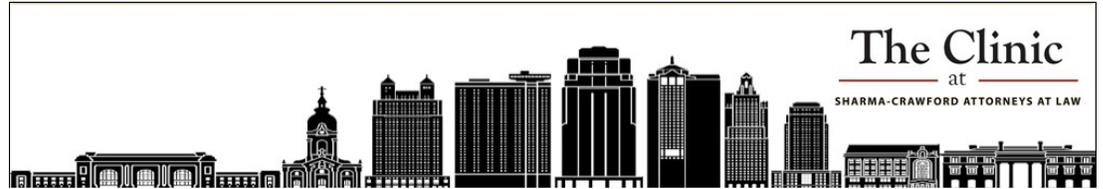




NOT YOUR TYPICAL TRIAL CONFERENCE

IMMIGRATION COURT PRACTICE - CANCELLATION OF REMOVAL KANSAS CITY ♦ APRIL 27-28, 2018



Instructor Bios

Genevra Alberti is the sole full-time attorney at The Clinic at Sharma-Crawford Attorneys at Law, which is a nonprofit removal defense organization in Kansas City, Missouri, and is currently the only nonprofit west of St. Louis providing representation to those facing removal proceedings in the Kansas City Immigration Court. Ms. Alberti has represented over 500 indigent noncitizens in removal proceedings – detained and not detained – since The Clinic opened in January 2012. In 2017, she argued a criminal immigration issue in front of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals (decision pending). She has also presented on a variety of immigration-related topics at multiple national and local conferences and is a contributing author to the AILA Litigation Toolbox, 5th Ed. (2016). Prior to The Clinic's inception, Ms. Alberti practiced removal defense at Sharma-Crawford Attorneys at Law. She received her B.A. with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (go Heels!), and graduated *cum laude* from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law.

Steve Cott graduated from the University of South Dakota Law School in 2005. His wife graduated from the University of South Dakota Law School in 2006. She told Mr. Cott she found two Public Defender jobs in Garden City, Kansas, and he thought, "It must be close to Kansas City, sounds good." He was a public defender for two years. Once he became qualified to handle high-level and off-grid cases, he went out and started his own law firm. He has handled well over 50 jury trials, and the great majority of them have been high-level or off-grid crimes. His practice covers the western third of Kansas and focuses mainly on indigent clients. He also does municipal court work in Dodge City and Garden City. He is a member of the Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. His wife is an assistant Finney County Attorney, and they have two boys (three and five years old) and a poorly-trained cocker spaniel.

Nathan Dayani graduated in 2011 from the University of Kansas School of Law, at which he was awarded for outstanding achievements in both lawyering and moot court. He clerked a 2-year term for the Kansas Court of Appeals, and then worked for 2 years as an associate attorney at an insurance-defense firm before joining the Johnson County Public Defender's Office in May 2015. Since then, he has sharpened his trial skills, successfully trying several cases and winning dispositive motions on at least two others.

Kelly Driscoll received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Kansas in 2000 and her Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law in 2005. After spending a year at a private firm, Kelly started working for the Board of Indigent Defense Services (Hutchinson office) in August 2006, where she remained for almost 9 years. In July 2015, Kelly transferred to the Johnson County Public Defender's Office and in October 2015, was promoted to Deputy. Kelly handles all types of felony criminal matters and has tried approximately 40 cases. In addition to her work at the PD's office, Kelly is an

instructor for Hutchinson Community College, where she teaches online courses to those working towards a paralegal degree. Kelly loves dogs, KU basketball, traveling, coffee, and reading. She lives in Olathe with her significant other, their son, 3 dogs, and 1 mean cat.

Jodi Goodwin practices immigration law in the trenches on the border in Harlingen, Texas. Since 1995 she has represented 1,000's of asylum seekers, economic migrants, long-term permanent residents, businesses, families, and United States citizens in immigration and nationality matters. Jodi also represents immigrants and United States citizens in federal court in both criminal and civil proceedings. She went to school at the University of Texas (Hook 'Em!) and St. Mary's University. Jodi believes the heart and soul of every lawyer should be deeply grounded in truth and a search for justice. She enjoys teaching, especially to new practitioners, and devoting her time to community and pro bono projects. Jodi has published decisions from the Fifth and the Eighth Circuits as well as the Board of Immigration Appeals. She has many accolades including Texas Super Lawyer and Best Lawyers in America and Texas Lawyer's Top Notch Immigration Lawyer. She was awarded the Arthur C. Helton Award for Advancing Human Rights in 2007. Jodi is past-Chair of the Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has served as a Director for the Cameron County Bar Association. She also chaired the Cameron and Willacy County Subcommittee of the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee for the Texas Supreme Court from 1998 to 2015. She was an Advisory Member of the ABA's Commission on Immigration and is a member of IMMLAW, the national consortium of immigration lawyers. In her spare time, she devotes hours and hours to her children through active education, traveling and Girl Scouting.

Lindsay Gray As a former public defender for the Colorado State Public Defender's Office, Lindsay Gray represented hundreds of clients in many aspects of litigation, including bond hearings, motions, and over twenty jury trials. She also wrote several appeals, even winning an interlocutory appeal as Respondent in front of the Colorado Supreme Court. This work at the Public Defender's Office prepared her well for representing clients as an immigration lawyer in many litigation fora, including immigration court, appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals, and appeals before the federal circuit courts. Lindsay also represents individuals accused of federal crimes related to immigration, such as illegal reentry.

Patrick Lewis is a fifth generation Kansan. He graduated from Lawrence High School, Kansas University (B.S. in Journalism, B.A. in Political Science – so he had no choice but to go to law school), Kansas University School of Law (notice the pattern – he does not travel much) and earned (?) a LLM in Litigation from Emory University in Atlanta. Patrick joined the Sedgwick County, Kansas Public Defender's office in May 1989. He transferred to the Johnson County, Kansas Public Defender's office in September 1993, where he moved from assistant to deputy to chief public defender. Patrick escaped BIDS in July 2008, joining Morgan Pilate in Olathe, Kansas. He then opened his solo firm in Olathe in October 2011. Patrick has handled one divorce case and assisted in three civil suits against police for beating people. Otherwise, he has handled almost 6500 criminal defense cases. Patrick has taught trial advocacy, cross examination, and depositions at Washburn Law School. He has taught many different topics at various CLE seminars over the years, more often than not on ethics. Patrick is the Executive Director and Cruise Director for the Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He has tried between 80 and 100 jury trials over the years ranging from disorderly conduct to chain saw murder. More than half of his trials have been on sex charges. Patrick now primarily focuses his defense practice on weed, DUIs and traffic. Patrick enjoys hunting, kayaking, and hiking. He is still going to scout summer camp and is learning Tai Chi. His favorite Constitutional Amendment is the Second. Patrick's role model is either Winnie the Pooh or Sun Wu Kong – or more honestly, both.

Hon. John R. O' Malley was born and raised in Kansas City, MO and received his BA ('70) and JD from St. Louis University ('73). Judge O'Malley worked at City Counselor's office in St. Louis for two years, then in private practice in KC and Grandview, MO for 14 years. In 1989, he was appointed as a Circuit Judge in Jackson County, MO and served two terms as Presiding Judge. Judge O'Malley has been the Chairman of the Judicial Discipline Commission of Missouri, Chairman of the Supreme Court Circuit Ct. Budget Committee,

and various other committees. Judge O'Malley was a state judge until 2009 when he became the first Immigration Judge at the Kansas City Immigration Court. He retired from there 6 years later. Judge O'Malley also was an adjunct faculty member and has taught at Rockhurst University, Avila University and all of the Metropolitan Community Colleges from 1975 through 2008. Judge O'Malley completed 26 years in the US Army Reserve JAG Corps and retired at the rank of Lt. Colonel. He continues to hear cases as a senior judge in Missouri state courts and doing mediations.

Lory D. Rosenberg is an attorney entrepreneur and owner of IDEAS Consultation & Coaching, LLC, an expert consulting and mentoring practice in immigration & refugee law. She has extensive experience of over 30 years in the field. Ms. Rosenberg served as an appellate immigration judge on the United States Department of Justice Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) between 1995-2002, deciding over 20,000 appeals – including the 3 seminal cases on cancellation of removal. She was an adjunct professor of immigration and refugee law at American University Washington College of Law for 7 years, and recently served as interim Policy and Advocacy Director of Refugee and Migrant Rights at Amnesty International USA. She directed groundbreaking, nonprofit immigration law, policy and mentoring programs at the Defending Immigrants Partnership and AILF Legal Action Center in Washington, D.C., and at Centro Presente, a Central American refugee center in Cambridge, MA, and provided direct business, professional and family immigration, and naturalization representation, as well as criminal removal defense and appeal services, to private and non-profit clients. Ms. Rosenberg is co-author of the leading treatise, *Immigration Law and Crimes*, the author of numerous articles and manuals on a variety of immigration law topics, and was a featured columnist for *Benders Immigration Bulletin* between 2002-2008. Ms. Rosenberg is a frequent lecturer at national and regional conferences, winner of several prestigious awards for excellence and her contributions to the field of law, and a three-time elected Director of the American Immigration Lawyers Association Board of Governors.

Michael Sharma-Crawford is a founding member of Sharma-Crawford Attorneys at Law. Mr. Sharma-Crawford has practiced immigration law since 2002. The Firm, founded in 2003, has carved a niche in the Midwest handling complicated immigration litigation. In 2012, Mr. Sharma-Crawford and his partner, both in life and in the practice of law, opened The Clinic, a nonprofit law clinic providing top-shelf immigration court representation to indigent noncitizens where no representation existed previously. The Clinic serves the Kansas City Immigration Court and is the only low-fee and pro bono removal defense service provider west of Springfield, Missouri to the Kansas-Colorado border. As a result, Mr. Sharma-Crawford and his partner were awarded the Missouri Bar Association's Pro Bono Publico Award in 2017. Before becoming an attorney, Mr. Sharma-Crawford served nearly 15 years in the Sedgwick County, Kansas Sheriff's Department, and is scarily good at speaking "good ole boy."

Rekha Sharma-Crawford is a founding partner of Sharma-Crawford Attorneys at Law in Kansas City, MO. Known for aggressive and creative litigation strategies, she devotes her practice to representing clients in complex immigration matters including appeals and federal litigation. In recognition of her courage in the face of adversity, she has been nominated for the Kansas Bar Association's 2018 Courageous Attorney Award. Ms. Sharma-Crawford is active with AILA, and served as Chair of the AILA Midyear Conference – Removal Track in 2016, as Vice Chair of the Federal Litigation Steering Committee from 2015-2017, and served twice on the AILA National Conference planning committee, including Chair of the Due Process/Removal track. Ms. Sharma-Crawford is a contributing author in AILA's *The Waivers Book* and has been a repeat instructor at the AIC Litigation Institute. She is also the Editor in Chief of the AILA Litigation Toolbox, 5th Ed. (2016). In 2012, she and her law partner and husband, recognizing the enormous gap in competent, indigent legal representation, opened the first nonprofit legal clinic dedicated solely to providing low-fee and pro bono representation for those in removal proceedings in the Kansas City Immigration Court. Prior to founding Sharma-Crawford Attorneys at Law in 2003, Ms. Sharma-Crawford spent several years working as an assistant district attorney in Sedgwick County and Douglas County, Kansas.

Munmeeth (“Meeth”) Kaur Soni is the Co-Legal Director at Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef), a social justice law firm dedicated to advancing due process for immigrants in removal proceedings and defending immigrant communities against systematic injustices within the legal system. ImmDef attorneys represent over 750 clients in removal proceedings and provide legal education classes to approximately 1200 annually. ImmDef is the largest deportation defense *pro bono* legal services organization in Southern California. At ImmDef, Munmeeth helps direct and manage ImmDef’s legal representation practice with a focus on complex criminal-immigration litigation, mental disability and incompetency issues, and appellate litigation. Munmeeth represented Petitioner in the Ninth Circuit en banc decision *Bringas-Rodriguez v. Sessions*, a major victory for asylum seekers who suffered sexual abuse during childhood at the hands of non-state actors. Munmeeth also represented Petitioner in the 2015 Ninth Circuit decision *Avendano-Hernandez v. Lynch*, a groundbreaking decision recognizing trans individuals and their experiences as separate and distinct from the gay and lesbian community. Prior to joining ImmDef in May 2016, Meeth spent seven years as a staff attorney in the immigration unit at the Public Law Center (PLC) in Santa Ana. At PLC, she received the Equal Justice Works Fellowship sponsored by Latham & Watkins to build Orange County’s first-ever asylum and deportation defense practice. Prior to PLC, she was an associate at a boutique business litigation firm in Los Angeles. Munmeeth received the 2016 California Lawyer Attorney of the Year award from the Daily Journal and in 2012, she received the inaugural M. Katherine B. Darmer Outstanding Community Service Award by the Orange County Lavender Bar Association in recognition of her advocacy on behalf of LGBTQI immigrants. Munmeeth is member of the adjunct faculty at the UCI School of Law and the Western State College of Law. She received her Juris Doctor cum laude from American University, Washington College of Law (2007) and her B.A. with honors from Wesleyan University (1997). Munmeeth speaks Punjabi, Hindi, and Spanish and is a native of Los Angeles.

Erich Straub is a founding member of the Straub Immigration Firm, concentrating in family and business immigration as well as deportation defense. He has been licensed since 1994. In the area of immigration law, he has been listed in Best Lawyers in America since 2006 and in Super Lawyers since 2009. He was chairperson of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and served on the AILA Board of Governors from 2007 to 2009. Prior to focusing his practice on immigration, Mr. Straub was a criminal defense attorney for almost a decade. During that time, he successfully defended hundreds of cases in state and federal court. Because of this prior experience, he has a unique combination of experience in criminal and immigration law. He is recognized by many of Wisconsin’s best criminal defense attorneys as the foremost expert in the state on the immigration consequences of criminal convictions.

Kelli J. Stump is an attorney with over 10 years of experience in a practice limited exclusively to immigration law. Kelli focuses primarily on family-based immigration, complex deportation with emphasis on “crimmigration” matters leading to inadmissibility and deportability, and federal litigation in the immigration context. To date, she has argued before the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals on four occasions. Kelli is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (“AILA”) where she is a Past Chair of the Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico Chapter. Additionally, she has served as a member of many National AILA Liaison committees including several years on the Immigration Customs Enforcement Committee, Executive Office for Immigration Review Committee, and the Conference Planning Committee. She has authored several articles on immigration law and she has served as an editor for the AILA annual conference handbook and fundamentals book. Kelli has also been recognized as a “Rising Star” for Super Lawyers in Oklahoma and she has been selected by her peers to be included in “Best Lawyers in America.”

Olsi Vrapı is the managing partner at Noble & Vrapı, P.A. He has spoken at more conferences than his family appreciate him being gone for, and has participated in more AILA committees than his partners and staff appreciate him spending time on. He is also an adjunct professor of law at the University of New Mexico School of Law. Full-time teaching is not his thing, however, since he loves breaking barriers and changing the lives of immigrants.