

Valeria Gomez (She/Her/Ella)

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[SSRN](#)

Academic Appointments

University of Baltimore School of Law, Assistant Professor of Law & Director, Immigrant Rights Clinic Aug. 2022 – present

Courses taught: Immigrant Rights Clinic

University of Connecticut School of Law, Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor of Law & William R. Davis Clinical Teaching Fellow Jun. 2018 – Jun. 2022

Courses taught: Asylum and Human Rights Clinic
Individual Field Placement Seminar
Immigration Law

Lincoln Memorial University, Adjunct Professor Jan. 2018 – May 2018

Courses taught: Asylum Law

University of Tennessee College of Law, Clinical Lecturer May 2015 – May 2016

Courses taught: Immigration Clinic

Publications

Valeria Gomez and S. Megan Berthold, *Best Practices for Writing Affidavits and Preparing Testimony*, in *ASYLUM MEDICINE: A CLINICIAN'S GUIDE* 133 (Katherine C. McKenzie, ed., 2022).

Valeria Gomez and Marcy Lynn Karin, *Menstrual Justice in Immigration Detention*, 41 *COLUM. J. GENDER & L.* 123 (2021).

Valeria Gomez and Karla M. McKanders, *Refugee Reception and Perception: U.S. Detention Camps and German Welcome Centers*, 40 *FORDHAM INT'L L.J.* 523 (2017).

Education

University of Tennessee College of Law, Knoxville, TN May 2013
Juris Doctor, with Honors

Awards and Distinctions: Order of the Barristers; Distinguished Student Attorney Award: Immigration Clinic; Academic Excellence Awards: Immigration Legal Clinic, Legal Process (Writing); Ogden & Sullivan Moot Court Brief Writing Award; Susan B. Devitt National Moot Court Award for Excellence in Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy; Pro-Bono Service Recognition

Activities and Service: Teaching Assistant, Legal Process (Writing) II; ABCNY National Moot Court Team (4th-Ranked Brief in Nation); UT Law Moot Court Board, Chair; Alternative Spring Break U Visa Immigration Project; *Transactions Journal of Business Law*, Member.

Belmont University, Nashville, TN

May 2008

*Bachelor of Business Administration, magna cum laude***Practice Experience****Volunteer Immigrant Defense Advocates, Knoxville, TN**

June 2016-May 2018

Equal Justice Works/Justice Americorps Fellow/Staff Attorney

- Designed and implemented an outreach and screening plan to identify qualifying unaccompanied children for representation in removal proceedings.
- Provided direct representation to approximately 43 unaccompanied immigrant children ages six to eighteen, assessing eligibility for immigration relief, screening for human trafficking, and making social services and medical referrals when appropriate.
- Counseled children and their guardians on the immigration legal system, the nature of removal proceedings, and forms of relief, adapting counseling style based on maturity, language and reading skills, emotional state, and age.
- Represented clients in the Memphis Immigration Court, USCIS, and the New Orleans Asylum Sub-Office.
- Presented CLEs and seminars for attorneys, teachers, and other community members on issues such as the fundamentals of immigration law, relief for unaccompanied children, and Know Your Rights presentations.

University of Tennessee College of Law, Knoxville, TN

June 2015-May 2016

*Equal Justice Works Justice Americorps Fellow**(served concurrently as Clinical Lecturer)*

- Provided direct representation to approximately 30 unaccompanied immigrant children in removal proceedings before the Memphis Immigration Court, USCIS, and the New Orleans Asylum Sub-Office.
- Counseled children and their guardians on the immigration legal system, the nature of removal proceedings, and forms of relief, adapting counseling style based on maturity, language and reading skills, emotional state, and age.
- Assisted with supervision of clinic students on projects delegated from direct-representation cases, including drafting and arguing suppression motions and appearing in in-person and telephonic contested master calendar hearings.
- Presented CLEs and seminars for attorneys and other community members on issues such as the fundamentals of immigration law, relief for unaccompanied children, immigration consequences of criminal convictions, and Know Your Rights presentations.

Butler Snow LLP, Nashville, TN

September 2013-May 2015

Associate Attorney, Labor & Employment Practice Group

- Counseled businesses with diverse operations and geographic footprints on employment law matters, including federal and state laws on employee rights, employment discrimination, wage and hour, labor, FMLA, ADA, WARN Act, and business immigration matters.
- Drafted, reviewed, and negotiated employment contracts, severance agreements, and settlement agreements.
- Represented clients in state and federal court, including large-scale collective action suits, in all areas of pre-trial litigation, including complaints, answers, written discovery, motions for summary judgment, and other filings.

- Drafted successful position statements and counseled clients in matters before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

Academic Conferences and Symposia Presentations

Procedural Subjugation in U.S. Immigration Adjudication (roundtable panelist). Global Meeting on Law and Society. Lisbon, Portugal (Jul. 14, 2022).

Menstrual Justice in Immigration Detention. Are You There, Law? It's Me, Menstruation (Columbia Journal of Gender and Law Symposium). Webcast. (Apr. 10, 2021).

Invited. *The Invisible Wall: How U.S. Border Policy Impedes Refugee Access*. Manchester Community College Global Migration Conference. Manchester, CT. (Oct. 19, 2019).

Red-Bottom Shoe Activism: Privilege, Power, and Pedagogy (panel speaker). AALS Conference on Clinical Education. San Francisco, CA. (May 6, 2019).

Invited. *Voting Rights as Human Rights* (panel speaker). Looking Back and Looking Forward: The Nineteenth Amendment 100 Years Later (Tennessee Law Review Symposium). Knoxville, TN. (Apr. 18, 2019).

Invited. *Human Rights on the Podium: Going for Gold* (moderator). Behind the Games: The Effect of the Olympics on Host Cities (Connecticut Journal of International Rights Symposium). Hartford, CT. (Apr. 12, 2019).

Invited. *For la Familia: Asylum-seekers' Courage and Resilience in the Face of Zero Tolerance Border Enforcement*. Latin@s: One Endless Voice to Enhance our Traditions, University of Connecticut School of Social Work. Hartford, CT. (Sept. 20, 2018).

Invited. *Law and Justice from a Social Standpoint* (moderator). University of Tennessee Department of Anthropology, Disasters, Displacement, and Human Rights Program "Bridging the Collaborative Gap" conference. Knoxville, TN. (Sept. 25-27, 2017).

Invited. *Legal and Policy Issues Impacting Refugees and Resettlement*. Refugees, Displacement, and Resettlement: A UT Conference and Workshop. Knoxville, TN. (Feb. 24, 2017).

Public Engagement

Podcast/Radio Interviews

Betsy Kim (host). "Biden's Immigration Changes." *Law, Life, & Culture*, WNHH Community Radio 103.5 FM. Feb. 4, 2021. [Radio broadcast, audio podcast, and webcast.]

Matthew Archambault and Stephen Robbins (hosts). "The End of Asylum Law." *Redirect: Immigration Law & Perspectives*. June 13, 2020. [Audio Podcast.]

Lucy Nalpathanchil (host). "After Threats of ICE Raids, A Look at What's Next." *Where We Live*. Connecticut Public Radio. (July 15, 2019). [Radio broadcast].

Matthew Archambault and Stephen Robbins (hosts). "PSG." *Redirect: Immigration Law & Perspectives*. Apr. 19, 2019. [Audio Podcast.]

Matthew Archambault and Stephen Robbins (hosts). "ICE Raids." *Redirect: Immigration Law & Perspectives*. April 13, 2018. [Audio Podcast.]

Victor Agreda, Jr. (host). "Immigration and the Future of DACA." *Dialogue*, WUOT. Oct. 4, 2017. [Audio Podcast.]

Media Interviews

Daniel Villareal. "[New DHS Rules on Persecuted Asylum Seekers Could 'Gut' Immigration Law, Experts Say.](#)" *Newsweek*. (Jun. 12, 2020). [Quoted].

Jaclyn Severance. "[UConn 'Angels' Bring Legal, Mental Health Aid to Asylum-Seekers.](#)" *UConn Today*. (Jul. 24, 2019). [Quoted].

Camille Chill. "[Law Students Make a Case for Asylum.](#)" *UConn Today*. (May 20, 2019). [Quoted].

Chris James. "[97 People Detained.](#)" *BEME News*. (May 22, 2018). [Interviewed on Air].

Damià Bonmatí and Federica Narancio Genesi. "[Separados, Sin Trabajo, y Buscando Miles de Dólares: El Después de la Mayor Redada Laboral del Gobierno de Trump](#) (Separated, Jobless, and Searching for Thousands of Dollars: The Aftermath of the Largest Work Raid of the Trump Administration)". *Univision*. (May 6, 2018) (Spanish) [Quoted].

Laura Ayo. "[40 Under 40: Valeria Gomez, 31, Equal Justice Works Americorps Legal Fellow, Volunteer Immigrant Defense Advocates.](#)" *Knoxville News Sentinel*. (Jan. 3, 2018) [Interviewed & Featured].

Online Publications

Valeria Gomez, "[Violence Against Women in Detention is Not New.](#)" *Medium*. (Sept. 18, 2020).

Valeria Gomez, "[Q&A: What COVID-19 Means for Immigration.](#)" *UConn Today*. (Mar. 30, 2020).

Valeria Gomez and William Gill, "[Dreamers, Higher Education, and Jailhouse Policy: Immigration Issues at the National, State, and Local Levels.](#)" *Dicta: Knoxville Bar Association Journal*. (Jan. 23, 2018).

Select Presentations

Professional Conferences

Invited. *Managing Asylum Cases*. American Immigration Lawyers Association Virtual Paralegals Conference. (Aug. 18, 2021).

Invited. *When All Else Fails: Relief Under the Convention Against Torture*. American Immigration Lawyers Association Virtual Asylum Conference. (Sept. 30, 2020).

Invited. *Asylum 101*. American Immigration Lawyers Association Virtual Annual Conference. (July 21, 2020).

Invited. *Overview of Asylum Law and Best Practices in Drafting Medical-Legal Affidavits*. Yale School of Medicine's Medical Forensic Evaluation of Asylum Seekers training. New Haven, CT. (Oct. 4, 2019).

Invited. *When Children Face Removal: Current Issues, Law, and Procedures for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, Asylum, Administrative Closure, and Other Relief*. American Immigration Lawyers Association MidSouth Chapter Conference. Nashville, TN. (Nov. 3, 2017).

CLEs, Pro Bono Attorney Trainings, and Bar Presentations

Invited. *Immigration Law and Reform: Priorities and Impact of the New Administration*. Connecticut Legal Conference. Hartford, CT. (Jun. 17, 2021).

Invited. *Keeping Families Together: Asylum Claims for Children*. Connecticut Bar Association. Hartford, CT. (Jan. 26, 2021).

Invited. *Immigration Relief for Children: SIJS and Asylum Training*. Community Legal Center CLE. Knoxville, TN. (Feb. 16, 2018).

Invited. *Changes on the Horizon: Trump's First 100 Days*. Knoxville Bar Association Corporate Counsel Section. Knoxville, TN. (Mar. 31, 2017).

Immigration Law Boot Camp for Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys. Volunteer Immigrant Defense Advocates. Knoxville, TN. (Mar. 25, 2017).

Invited. *Procedural Due Process in Immigration Law*. Justice Americorps National Fellows training. Potomac, MD. (Jan. 9, 2017).

Invited. *Immigrant Issues in Tennessee*. East Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women. Knoxville, TN. (Sept. 21, 2016).

Immigrant Children and Tennessee Family Courts: Challenges and Avenues for Relief. Knoxville, TN & state-wide via webcast. (Jun. 17, 2016).

Invited. *Ethical Implications of Representing Immigrants in Criminal Proceedings*. Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Knoxville, TN. (Dec. 10, 2015).

Invited. *Immigration Law for Non-Practitioners*. Louisville, KY. (Nov. 6, 2015).

How It Works (or Doesn't!): Immigration Law in Tennessee. University of Tennessee Pre-Football CLE program. Knoxville, TN. (Oct. 10, 2015).

Community and Student Engagement

Invited panelist. *A History of Sterilization: Understanding Buck v. Bell*. Hartford, CT. (Nov. 4, 2021).

Invited. *The Asylum Process*. UConn Human Rights Symposium. Webcast. (Apr. 21, 2021).

Invited. *Accessing Justice for Immigrants in Remote Areas*. Robert M. Cover Annual Public Interest Law Retreat. Hancock, NH. (Feb. 24, 2020).

Invited. *"Know Your Rights" Community Presentation (with Latino Law Student Association)*. Hartford, CT. (Nov. 3, 2019).

Moderator. *Rise in Adversity: Islamophobia & Anti-Semitism*. Hartford, CT. (Apr. 2, 2019).

Invited. *The Intersection of Asylum Law and Domestic Violence*. University of Connecticut School of Law's Womxn Law Student Association. Hartford, CT. (Oct. 1, 2018).

Invited. *Immigration Law Updates and Q&A*. Jiran, the Arabic Community Summer Lecture Series, Middlebury College. New Britain, CT. (July 16, 2018).

Invited. *A Look at the Executive Order Travel Ban*. American Inn of Court, Hamilton Burnette Chapter. Knoxville, TN. (Mar. 14, 2017).

Panelist. *Attorney Q&A Panel on Local ICE Enforcement*. Centro Hispano Community Meeting. Knoxville, TN. (Feb. 22, 2017) [Spanish presentation].

Invited. *DACA: Lo Que Se Sabe [DACA: What We Know]*. BB&T Bank Community Presentation. Sevierville, TN. (Nov. 21, 2016). [Spanish presentation].

Invited. *Conozca Sus Derechos: Información Esencial Sobre Las Redadas de Inmigración del 2016* [Know Your Rights: Essential Information About the Immigration Raids of 2016]. Knoxville, TN. (Jan. 2016). [Spanish Presentation for parents, coordinated with Lonsdale Elementary School].

Invited Panelist. *Coming to America: Immigration and Inclusion in the 21st Century*. University of Tennessee College of Communications Diversity and Inclusion Week. Knoxville, TN. (Sept. 30, 2015).

Professional Associations

American Immigration Lawyers Association. (2015-present).

Connecticut Immigration Coalition (IMCO). (2018-present).

Connecticut Coalition for Migrant Families and their Children. (2018-present).

Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition, Board Member. (2017-2020).

Professional Service

UConn Immigration Detention Service Project, York County, PA. (Jun. 2-7, 2019) (*co-project coordinator and volunteer attorney*)

ICE Raid Emergency Response, Morristown, TN. (Apr.-May, 2018) (*volunteer attorney*)

CARA Family Detention Pro Bono Project, Dilley, TX. (Dec. 20-24, 2015 and Feb. 5-8, 2016) (*volunteer attorney*)

Bar Admissions

Tennessee, 2013

Awards and Recognition

University of Connecticut Provost Award for Excellence in Community Engaged Scholarship, 2022

Centro Hispano Latino Community Leader Award, 2018

Knoxville Business Journal 40 Under 40, 2018

Language Proficiency

Language proficiency: Spanish (native-level), Italian (conversational)