



# IMMIGRATION COURT TRIAL ADVOCACY COLLEGE DEFENSIVE ASYLUM KANSAS CITY ♦ APRIL 23 - 25, 2020



## Faculty Bios

**Genevra Alberti** is the sole dedicated 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. Genevra has represented over 600 indigent noncitizens in removal proceedings – many of whom are asylum-seekers – since The Clinic opened in January 2012. She has also argued a criminal immigration issue in front of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Genevra has presented on a variety of immigration-related topics at multiple national and local conferences, frequently provides “Know Your Rights” and other presentations in the community, and is a contributing author to the AILA Litigation Toolbox, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. (2016) and 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. (2019). She also serves on the steering committee for the Deportation Defense Legal Network (DDLN), a local nonprofit dedicated to providing pro bono legal representation in bond proceedings for detained noncitizens in Missouri and Kansas. In 2019, Genevra was selected as a Super Lawyers Rising Star. Genevra graduated with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (go Heels!) with a B.A. in both Psychology and Italian Language. After spending three years working in New York City as a paralegal and traveling, Genevra attended Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, from which she graduated *cum laude*. During her time at Wash U., she was admitted to the school’s Transnational Law Program, enabling her to spend a summer interning at the European Council on Refugees & Exiles in Brussels, Belgium and a semester studying abroad in Trento, Italy.

**Lauren Anselowitz** is a senior member of the firm Harlan York and Associates. Named to Best Lawyers in America, her most noted accomplishments include successfully arguing multiple cases under the Convention Against Torture before the U.S. Immigration Court. The Executive Office for Immigration Review reported that less than 1% of these cases are granted. Ms. Anselowitz also won oral argument before the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals to vacate a deportation order for a client of the firm. In recent years, she has personally represented clients of Harlan York & Associates at Immigration Court and Service Offices in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Ms. Anselowitz is admitted to the Supreme Court of New Jersey, the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Ms. Anselowitz has been an adjunct professor of Immigration Law in the Justice Studies Department at Montclair State University. She has lectured at Rutgers University School of Law as well as before the New Jersey State Bar, the Federal Bar Association and the American Immigration

Lawyers Association. She was honored as a Super Lawyers Rising Star for four years. A graduate of North Carolina State University and Seton Hall Law School, Ms. Anselowitz earned a Master of Arts Degree from the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations. She also attended the American University in Cairo, Egypt and served in the field of international criminal law at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. She previously lived in Pretoria, South Africa and has spent time in Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Senegal, the Gambia, Ethiopia and Morocco.

**David Bell** graduated from the University of Pennsylvania (Wharton School) with a degree in accounting and finance. After college, David earned his law degree and LL.M. (Taxation) from New York University School of Law. After three years at the firm now known as Stinson LLP, David went to work as a trial attorney with the Public Defender's Office in Kansas City, Missouri. David remained with the Public Defender's Office for six years. While at the Public Defender's Office, David received the Charles M. Shaw Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy and was named one of the 16 Up & Coming Lawyers by the Missouri Lawyers Weekly in 2006. David joined the law firm of Wyrsh Hobbs & Mirakian, P.C. in July, 2007 and he is now a shareholder. His primary practice is criminal defense in state and federal courts.

**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. After law school, he clerked for the Kansas Court of Appeals, and then worked as an associate attorney at an insurance-defense firm before joining the Johnson County Public Defender's Office in May of 2015. Since then, he has become a respected trial lawyer, obtaining acquittals in a host of felony jury trials, winning dispositive motions on several other cases, and obtaining dismissal on dozens more.

**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, focusing primarily on person felony crimes. She has tried approximately 45 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 and volunteers much of her free time with Always and Furever Midwest Animal Sanctuary, a rescue located in Spring Hill, Kansas, that focuses on saving the lives of senior dogs in high kill shelters. Kelly also enjoys wine, KU basketball, traveling, coffee, and reading. She lives in Olathe with her husband, their son, 3 dogs and 1 mean cat.

**Lindsay Gray** is the CEO of VECINA, a new nonprofit organization focused on mentoring pro bono attorneys representing asylum seekers subject to the Migrant Protection Protocol, otherwise known as MPP. VECINA has partnered with organizations along the southern border to try and increase representation numbers of asylum seekers. The organization provides training and mentoring for attorneys who do not have experience with immigration law but want to fight back against the terrible injustices perpetrated against asylum seekers. Lindsay is based in Austin, Texas and for the past six years has run a small immigration firm representing clients in a wide variety of immigration matters. Prior to becoming an immigration lawyer, Lindsay was a public defender for the Colorado State Public Defender's Office. There she represented hundreds of clients in many aspects of litigation, including bond hearings, motions, and over twenty jury trials. Outside of her law practice, Lindsay is an adjunct professor of law at Washington University in St.

Louis, where she teaches Immigration Law in the online LLM/MLS program. Lindsay loves spending time outside with her husband, Steve, and her two daughters, Lilah (7) and Ellie (5).

***Katelyn M. Hufe*** is a Partner at Gian-Grasso, Tomczak, & Hufe, P.C., in Philadelphia, PA. She focuses a significant portion of her practice on deportation defense, litigation, appeals and protecting clients with final orders of removal. Ms. Hufe is also an Adjunct Professor at Drexel University's Thomas Kline School of Law where she currently serves as Director of the Federal Litigation and Appeals Clinic. Ms. Hufe has successfully litigated cases before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third and Sixth Circuits. Ms. Hufe handles various types of litigation cases, including asylum, cancellation of removal, adjustment of status, waivers, motions to reopen and motions to suppress evidence. She also handles business immigration and humanitarian-based applications. She is an active member of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and currently serves as the Vice Secretary of the Executive Committee and the Chair of the Litigation Committee. Ms. Hufe served as the Philadelphia Ambassador for the American Immigration Council for 5 years and was honored with the Ambassador of the Year award at the 2018 AILA National Conference. She is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

***Hon. John R. O' Malley*** was born and raised in Kansas City, MO and received his BA ('70) and JD ('73) from St. Louis University. Judge O'Malley worked at the City Counselor's office in St. Louis for two years, then in private practice in Kansas City 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 Court 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. From 1975 to 2008, Judge O'Malley also taught as an adjunct faculty member at various colleges including Rockhurst University, Avila University, and all of the local Metropolitan Community Colleges. Judge O'Malley completed 26 years in the US Army Reserve JAG Corps and retired at the rank of Lt. Colonel. He was a lecturer on ethics in the US Army JAG Corps and taught Legal Ethics to undergrad paralegal students for many years. He continues to hear cases as a senior judge in Missouri state courts and to do mediations.

***Lorena Rivas*** is an experienced and accomplished trial attorney with the Tulsa Law Firm of the Lawyers of Kendall Whittier, where her practice encompasses both family and immigration law. As a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), much of Lorena's work centers on the legal representation of individuals who are facing the numerous and complicated immigration laws of the United States in affirmative and defensive cases. For her notable efforts, Lorena was the recipient of the 2018 Fern Holland Award, which is annually given to a lawyer who advocates for human rights or the empowerment of women, and was selected as a 2018 Super Lawyers Rising Star. Additionally, she was selected to speak at the annual American Immigration Council's American Heritage Awards in Orlando, Florida for their American Dreams speech contest in July 2019. She is the past chair of the immigration law section for the Oklahoma Bar Association (OBA) and has served on various committees with AILA. Lorena is a graduate of the OBA's Leadership Academy and the OBA Family Law Trial Advocacy Institute, and has participated in various seminars with the Trial Lawyers College. She was nominated for the 2015 Williams Women of Inspiration Award and is a member of Leadership Tulsa Class 60. Lorena graduated

with a Juris Doctorate from the University of Tulsa College of Law where she not only graduated with honors, but also actively participated in the Immigrant Rights Legal Clinic.

**Lory D. Rosenberg** is CEO of IDEAS Consultation and Coaching at [www.loryrosenberg.com](http://www.loryrosenberg.com), a senior advisor and attorney at Immigrant Defenders Law Group, and a sought-after immigration lawyer, legal mentor and certified professional and personal life coach. Ms. Rosenberg provides cutting-edge legal analysis and strategies to resolve complex cases and appeals, and helps attorneys overcome business, personal and financial blocks, manage stress and mindset challenges, and reconnect with their vision of making a difference. A national speaker and trainer, Ms. Rosenberg currently is active in efforts to defend due process and humanize brutal immigration enforcement processes. She previously served as an appellate judge on the Board of Immigration Appeals, is co-author of *Immigration Law and Crimes*, was an adjunct professor at American University, Washington College of Law, Director of the NLADA Defending Immigrants Partnership, Director of the AIC Legal Action Center, and founder of the Centro Presente, Central American asylum seekers' legal and pro bono programs. She previously participated in the Association of Refugee Law Judges, and presently is active in the former IJ and BIA Judges Roundtable. Ms. Rosenberg served as a member of the Board of the Federal Bar Association Immigration Law Section, was elected 3 times to the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Board of Governors, and is the recipient of its Arthur Helton Human Rights Award, and the Edith Lowenstein Award for advancing the practice of immigration law.

**Elina Magaly Santana** is co-founder of Santana Rodriguez Law, P.A., a firm based in Miami, Florida focusing solely on Immigration Law. Elina focuses her immigration practice on Family-based and Marriage-based Residency, Naturalization, Deportation Defense (including Asylum & Cancellation of Removal), Waivers, Derivative/Acquired Citizenship, humanitarian applications, and BIA Appeals. She has also volunteered on the border in Harlingen, TX aiding children seeking asylum and special immigrant juvenile visas. Elina is the 1st Vice-President for AILA South Florida, media liaison vice-chair for AILA Central Florida, and serves on AILA national's CLE planning committee. She is also a Board Member for Capital Good Fund, a social change organization that uses financial services to tackle poverty in the U.S., including providing non-predatory immigration loans to families in need of funds to hire a lawyer and pay filing fees. Elina is an avid networker, and a dog lover who volunteers with the Dachshund Rescue of South Florida. Elina earned her JD from Boston University (BU) School of Law and her BA in both Sociology and Spanish Literature at New York University (NYU) with high honors. She is a fluent Spanish speaker and was raised in Miami, Florida by a proud Cuban American immigrant family.

**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. She is the firm's Q; the inventive legal mind who crafts novel legal arguments to use in representing non-citizens (think legal laser watch). In recognition of her courage in the face of adversity, she was awarded 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, 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

***Erich C. Straub*** is an attorney concentrating in family-based immigration and deportation defense. He has been licensed since 1994. He has been listed in Best Lawyers in America since 2006, including being named "Lawyer of the Year" for Milwaukee in 2016 and 2018. He served on the AILA Board of Governors from 2007 to 2009.