

Claire R. Thomas

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EXPERIENCE

Teaching and Research Experience

New York Law School, New York, NY

Director, Asylum Clinic, July 2017 to present

Designed and implemented year-long deportation defense clinic; weekly supervision of upper-level law students representing immigrants seeking asylum protection; teach seminar class sessions on substantive immigration law topics and lawyering skills including interviewing survivors of trauma, affidavit drafting, cultural competency, and working with interpreters.

Assistant Professor of Law, July 2022 to present

Adjunct Professor of Law, April 2014 to June 2022

- Immigration and Nationality Law: Introductory immigration law course (2015 to present);
- Immigration Law & Litigation Clinic I, II: Year-long course for upper-level students focusing on family law and immigration remedies for children facing deportation (2014-2017);
- Immigration Practice Seminar and Workshop: Weekly advanced seminar course (2015-2016).

ITESO (Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente), Guadalajara, México

Visiting Professor and Researcher, September 2021 to July 2022

Fulbright Garcia-Robles U.S. Scholar to México based at ITESO University in Guadalajara.

The New School, New York, NY

Part-Time Faculty, The Schools of Public Engagement, December 2021- present

Designed and taught undergraduate course entitled “Refugee and Asylum Law” remotely, which introduced students to international refugee law with a focus on the Americas.

The New School, Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility, New York, NY

Visiting Scholar, August 2016 to August 2017

Engaged in research and acted as a resource for faculty, students, and staff on immigration concerns.

Legal Experience

The Door’s Legal Services Center, New York, NY

Consultant, May 2018 to October 2019

Supervised two staff attorneys representing immigrant youth in removal proceedings; advised other attorneys and legal fellows on immigration cases for young clients.

CUNY Citizenship Now!, New York, NY

Contract Attorney, October 2015 to June 2020

Screened immigrant participants for eligibility for naturalization at monthly citizenship clinics.

Safe Passage Project, New York, NY

Director of Training, July 2015 to May 2017

Staff Attorney, January 2014 to July 2015

Mentored *pro bono* attorneys representing children in immigration and family courts as well as before administrative agencies; supervised students and staff providing direct representation to children; coordinated monthly juvenile docket at the New York Immigration Court; planned, organized, and presented trainings to over 5,000 participants; liaised with federal, state, and city agencies.

African Services Committee, New York, NY

Staff Attorney, September 2011 to January 2014

Represented immigrants and asylum seekers, including survivors of torture, gender-based violence, and people living with HIV, before family courts, administrative agencies, and in immigration proceedings; directed “Projet Aimée,” African women’s peer support empowerment group.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México City, México

- Diplomado: Derecho Internacional de las personas refugiadas y protección internacional en México. Seminario Universitario de Estudios sobre Desplazamiento Interno, Migración, Exilio y Repatriación (SUDIMER-UNAM), June 2022
- Diplomado: Racismo y Xenofobia vistos desde México. Seminario Universitario Interdisciplinario sobre Racismo y Xenofobia (SURXE- UNAM), June, 2022

Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI), 2022 Statelessness Summer Course, July 2022

EDUCATION

New York Law School, New York, NY

Juris Doctor, May 2011

- Award for Excellence in the Field of Human Rights, Commencement 2011
- Charles H. Revson Law Students Public Interest (LSPIN) Fellowship Grant, 2009
- *Global Human Rights Bulletin*, Middle East Editor, 2009; Managing Editor, 2010-2011
- International Law Society, President; Lawyers Without Borders, Secretary, 2009-2010
- International Associate, Center for International Law; Affiliate, Justice Action Center
- Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, Team Member, 2009-2010

New York University, New York, NY

Master of Science in Global Affairs, May 2008, Focused on International Law and Human Rights

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, Honors, June 2004

Bachelor of Arts in French Language and Literature, Honors, June 2004

- Dean's List 2000-2004; High Pass with Honors award for proficiency in French

Université de Paris X, Nanterre, France, Archaeology Program, 2002-2003

PUBLICATIONS

“The Invisible Wall: Public Charge Policy Impacts on Immigrant Families,” *New York Law School Law Review*, Vol. 65, 2020-2021, pgs.197-223.

“Barring Survivors of Domestic Violence from Food Security: The Unintended Consequences of 1996 Welfare and Immigration Reform,” with Ernie Collette, *Drexel Law Review*, Vol. 9, Fall 2017, pgs. 353-390.

“Unaccompanied and Excluded from Food Security: A Call for the Inclusion of Immigrant Youth Twenty Years After Welfare Reform,” with Ernie Collette, *Georgetown Immigration Law Journal*, Vol. 31, Issue 1, Fall 2017, pgs. 197-242.

“Airport Lawyering,” *Women Across Frontiers*, April 1, 2017.

“Caught in the Web: Immigrant Children in Removal Proceedings,” with Lenni B. Benson, *Impact: Collected Essays on Access to Justice*, New York Law School, Vol. 2, July 2016, pgs. 31-42.

“United States: The Other Refugee Crisis,” *Women Across Frontiers*, June 20, 2016.

“How to Pack for the ‘Other Refugee Crisis’: My Diary from Dilley,” *Rights in Exile*, The International Refugee Rights Newsletter, May 1, 2016.

“Customizing Documents for Children,” *Justice for Unaccompanied Children: An Advocacy Best Practices Manual for Legal Services Providers*, National Immigrant Justice Center, May 3, 2016.

“Bridging the Gap for Immigrant Children: Understanding Immigration Relief for Child Migrants,” with Lenni B. Benson, *Bridge-the-Gap II for Newly Admitted New York Attorneys 2014*, Practising Law Institute, New York, August 14, 2014.

“That Belongs in a Museum! *Rubin v. Iran*: Implications for the Persian Collection of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.” *Loyola of Los Angeles International and Comparative Law Review*, Vol. 31, Issue 2, Fall 2009, pgs. 257-289.

“The Transnational Kurdish Women’s Movement Against Honor Killing.” *Critical Half*, Bi-Annual Journal of Women for Women International, Vol. 7, Number 1, Fall 2009, pgs. 47-53.

“Lack of Sanitation = Lack of Education: Creating “Girl-Friendly” Schools in Sub-Saharan Africa.” *Perspectives on Global Issues*, Vol. 2, Issue 2, Spring 2008, pgs. 13-17.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

Speaker, “Migration, Borders, and State Control,” Law and Society Association, Global Meeting on Law and Society, Lisbon, Portugal, July 14, 2022.

Speaker, “Migraciones africanas en las Américas. ¿Nuevos flujos, nuevos retos?”, organized by the Maria Sybilla Centre for Latin American Studies (CALAS), CALAS-CONO SUR at the Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina, April 4-6, 2022.

Speaker, Global Borderlands Conference, The Crimmigration Control International Net of Studies (CINETS), Leiden University, The Netherlands, September 16, 2021.

Speaker, Bold New Voices in Migration Research, Immigration Initiative at Harvard University, March 31, 2021,

Conference Organizer, 5th Annual New York Asylum and Immigration Law Conference, New York Law School and the Federal Bar Association’s Immigration Law Section, New York, New York, February 27, 2020.

Conference Organizer, 4th Annual New York Asylum and Immigration Law Conference, New York Law School and the Federal Bar Association’s Immigration Law Section, New York, New York, March 8, 2019.

Faculty Presenter, Asylum Overview and Latest Developments, CLE sponsored by the Practicing Law Institute (PLI) as part of the 2020 Asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, Crime Victim and Other Immigration Relief program, New York, New York, February 7, 2020.

Faculty Presenter, Asylum Overview and Latest Developments, CLE sponsored by the Practicing Law Institute (PLI) as part of the 2019 Asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, Crime Victim and Other Immigration Relief program, New York, New York, February 8, 2019.

Faculty Presenter, Legal Issues Surrounding Central American Refugees in the United States, LawLine Webinar, December 11, 2017.

Faculty Presenter, Representing Children in Removal Proceedings and Immigration Relief for Victims of Crime and Abuse, CLE sponsored by the Practicing Law Institute (PLI) as part of the 2017 Defending Immigration Removal Proceedings Conference, New York, New York, July 20, 2017.

Panelist, Hot Topics: Working with Unaccompanied Minors, 2017 American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, June 22, 2017.

Speaker, Youth Deportation Roundtable, The New School, Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility, New York, New York, March 6, 2017.

Panelist, Immigration Forum, Masjid Aqsa-Salam, New York, New York, February 26, 2017.

Panelist, The Central American Refugee Crisis: Human Rights Challenges, New York City Bar Association, New York, New York, January 26, 2017.

Speaker, Understanding Vicarious Trauma and Self-Care, New York Immigration Court, New York, NY, October 11, 2016.

Speaker, Interviewing Immigrant Youth: Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness, New York Asylum Office, Bethpage, New York, July 13, 2016.

Panelist, Solving the Gender Equality Equation: Increasing Education and Decreasing Violence, 60th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, New York, New York, March 16, 2016.

Speaker, The USCIS Asylum Office, CLE sponsored by the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), audio conference, December 17, 2015.

Speaker, Immigrant Access to Public Benefits, Presentation at the New York Immigration Court, New York, New York, November 4, 2015.

Presenter, Integration of Legal and Social Services to Support Young Immigrant Survivors of Trauma, Emerging Immigration Scholars' Conference, University of Miami School of Law, Miami, Florida, June 11-12, 2015.

Speaker, Integration of Legal and Social Services: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Supporting Survivors of Gender-Based Violence, End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Campus Responses, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 7-9, 2015.

Faculty Presenter, Bridging the Gap for Immigrant Children: Understanding Immigration Relief for Child Migrants, Bridge-the-Gap II for Newly Admitted New York Attorneys 2014, Practicing Law Institute, New York, New York, August 14, 2014.

Speaker, Safe Passage Project: How a Law School Can Build a Pro Bono Clearinghouse to Assist Immigrant Children, Southwest Regional Clinical Workshop at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, April 18, 2014.

Speaker, Examining Models for Providing Legal Services to Immigrants in Deportation Proceedings, Oversight Hearing of New York City Council’s Immigration Committee, New York, February 25, 2014.

Presenter, Children Caught in the Web of Bureaucratic Borders, Creating New Futures for All Conference, University of Sydney Law School, Sydney, Australia, November 30, 2012.

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

Washington Forum (Video) Voice of America Africa en Français [July 11, 2019].

- Discussing extracontinental asylum-seekers in Mexico

“How Is Immigration a Women's Issue?” (Podcast) Women's Protection and Empowerment Podcast [June 20, 2018].

AWARDS

Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award, Mexico, 2020-2021 deferred to 2021-2022

Research long-term solutions for asylum seekers who hail from Africa, the Caribbean, Asia, and the Middle East but become stranded in Mexico due to U.S. immigration restrictions. These “extra-continental asylum-seekers” constitute a growing vulnerable population whose needs are often overlooked.

Service Award, presented to Faculty Member by the Immigration Law Students Association, 2019 Spring Diversity Banquet, New York Law School

Otto L. Walter Distinguished Writing Award for Faculty, 2015 and 2018, New York Law School

Outstanding Service Award, 2018, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Department of Latin America and Latina/o Studies

AAUW Community Action Grant, 2012-2013, for “Projet Aimée,”

- o Projet Aimée (**African Immigrants Mentoring Educating Empowering**) at African Services Committee served low-income African immigrant survivors of gender-based violence in New York City with a combination of culturally and linguistically competent direct legal services, education, and advocacy. Through a peer support program, clients provided mentoring and intervention for women in need.

LANGUAGES

French: Proficient

Spanish: Proficient

English: Native Speaker

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA): Member, 2012 to present;

Clinical Legal Education Association: Member, 2018 to present;

Law and Society Association: Member, 2020 to present;

New York City Bar Association: Member, 2012 to present;

- o Immigration & Nationality Law Committee: Member 2012-2015; 2016- present;

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division (1st Department)

U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

Illinois State Supreme Court