clinic Committee, Southwestern Law School, 2012-2013, 2014-2015, 2016-2017

Member, Curriculum Committee, Southwestern Law School, 2014-2015

Member, Faculty Development Committee, Southwestern Law School, 2014-2016

Member, Outcomes Assessment/WASC Committee, Southwestern Law School, 2015-2017

Faculty Advisor, Immigration Law Students Association, 2008 to Present

Faculty Advisor, Public Interest Law Students Association, 2022 to Present

BAR ADMISSIONS

Member of California Bar; District of Columbia Bar (inactive)

LANGUAGE

Fluent in oral and written Spanish.

Revised 7/2025.