

SARAH J. DIAZ

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TEACHING & ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Loyola University Chicago School of Law

2020-Present

Lecturer & Practicum Director

- Fall semester 2020-Spring 2023. Taught and coordinated syllabus for the Immigration Law Practicum. Developed asylum cases on behalf of the National Immigrant Justice Center including student supervision of affidavit development, brief development, and policy development.
- Fall semester 2022. Refugee Law and Policy: Welcoming the Stranger. Developed syllabus, taught refugee law with focus on the history, comparative law, and racial justice implications of refugee law.
- Spring Break 2021-2023. Revised and taught the Immigration Detention Project, a week-long immersive service trip to border which includes student-led direct legal services.
- Spring Semester 2021. Co-taught International Human Rights Law. Developed syllabus and co-taught seminar on international human rights with a focus on the U.N. system and various regional systems including the European System, the Inter-American System and the African System.
- Faculty Advisor to the Latino Law Student Association (LLSA), 2022-present.

Associate Director, Center for the Human Rights of Children

- CHRC administrative responsibilities include providing support for CHRC programs including assisting with budget management, communications, hiring, prospect research and grant development, developing programming related to child migration, and supervision of student fellows working for the CHRC.
- CHRC-student work product developed under direct supervision:
 - May 2023, published summary of Title 42 FOIA results to the American Immigration Council website: [Trump Administration Intentionally Expelled Thousands of Unaccompanied Children to Danger Under Title 42](#).
 - July 2022, Submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, [An NGO Alternative Report for the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#).
 - April 14, 2022, Submission to the [UN Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights of Migrants on the Impact of Climate Change and the Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants](#).
 - February 2022, [Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights of Migrants on Human Rights Violations at International Borders](#), submitted with KIND and the Young Center (*cited* by the SR in [report to the HRC](#)).
 - November 2021, [Submission to OHCHR, Michelle Bachelet, on the Rights of the Child and Family Reunification](#), submitted with the Young Center, on behalf of Kids in Need of Defense, First Focus on Children, and the National Immigrant Justice Center.
 - September 2021, [Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur for Torture on the Torture of Migrant Children in the United States](#), submitted in connection with KIND, WRC and the Young Center.
 - June 2021, The Impact on Children of the Situation in Mozambique: A Report for the UN Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries.
 - June 2021, [Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights of Migrants on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Migrant Children](#) (*cited* by SR in [report to the HRC](#)).
 - February 2021, [Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights of Migrants related to pushback mechanisms](#), submitted in connection with KIND, WRC and Young Center.
 - January 2021, Memorandum to ABA ProBAR Practitioners on Motions to Reopen for Migrant Children Subjected to Removal Under the Migrant Protection Protocols.
 - August & October 2020, [FOIA Request](#) related to Title 42 Expulsions of Migrant Children (filed alongside the American Immigration Council).

Clinical Instructor

- Fall semesters 2008-2014. Co-taught Asylum & Immigration Law Clinic. Supervised student work in the representation of immigration clients before the Department of Homeland Security. Cases were referred by community organizations throughout Chicago. Planned and co-taught seminar component.
- Spring semesters 2008-2013. Created and co-taught Advanced Immigrant Detainee Clinic. Supervised student work in the representation of detained immigration clients before the Department of Justice (Immigration Courts). As part of the classroom component, students presented legal theories to and received feedback from immigration experts from the National Immigrant Justice Center, Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago and the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Planned and co-taught seminar component.
- Spring semester 2014. Created and taught Immigration Policy Advocacy Clinic. Supervised student policy initiatives with community-based organizations across Illinois. Clinic published student-led research around U-visa certification [Unequal Protection: Disparate Treatment of Immigrant Crime Victims in Cook, the Collar Counties and Beyond](#) (October 2014). This publication was used to develop and support the Illinois Voices Act, S.B. 34. Planned and taught seminar component.
- Summer 2010-2014. Co-created and co-taught U-Visa Summer Practicum. Supervised law student work on crime victim applications for U-nonimmigrant status before the Department of Homeland Security. Co-planned and co-taught introductory trainings on client interviewing skills, legal writing, eligibility for the U visa, and professional responsibility.
- Spring 2008. Co-taught seminar component of Chiapas Human Rights Practicum.
- Harlingen Alternative Spring Break Service Trip. Co-taught introduction to immigration law to students prior to travel. Supervised student work at ProBAR, an immigration project of the American Bar Association., 2008-2012.
- Faculty Advisor to founding chapter of the Society for Asylum & Immigration Law (SAIL), 2008-2012.

Staff Attorney, Legal Resource Project

- Represented complex immigration cases before the DOJ and the Seventh
- Provided consultation and legal trainings in response to technical assistance requests from community-based organizations (CBO) in Illinois. These CBO partners operate through immigration representatives accredited by the DOJ, not lawyers. Responded to requests for complex legal analysis on eligibility for benefits, development of legal service delivery models, and policy advocacy on endemic issues (e.g., developed and co-led a DACA collaborative to address implementation with the Obama Administration). Responded promptly and creatively to dynamic, on-the-ground needs of the CBO community.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Immigration and Human Rights Consultant

Consultant, Chicago IL

2017-2020

Consultant to non-profit legal service providers on projects involving international criminal law, human trafficking, unaccompanied immigrant children, and other program and policy initiatives. **Contract Examples:** **Project Expedite Justice (PEJ)** a non-profit international criminal law firm providing technical support to local NGOs seeking to secure justice for victims of atrocity crimes and other human rights abuses. Evaluated jurisdictional options for various legal mechanisms and developed legal strategies for access to justice. **American Immigration Council (AIC)** engages in litigation, research, legislative and administrative advocacy. As family separation expert, reviewed FOIA documents, interpreted data, proposed mechanisms for presenting data to the public, proposed additional avenues to discover information around government policies.

The Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights at the University of Chicago

National Case Director, National site travel based in Chicago, IL

2014-2017

Co-coordinated expansion of the Young Center offices with primary focus on development, coordination and consistent application of the best interests framework under international law. Supervised case strategy through rigorous internal case rounds. Edited written legal memorandums in support of best interests recommendations. Developed substantive and procedural internal protocols.

National Immigrant Justice Center, Immigrant Children's Protection Project

Staff Attorney, Chicago, IL

2006-2007

Represented detained unaccompanied minors on their cases for asylum, human trafficking or special immigrant juvenile visas. Advocated placement and custody issues before the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Trained and provided legal support to attorneys handling cases on a pro bono basis.

DePaul International Human Rights Law Institute, Sex Tourism Opposition & Prevention Project (STOP Project),

Project Manager, Chicago, IL & San Jose, Costa Rica

2004-2006

Fieldwork and research on the sexual exploitation of minors in the Costa Rican sex tourism industry; developed alliances with Costa Rican NGOs and government officials to encourage transnational utilization of U.S. laws (PROTECT Act) amongst Costa Rican programs for the deterrence of sex tourism (sexual predation of minors).

Centro de La Mujer

Summer 2003

Summer Fellow, Palenque, Chiapas, MX.

Researched and analyzed trends in legal enforcement actions against victims of domestic violence. Prepared and assisted in the delivery of trainings on women's legal rights in indigenous communities.

EDUCATION

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago IL

LL.M. *with Honors*, International Human Rights, May 2018

Honors: Charles Chaney Hide Award in Public International Law, 2018

Awarded Master of Laws in International Human Rights with Honors, 3.817 Cum GPA

Activities: Atrocity Crimes Litigation Conference, International Nuremberg Principles Academy, Nuremberg Germany. *Researcher* for Professor David Scheffer. Developed legal histories of Balkans hybrid/domestic tribunal jurisprudence for a special presentation by former Kosovo Specialist Tribunal Prosecutor David Schwendiman.

Crimes Against Humanity Act (CAHA), *Researcher* for Professor David Scheffer. Researched and proposed statutory amendments to the jurisdictional reach of the CAHA by referencing the Immigration and Nationality Act.

DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, IL

J.D., May 2005, International and Comparative Law Certificate

Honors: International Human Rights Law Institute, *Fellow*, Sex Tourism Opposition and Prevention Project (STOP).

Activities: International Human Rights Law Institute, *Project Manager*. Chiapas Human Rights Practicum, Chiapas, MX.

Justice Systems Reform after Conflict, San Salvador, El Salvador.

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL

B.S., May 2001;

Honors: James Scholar Honors Program, Fall 1997 – Spring 2001

Dean's List, Fall 1997 – Spring 2001

National Honor Society, Fall 1997 – Spring 2001

PUBLICATIONS, WORKS IN PROGRESS, LEGISLATIVE & OTHER ADVOCACY

BOOKS & BOOK CHAPTERS

Kids in Cages: Surviving and Resisting Child Migrant Detention, Lina Caswell, Sarah J. Diaz, J.D., LL.M., & Emily Navarro, PhD., Editors, (forthcoming Arizona Press 2023).

Toward a Decarceral Future: Reflections from the Lived Experience, in *Kids in Cages: Surviving and Resisting Child Migrant Detention*, (forthcoming Arizona Press 2023).

“Not ‘Our’ Children”: *The Othering of Migrant Children and the Concomitant Use of State-Sanctioned Violence through Immigration Law and Policy*, in *Kids in Cages: Surviving and Resisting Child Migrant Detention*, (forthcoming Arizona Press 2023) (with Lisa Jacobs and Katherine Walts).

Hague Abduction Considerations for the Hague Adoption Lawyer, in *The International Adoption Sourcebook*, (AILA 2 Ed. 2021)

LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

[*Denormalizing Harm to Migrant Children in the U.S. Immigration System: A Comparative Perspective*](#), 44 CHILD. LEGAL RTS. J. (forthcoming, summer 2023) (with Loyola Law Student, Oneida Molina Vargas).

[*Atrocity Crimes Against Migrant Children and Families in the United States: An Accountability Framework for Family Separation*](#), Center for Mexico and Central America, Expert Series, No. 5, Columbia University (December 2022).

[*The Inappropriate Use of Juvenile Records in Immigration Discretion*](#), Academic Research and Position Brief, Center for the Human Rights of Children and Civitas ChildLaw Center, published online (July 2022) (with Lisa Jacobs).

[*The Role of Public Health in the Rule of Law: The Cautionary Tale of Title 42 Expulsions*](#), Harvard Public Health Review. 2021; 30. (with Loyola law student, Malachy Schrobilgen).

[*Hague Abduction Law for the Contemporary Immigrant Parent and Child*](#), 2 AILA L.J. 107 (2020).

[*COVID-19’s Nefarious Toll on Migrant Children: Executive Overreach and a Framework to Prevent Abuse*](#), published in the online symposium *Children’s Rights in the Time of COVID-19*, Center for the Human Rights of Children, Loyola University School of Law, November 17, 2020 (with Loyola law student, Malachy Schrobilgen).

[*An Elusive Mandate: Enforcing the Prohibition on the Use of Child Soldiers*](#), 39 CHILD. LEGAL RTS. J. 263 (2019).

[*Failing the Refugee Child: Gaps in the Refugee Convention Relating to Children*](#), 20 GEO. J. GENDER & L. 605 (2019).

[*Parent-Child Border Separations Violate International Law: Why it matters and what can be done to protect children and families*](#), GEO. HUM. RTS. INST., Perspectives in Human Rights No. 6 (Aug. 2018).

Illinois VOICES Act, [S.B. 34](#), 100th Gen. Assem. (2017). (Original author of the U-visa certification

provisions, contributing revisions from 2014 through final bill.)

Unequal Protection: Disparate Treatment of Immigrant Crime Victims in Cook, the Collar Counties and Beyond, DePaul Asylum & Immigration Law Clinic, October 2014 (with DePaul clinic students Geraldine Arruela, Cordia Perez, Ana Valenzuela and Katerin Zurita).

Re-Interpreting Postville: A Legal Perspective, 2 DEPAUL J. SOC. JUST. 31 (2008) (with Sioban Albiol and Linus Chan).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Coordinator, Planner, Moderator “*Indigenous Child Migration from Guatemala: A Socio-legal Perspective*,” Loyola University Chicago School of Law & National Immigrant Justice Center Co-Presentation, June 16, 2023.

Presenter, “Family Separation as a Crime Against Humanity,” Loyola University Chicago Rule of Law Institute, March 14, 2022.

Presenter, “Hague Abduction Law for the Immigration Lawyer,” Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights, November 9, 2021.

Coordinator, Student Moderated Event with Senator Durbin Office, “The State of Comprehensive Immigration Reform in the U.S. Congress,” virtual meeting at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, April 14, 2021.

Co-Presenter, “COVID-19’s Nefarious Toll on Migrant Children: Executive Overreach and a Framework to Prevent Abuse,” online symposium Children’s Rights in the Time of COVID-19, Center for the Human Rights of Children, Loyola University School of Law, November 17, 2020.

Presenter, AILA Vlog Post “Thinking Creatively About Using the Hague Convention to Combat Family Separation” Nov. 18, 2020.

Co-Presenter, “Points of Contact with Private Security Companies throughout the U.S. Migration Timeline,” A Meeting of the UN Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries, UN Headquarters in New York, July 2019.

Guest Lecturer, “Parent-Child Border Separations: A Violation of International Law,” International Human Rights Colloquium, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, October 22, 2018.

Co-presenter, Webinar “Framework for Considering the Best Interests of Children,” Executive Office for Immigration Review-coordinated webinar for immigration law fellows, 2016.

Coordinator, Planner & Moderator, DePaul CBO-USCIS Ombudsman Convenings on DACA Series, DePaul University College of Law, Chicago 2012-2013.

Working Group Discussion Co-Facilitator (International Human Rights), American Association of Law Schools’ Conference in Clinical Legal Education, Chicago IL, April 28, 2014 – April 30, 2014.

Co-organizer & Plenary moderator, “U-visa Adjustment of Status,” American Immigration Lawyers Association’s Fall Conference, Chicago Chapter, February 2010.

Presenter, “N-648 Disability Waives,” American Immigration Lawyers Association, Chicago Chapter’s New

Members Monthly Meeting, July 2009.

Plenary Panel Moderator, “Ensuring Access to Justice” with Immigration Judge Giambastiani, National Conference on the Protection of Unaccompanied and Separated Children, Chicago, 2008.

Presenter, Harvard Human Rights Law Advocates student presentation, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, November 2007.

Presenter, “Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, Relief for Immigrant Children in Need,” National Conference on the Protection of Unaccompanied and Separated Children, Miami, 2007.

MEMBERSHIP & SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Childhood, Law, and Policy Network, *Member*, Spring 2022 – present

Global Strategic Litigation Council on Refugee Rights, *Member*, Fall 2021 – present

Immigrant Legal Defense, *Board Member*, Fall 2021 – present

Migrant Child Rights Coalition, *Co-founder & Coordinator*, Fall 2020 – present

Illinois Human Trafficking Task Force, *Member*, 2014.

Latinos Progresando, *Board Member*, Spring 2010 – 2014.

Island Relief Charity, *Co-Founder & Board Member*, 2003-2010.

Chicago U/VAWA Working Group, *Coordinator*, 2008 – 2014.

HONORS & AWARDS

Kolvenbach Award for Engaged Teaching, 2023.

ABA Commission on Immigration, Pro Bono Champion Award, 2022.

Hank Center for Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Course Development Award, 2022.

ABA Commission on Immigration, Pro Bono Service Award, 2021.

Loyola Rule of Law Institute, Scholar Grant Recipient, 2021.

Northwestern’s Charles Chaney Hide Award in Public International Law, 2018.

Commitment to Public Service, DePaul University College of Law, 2013.

COURT & BAR ADMISSIONS

Illinois Supreme Court 2006

Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals

SKILLS

Spanish fluency (written and spoken)