



IMMIGRATION COURT TRIAL ADVOCACY COLLEGE

Defensive Asylum

KANSAS CITY ♦ APRIL 25 - 27, 2024



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 specializing in representing those in removal proceedings in the Kansas City Immigration Court. She has held this position since The Clinic opened in January 2012, focusing her practice solely on all aspects of removal defense. Genevra has presented on a variety of immigration-related topics and taught courtroom skills at multiple national and local conferences, and has guest-lectured on asylum law at Washburn University School of Law and the University of Kansas School of Law. She is also a contributing author to the AILA Litigation Toolbox, 5th Ed. (2016) and 6th Ed. (2019). She currently serves as Chair of the Missouri-Kansas AILA Chapter and thus also as a member of the AILA Board of Governors, and as Chapter EOIR liaison committee chair. In 2020 and 2022, she was given one of her AILA chapter's two Pro Bono Champions awards. An east coast transplant, Genevra completed her undergraduate degree with honors at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (go Heels!). After spending three years working and traveling, she attended Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, graduating cum laude. During her time at Wash U., Genevra 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. In her free time, she is busy raising a small but terrifying human.

Lauren Anselowitz is a partner at Harlan York and Associates. For the firm she focuses on detention and removal cases and the impact of a client's criminal history on his/her immigration status. 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 arguments before the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

David Bell: After obtaining a business degree and tax law degree, Mr. Bell worked as a tax and estate planning attorney at a big firm where he was paid a bunch of money. Without intending to cause his parents the resulting heart palpitations, Mr. Bell then left to serve as a trial attorney with the Missouri Public Defender's System in Jackson County, Missouri where he remained for over six years. After representing thousands of clients in matters ranging from misdemeanor assault to first degree murder, Mr. Bell joined the Wyrsh Hobbs Mirakian P.C. in 2007 where he is now a shareholder representing persons in federal, state and local criminal matters. David

loves learning from and helping immigration lawyers because it reminds him that he doesn't have it so bad on the criminal law side of things after all. When not practicing law and spending time with his family, Mr. Bell is a host of Jaws of Justice (90.1 FM KKFI).

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 served as a two-year term clerk 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, Nathan has become a well-respected trial lawyer: He has tried 15 felony cases to jury verdict, several of which resulted in acquittals. Nathan also is known as a skilled and creative motions writer, and is successful in sentencing mitigation. In his spare time, he is an avid traveler and concert-goer; a serviceable partner and father; and a non-ineffective basketball and tennis player.

Kelly Driscoll received her Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law in 2005. After spending a year in private practice, 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. In addition to her work at the PD's office, Kelly is an instructor at Hutchinson Community College, where she teaches online courses to those working towards a paralegal degree. She lives in Olathe, Kansas with her husband, son, several dogs and 1 mean cat.

Angel Graf is the Directing Attorney for the Las Vegas Office of the Immigration Center for Women and Children (ICWC). ICWC is a non-profit legal organization providing free and affordable immigration services to underrepresented immigrants in California and Nevada. ICWC strives to provide security and stability for children who are abused, abandoned, or neglected and for immigrants who are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes. Angel received her B.A. from Elmhurst College, her M.A. in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University, and her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law. In a previous life, Angel worked in International Development and Human Rights. In 2008 she decided to pursue Immigration Law and during her time in Law School volunteered, worked, and interned with several organizations including Life Span Center for Legal Services and Advocacy, World Relief Chicago, the DePaul Immigration Clinic, and ProBAR. In 2012 Angel joined the Kansas City Immigration Court as an Attorney Advisor through the Department of Justice Honors Program. She left government service in 2014 to join ICWC in San Francisco, CA, where she worked until 2019, helping to develop their growing removal practice. In June of 2019 Angel opened the ICWC office in Las Vegas, Nevada where she oversees a diverse caseload of removal defense, humanitarian-based protection, and affirmative relief. Angel also manages ICWC Las Vegas's Unaccompanied Children program and provides trainings on issues related to humanitarian relief and removal.

Lindsay Goldford Gray is the CEO of VECINA, a nonprofit organization focused on training and mentoring pro bono attorneys providing legal assistance to asylum seekers, refugees, and other vulnerable immigrant populations. Before founding VECINA, Lindsay ran 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 over

twenty jury trials. Lindsay has also served as an adjunct professor of law at Washington University in St. Louis, where she taught Immigration Law in the online LLM/MLS program. Lindsay is based in Austin, Texas and loves spending time outside with her husband, Steve, and her two daughters, Lilah (11) and Ellie (9).

Hon. Edward ("Ed") F. Kelly teaches Refugee Law and Policy at Georgetown Law, and Immigration Law at George Mason University Scalia School of Law, both in the Washington, D.C. area.

Mr. Kelly previously served in several positions in the United States Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). These included positions as Appellate Immigration Judge at the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), and Deputy Chief Immigration Judge, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Senior Counsel and Chief of Staff, and Counsel for Operations in the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge (OCIJ). Mr. Kelly also served as Acting Assistant Director, Office of Administration (EOIR) and Senior Legal Advisor, Team Leader, and Attorney Advisor at the BIA. During his tenure at OCIJ, Mr. Kelly also supervised the Immigration Judge Training program and the offices of Conduct and Professionalism and Vulnerable Populations. Mr. Kelly also served EOIR as liaison to the Congressional Appropriations staff in the House of Representatives, and the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Kelly's experiences outside the Department of Justice include positions as an Assistant Counsel to the United States House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and International Law; and as a high school teacher of humane letters. Mr. Kelly graduated from the University of Notre Dame, received his J.D. Degree from Notre Dame Law School, and is currently pursuing an M.A. in Classical Studies at Villanova University. Prior to his legal career, he served as a volunteer teacher with the United States Peace Corps in Gabon, Africa.

Patrick Lewis graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1988. He then obtained an LLM in Litigation from Emory University in Atlanta. Patrick began his practice on April 26, 1989 at the Sedgwick County Public Defender's office. He transferred to the Johnson County Public Defender's office in September 1993. At the public defender's office, his caseload was limited to felony criminal defense. Patrick eventually took over as Chief Public Defender in that office. Finding administration much less fun than the courtroom, he left BIDS in 2008. After a brief stint with a small criminal defense firm, he hung his solo shingle.

Patrick limits his practice to criminal defense in Kansas state and municipal courts. He has taught at the Washburn University School of Law as an adjunct professor in their trial advocacy program for twenty some years. He has taught continuing legal education on topics which include ethics, voir dire, billing, evidence, trial presentation, search and seizure, jail credit, and who knows what else. He is the Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and has held that post for twenty plus years. That and five bucks might get you a cup of coffee. Patrick stopped counting jury trials at about 80. He never kept track of bench trials, although those have been fewer. Although he will not accept sex cases any longer, he will defend just about anything else. He probably spends half his time with drug cases.

Davorin J. Odracic practices removal defense and post-conviction for noncitizens in Wisconsin. He is the author of the Immigration Consequences of Wisconsin Criminal Offenses, which is published through the State Bar of Wisconsin. Davorin served as program chair for the State Bar's seminar titled Beyond Padilla v. Kentucky: The Immigration Consequences of Criminal

Convictions. The seminar earned the State Bar a national award for Outstanding Achievement in Programs by the Association for Continuing Legal Education (ACLEA). In 2014, the U.S. Department of Justice conferred the Distinguished Public Service Award on Davorin regarding his pro bono legal service for the family members of the victims of the violence at the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

Sarah Owings is a partner at Owings MacNorlin, LLC, based in Atlanta, GA. She obtained her Juris Doctor degree from the Georgia State University's College of Law in 2007 and she has practiced immigration law exclusively since that time. Sarah has experience in representing foreign nationals in a variety of immigration proceedings including removal defense, family-based petitions, humanitarian forms of relief, and asylum proceedings. Sarah served as an elected director on the Board of Governors of the American Immigration Lawyers Association from 2017-2023. Sarah currently serves on AILA's national ICE and CBP Liaison Committees as well as the Removal Defense Section Steering Committee. She has been involved in immigration advocacy and support efforts at the state and local level throughout her career and she is frequently asked to speak at continuing legal education programs and to provide commentary to the media on the rapidly changing immigration landscape. She lives in Atlanta and is a member in good standing of the Georgia Bar.

Hon. Susan G. Roy began her legal career through the Department of Justice Attorney General Honors Program, as an Attorney Advisor at the Board of Immigration Appeals. She became an Assistant Chief Counsel and National Security Attorney for ICE. From 2008-2010, she served as an Immigration Judge in Newark, NJ. Sue then entered private practice and is a solo practitioner specializing in complex criminal immigration cases. Sue is the former Chair of both the AILA-NJ Chapter and the NJ State Bar Association (NJSBA) Immigration Law Section. She is currently on the AILA Distance Learning Committee and the Removal Defense Steering Committee. Sue is a member of the Round Table of Former Immigration Judges and has been a speaker and/or moderator for many AILA national, regional and local conferences, as well as NJSBA, NYSBA, the Federal Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and many others. She is also the servant to four furry feline overlords.

Hon. Lory Rosenberg is renowned for her distinguished work as a former appellate immigration judge (Board Member) on the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), and is a sought-after immigration lawyer, mentor and certified business and personal development coach. Ms. Rosenberg's legal mission is to elevate the cause of fairness and justice, establish best practices in the immigration law community, and champion due process for immigrants and refugees. She currently works on immigration law issues and cases with select law practices and individual counsel, and is active in the Round Table of Former Immigration Judges.

Ms. Rosenberg provides cutting-edge legal strategies to resolve complex immigration issues. Her legal expertise spans removal defense, asylum protection, waivers, "crim-imm," and immigration benefits. Her work covers administrative BIA appeals and motions, federal district court litigation and federal circuit court petitions for review in multiple circuits, as well as amicus curie representation. She mentors and coaches immigration attorneys, helping them acquire the techniques, confidence and expertise necessary to handle challenging issues and develop fulfilling immigration practices.

Ms. Rosenberg is the co-author of *Immigration Law and Crimes*, and a national and international speaker, trainer and writer. While serving on the Board of Immigration Appeals between 1995 and 2002, she reviewed over 20,000 appeals and personally wrote more separate opinions than written by former and current Board Members, combined.

Ms. Rosenberg taught multiple immigration and refugee law courses as an adjunct professor at AU Washington College of Law, and was a featured editor for *Benders Immigration Bulletin*. She served as the Director of Advocacy and Policy for Amnesty International, the Director of the NLADA Defending Immigrants Partnership, and the Director of the AIC Legal Action Center. She established the Centro Presente Central American refugee legal and pro bono programs, and was an active member of the International Association of Refugee Law Judges, the Federal Bar Association, and AILA, serving 3 terms on its Board of Directors.

Ms. Rosenberg is a recipient of AILA's Arthur Helton Human Rights Award, and AILA's Edith Lowenstein Award for Advancing the Practice of Immigration Law, as well as the recipient of numerous acknowledgments for her contributions to the field. She is a 1976 graduate of Northeastern School of Law and licensed in Massachusetts and the District of Columbia.

Michelle Saenz-Rodriguez is the co-founder of Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates in Dallas, Texas. Now in her 33rd year of practice, Michelle was a Judicial Law Clerk under the Attorney General's Honor program for Executive Office for Immigration Review in Harlingen, Texas. Michelle is Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law by the State Bar of Texas. She practices immigration law with an emphasis on removal litigation. Michelle and her husband George established their own practice in 1995 and represent immigrants from all over the world. Michelle has been selected several times as a "Texas Super Lawyer" by Texas Monthly Magazine and has been named one of the "Best Lawyers in America" in Immigration for over 20 years. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), where she serves as a member of the Board of Governors. She is a member of IMMLAW which is a nationally recognized top tier group of immigration lawyers. Michelle is an Adjunct Professor at SMU Dedman School of Law and in 2020 she was the Recipient of the W. Page Keeton Award for Excellence in Continuing Legal Education by the University of Texas Law School. She volunteers much of her time to mentor young or newly admitted lawyers and is active in her community.

Elina Magaly Santana, Esq. is an immigration attorney at Santana Rodriguez Law, P.A., a firm based in Miami, Florida with clients nationwide. She focuses her immigration practice on removal defense, waivers, family and marriage-based residency, and asylum. Elina is a past chapter chair of AILA South Florida and serves on AILA national's USCIS case assistance committee and annual conference committee. Elina is a Board Member for Capital Good Fund, one of the administrators of "Nerdy Immigration Lawyers" on Facebook, and manages 20+ immigration specific Whatsapp mentoring groups containing thousands of attorneys nationwide. 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.

Judge (Retired) Paul Wickham Schmidt was appointed as an Immigration Judge at the U.S. Immigration Court in Arlington, Virginia, in May 2003 and retired from the bench on June 30, 2016. Prior to his appointment as an Immigration Judge, he served as a Board Member for the Board of Immigration Appeals, Executive Office for Immigration Review, in Falls Church, VA,

since February 12, 1995. Judge Schmidt served as Board Chairman from February 12, 1995, until April 9, 2001, when he chose to step down as Chairman to adjudicate cases full-time. He authored the landmark decision *Matter of Kasinga*, 21 I&N Dec. 357 (BIA 1996), extending asylum protection to victims of female genital mutilation. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lawrence University in 1970 (cum laude), and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin School of Law in 1973 (cum laude; Order of the Coif). While at the University of Wisconsin, he served as an editor of the Wisconsin Law Review. Judge Schmidt served as acting General Counsel of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) (1986-1987; 1979-1981), where he was instrumental in developing the rules and procedures to implement the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. He also served as the Deputy General Counsel of INS for 10 years (1978-1987). He was the managing partner of the Washington, DC, office of Fragomen, Del Rey & Bernsen (1993-95), and also practiced business immigration law with the Washington, DC, office of Jones, Day, Reavis and Pogue from 1987-92 (partner, 1990-92). Judge Schmidt also served as an adjunct professor of law at George Mason University School of Law in 1989 and at Georgetown University Law Center (2012-14; 2017--). He has authored numerous articles on immigration law, and has written extensively for the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Judge Schmidt is a member of the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, and the Wisconsin and District of Columbia Bars. Judge Schmidt was one of the founding members of the International Association of Refugee Law Judges ("IARLJ"). In June 2010, Judge Schmidt received the Lucia R. Briggs Distinguished Achievement Award from the Lawrence University Alumni Association in recognition of his notable career achievements in the field of immigration law. Since retiring, in addition to resuming his Adjunct Professor position at Georgetown Law, Judge Schmidt has established the blog immigrationcourtside.com, is an Americas Vice President of the IARLJ, serves on the Advisory Board of AYUDA, and assists the National Immigrant Justice Center/Heartland Alliance on various projects, as well as speaking, lecturing, and writing in forums throughout the country on contemporary immigration issues, due process, and U.S. Immigration Court reform.

Michael Sharma-Crawford is a partner at Sharma-Crawford Attorneys at Law. He has been defending non-citizens in removal proceedings for more than 20 years. He was counsel below and on the briefing for *Mellouli v. Lynch*, 575 U.S. 798 (2015).

Rekha Sharma-Crawford is an expert in the field of immigration law. She has taken on many complex, high-profile cases and focuses on removal defense issues, trial advocacy and federal litigation. In 2023, Rekha was elected the first South Asian American Secretary for the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). She is currently on the Board of SevenDays, a Kansas City nonprofit whose mission is to spread kindness through education. In 2023, Rekha was a member of the AILA Amicus Committee when the committee was awarded AILA's Jack Wasserman Memorial Award. In 2021, Rekha had previously been nationally recognized by AILA by being awarded the Edith Lowenstein Memorial Award for excellence in advancing the practice of immigration law. In 2018, the Kansas Bar Association honored her with the Courageous Attorney Award for having displayed exceptional courage in the face of adversity. She is also the author of two children's books, *Aaliyah the Brave*, *Empowering Children Coping with Immigration Enforcement*, released in 2022 and her new book, *Finding Freedom. Empowering Young Survivors of Human Trafficking*, released in 2023. The net profits from the sale of the books are divided between 2 nonprofits: The Clinic at Sharma-Crawford, which provides removal defense to indigent individuals in the Kansas City Immigration Court, and the National Immigration Litigation Alliance.

Erich C. Straub is an attorney concentrating in fiancé and marital visas, family immigration, citizenship, asylum, and deportation defense. He has been licensed since 1994. He has been recognized since 2006 in Best Lawyers. Since 2018, he has been a faculty member at the Trial College. He is also founder and chair of the yearly AILA Chicago Courtroom Skills Workshop. From 2006 to 2103, he was a faculty member at the American Immigration Counsel's Litigation Institute.

Kelli J. Stump is the owner and principal attorney at Kelli J. Stump, PLLC in Oklahoma City, OK. She has over 15 years of experience in a practice limited primarily to immigration law. As a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), she is currently the President-Elect of the National Executive Committee. She was the 2019 Annual Conference Chair, an elected director on AILA's Board of Governors, and she is a Past Chair of the Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico Chapter. She has also served as chair of the EOIR and ICE committees, and she has served as member of many National AILA Liaison committees including several conference planning committees, the Membership Committee, and the Publications Committee. Ms. Stump has also been recognized by her peers in Best Lawyers as 2023 Lawyer of the Year for Immigration Law in Oklahoma City, OK. She has authored several articles on immigration law, and she has served as an editor for several AILA annual conference handbooks and fundamentals books. Ms. Stump is a magna cum laude graduate of Oklahoma City University School of Law where she also currently serves as a board member of the Alumni Association.