THE 2016 JOSEPH A. VAIL ASYLUM LAW WORKSHOP
WITH A FOCUS ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Friday, APRIL 8, 2016
University of Houston Law Center
4604 Calhoun Rd, Houston, TX 77204
Bates Law Building Room 144

MORNING: ASYLUM BASICS AND OTHER ISSUES AFFECTING FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

8:30 am  Check-in

9:00 am  Opening Remarks
Leonard M. Baynes, Dean, University of Houston Law Center

9:05 am  Introduction and Overview: Asylum Issues and Other Humanitarian Types of Relief, 0.5 hr
Geoffrey A. Hoffman, Director, UHLC Immigration Clinic

9:35 am  Trafficking, Crime Victim Visas and Related Relief, 0.75 hr
Janet B. Beck, Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor, UHLC Immigration Clinic
Josephine Sorgwe, Clinical Supervising Fellow, UHLC Immigration Clinic

10:20 am  Special Immigrant Juveniles, 0.25 hr
Liz Shields, Supervising Attorney- Houston, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

10:35 am  Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) Issues, 0.5 hr - includes 0.25 of Ethics
Anne Chandler, Director - Houston Office, Tahirih Justice Center
Javier Arturo Dominguez, Children's Attorney - Houston Office, Tahirih Justice Center

11:05 am  Psychological Trauma as it Relates to Families and Children in Asylum Cases, 1 hr
Jodi Berger Cardoso, Assistant Professor of Social Work, UH Graduate College of Social Work

Noon  Lunch

AFTERNOON: RIGHT TO COUNSEL, ETHICS, AND IMMIGRATION COURT ASYLUM ISSUES

12:45 pm  Right to Counsel Issues-Asylum, 0.75 hr
Brian Schaeffer, Social Responsibility Director, Immigration Legal Services, YMCA International Services

1:30 pm  How to Avoid Pitfalls in the Preparation of the I-589 and Affidavit; Preparation for Affirmative
asylum interview, 0.75 hr - includes 0.25 of Ethics
Jill Campbell, Immigration Attorney, Neighborhood Centers Inc.

2:15 pm  Break
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2:30 pm  Research: How to Get Up to Speed on Asylum Issues. CIS Asylum Adjudicators Manual, EOIR Practice Manual, EOIR Benchbook, AIC Practice Advisories, 0.25 hr
Kristin Zipple-Shedd, Clinical Adjunct Professor and Staff Attorney, South Texas College of Law Asylum and Human Trafficking Clinic

2:45 pm  Preparing for the Hearing on the Merits - Direct, Cross, Objections, 0.75 hr - includes 0.25 of Ethics
Geoffrey A. Hoffman, Director, UHLC Immigration Clinic
Janet B. Beck, Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor, UHLC Immigration Clinic
Susham M. Modi, Adjunct Professor of Law, UH Law Center

3:30 pm  Mock Hearing, 0.75 hr
Janet B. Beck, Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor, UHLC Immigration Clinic
Susham M. Modi, Adjunct Professor of Law, UH Law Center
Honorable Judge Rose (speaking in personal capacity only)
Honorable Judge Zimmer (speaking in personal capacity only)

4:15 pm  Practical Tips from the Bench, 0.75 hr - includes 0.25 of Ethics
Honorable Judge Rose (speaking in personal capacity only)
Honorable Judge Zimmer (speaking in personal capacity only)
Includes Q&A with Moderator Geoffrey A. Hoffman

5:00 pm  Closing Remarks

This course has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 7 credit hours, of which 1 credit hour will apply to legal ethics/professional responsibility credit. The University of Houston Law Center is an accredited sponsor, approved by the State Bar of Texas, Committee on MCLE.

The 2016 Joseph A. Vail Asylum Law Workshop, With Focus on Families and Children is presented by the Immigration Clinic at the University of Houston Law Center, in collaboration with

BPSOS
Catholic Charities
KIND
Neighborhood Centers Inc.
STCL Asylum and Human Trafficking Clinic
YMCA International Services

The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university and an EEO/AA institution.
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Janet B. Beck, Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor, UHLC Immigration Clinic

Janet B. Beck has been Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1995 and has been practicing immigration law since 1987. She is currently Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Houston Law Center Immigration Clinic. At UHLC she has taught Immigration Law and Business and has been teaching Family Immigration Law for the past several years. Ms. Beck was the attorney on the 2010 Board of Immigration Appeals precedent decision Matter of M-A-M. Her publications include “Representing Clients with Mental Competency Issues under Matter of M-A-M.” (American Immigration Council Practice Advisory, Nov. 2011); “Human Trafficking and the T Visa Process,” (Texas Bar Journal, Nov. 2012); “Myths About Immigration Law” (The Houston Lawyer, 2009) and “Beyond ‘I Do’ for a Green Card” (Texas Lawyer 2014).

Ms. Beck has spoken at numerous American Immigration Lawyer Association and University of Texas immigration conferences as well as at the Harris County Attorney’s immigration seminar in July 2014, the Harris County Public Defender’s Office, the Houston Bar Association, the Houston Association of Women Attorneys, the University of Texas Estate Planning, Guardianship and Elder Law Conference, the Harris County Juvenile Law Conference and the Center for Victims of Torture. Ms. Beck received a B.A. from New York University, an M.S.W. from the University of Chicago and a J.D. from the University of Houston. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer for 3 years in Colombia, South America and is fluent in Spanish.

Jill Campbell, Immigration Attorney, Neighborhood Centers Inc.

Jill graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 2010. She received her undergraduate degree in Latin American Studies at the University of Miami in Miami, Florida where she was the recipient of the Robert H. Levine Award for Excellence in Latin American Studies. Prior to joining Neighborhood Centers Inc. in 2014, Jill served as a Clinical Supervising Attorney at the University of Houston Law Center Immigration Clinic, where she supervised second- and third-year law students on affirmative and defensive immigration cases and on immigration appeals at the BIA, 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, and 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. She also co-taught the Immigration Clinic’s substantive law component, focusing on immigration court procedure, policy issues, and complex areas of immigration law. In 2012 Jill led the University of Houston DACA Initiative, which provided free legal assistance to DACA eligible University of Houston students, alumni, family of students and alumni, and Houston-area community members. In August 2014, Jill joined the Immigration & Citizenship Program at Neighborhood Centers Inc. as an Immigration Attorney. She is primarily responsible for managing the program’s client cases, which includes the supervision of the program’s BIA Accredited Representatives. Jill’s immigration work focuses on Citizenship and Naturalization; Deferred Action; representation of refugees and asylees; family reunification cases; and humanitarian-based relief, including crime victim visas, relief under the Violence Against Women Act, and representation of individuals fleeing harm in their home countries. Jill also supports the Immigration & Citizenship Program’s Naturalization services through the development of materials for and ongoing legal support of NCI’s Immigration Forums and Naturalization Workshops.
Jodi Berger Cardoso, Assistant Professor of Social Work, UH Graduate College of Social Work

Jodi Berger Cardoso is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Houston’s Graduate College of Social Work. Her research examines how exposure to trauma and psychosocial stress before, during and post-migration affects the mental health of immigrants and their children. Berger Cardoso recently completed a study that was funded by the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health that examined the unique parenting stressors associated with raising children in the context of deportation risk. Along with colleagues from the University of Texas-Austin, she interviewed parents about how migration and legal status relate to experiences of parental stress and depression. She also recently received an award from the UH Center for Mexican American Studies to examine trauma, stress and coping experiences among unaccompanied Latino immigrant children in Texas.

In addition to this line of research, Berger Cardoso works with several humanitarian organizations in the Houston area that focus on providing legal and mental health services to immigrants, unaccompanied children, and refugees that have experienced trauma. She has served as an expert on immigration cases focusing on traumatic exposure and migration in children. Berger Cardoso’s dedication to social justice evolved from her experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in Santo Domingo, Ecuador, where she developed a program to transition working youth back into primary school. Prior to receiving a doctorate degree, Berger Cardoso worked as bilingual mental health clinician serving Latino immigrant families at several agencies in the New York and Houston area.

Anne Chandler, Director - Houston Office, Tahirih Justice Center

As the Director of Tahirih’s Houston office, Anne Chandler provides leadership for Tahirih Houston since the office first opened its doors in 2009 to protect immigrant women and girls fleeing violence in the Houston area. Chandler serves on the Board of the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and she is proud to actively support Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative.

Prior to joining Tahirih, Chandler was a Clinical Professor for the University of Houston Law Center. Prior to joining the Law Center in 2003, she was the Director of Immigration Legal Services for the YMCA International Services of Greater Houston.

Javier Arturo Dominguez, Children's Attorney - Houston Office, Tahirih Justice Center

Javier Dominguez joined Tahirih in 2014. As Children's Attorney, Dominguez represents girls and immigrant children in family courts, juvenile law courts, state courts, and immigration court. His legal representation includes filing applications for gender-based asylum, protecting survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and other violent crimes, and ensuring that children qualify for the Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. Prior to Tahirih, he worked as a staff attorney for Catholic Charities. Before law school, he was the Legislative Director for the League of United Latin American Citizens. Dominguez was born and raised in the transnational border region of El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. He studied abroad in both Spain and Brazil.
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Geoffrey A. Hoffman, Director, UHLC Immigration Clinic

A.B. Columbia University (magna cum laude); J.D. Tulane Law School (cum laude), LL.M. Harvard Law School. In 2014, Professor Hoffman received the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Elmer Fried Excellence in Teaching Award. In 2015, Professor Hoffman was awarded the University of Houston Teaching Excellence Award (T.E.A.) for clinical faculty, a university-wide award established by the University’s Provost. Also, in 2015, he was awarded the Certificate of Excellence for service to the Law Center and University.

The UHLC immigration clinic under Professor Hoffman’s leadership was awarded the Pro Bono Hero Award for the Central Region by AILA for 2015. Professor Hoffman specializes in immigration-related federal court litigation, deportation defense, asylum cases, and appeals before the Board of Immigration Appeals. He has served as counsel or co-counsel in over 48 appellate and trial court cases. Professor Hoffman served as co-counsel before the Supreme Court of the United States in the precedent-setting immigration case, Carachuri-Rosendo v. Holder.

Prior to joining the Clinic, he practiced immigration law at Kurzban Kurzban Weinger & Tetzeli, P.A. in Miami. Previously, Professor Hoffman was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois, held the Forrester Fellowship at Tulane Law School and was a Lecturer at the University of Miami. In addition to his practice and teaching experience, Professor Hoffman served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Paul V. Gadola, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan for a two-year term 1998-2000.


Susham M. Modi, Adjunct Professor of Law, UH Law Center; Owner and Attorney at Law, The Modi Law Firm

Susham Modi is an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center. He received a B.A., magna cum laude, from the University of Texas at Arlington and a J.D. from Penn State. As a law student at Penn State, he was active in Penn State’s Center for Immigrants’ Rights clinic and worked on complex immigration matters at Holland & Knight’s Community Services Team. He is the recipient of The D. Arthur Magaziner Human Services Award (awarded to the senior who has demonstrated good character, sound academic performance, high ethical standards, fidelity to the highest goals of the profession and commitment to selfless human service), the Miller Center Public Interest Certification, was named the Public Interest Law Fund Fellowship Chair, and assisted with coaching various mock trial and moot court competitions.

Modi served as a clinic supervising attorney at the University of Houston Law Center’s Immigration Clinic from 2011 to 2015. In this capacity, he was responsible for supervising upper-level students working on various pro bono immigration cases which included cases involving immigrants who were victims of crimes, immigration-related federal court litigation,
appeals before the Board of Immigration Appeals, asylum cases, and removal defense cases before immigration courts. Immediately prior to joining the University of Houston, he worked as an Advocate/Attorney at Harvard Law School’s Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program. At Harvard, he worked on complex asylum, CAT, withholding of removal and U visa cases, supervised law students in the creation of “know-your-rights” presentation materials for undocumented students, assisted with a Second Circuit amici curiae brief signed by approximately 70 law professors, scholars and practitioners regarding the weight the BIA is affording to State Department reports and assisted in preparing classroom materials and trainings to law students enrolled in Harvard’s seminar course of Immigration and Refugee Advocacy.

The Honorable Howard E. Rose (personal capacity)
United States Immigration Judge, retired

Judge Rose was appointed as an immigration judge in September 2006. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1966 from Gannon University and a Juris Doctorate in 1974 from Cleveland Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University. From 1982 to September 2006, Judge Rose served with the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service) in several capacities: From 1987 to September 2006 as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Texas; from 1983 to 1987 as District Counsel in Miami; and from 1982 to 1983 as a trial attorney in Miami. From 1976 to 1978, and 1980 to 1982, Judge Rose served as an assistant county prosecutor for the Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Prosecutor’s Office. He served as an assistant attorney general in the Attorney General’s Office, Territory of Guam, from 1978 to 1980. Judge Rose served as a law clerk and assistant director of law in the City of East Cleveland Law Director’s Office from 1972 to 1976. He served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1971 and in the U. S. Army Reserve from 1971 to 1994. Judge Rose is a member of the Ohio Bar.

Brian Schaeffer, Social Responsibility Director, Immigration Legal Services, YMCA International Services

Brian Schaeffer is the Immigration Legal Services Director of YMCA International Services in Houston, Texas. YMCA International Services provides direct representation and legal information to over 6,000 individuals per year, including the Houston Pro Bono Asylum Project. Prior to joining YMCA International Services, he was in private practice in Houston, Texas focusing exclusively in immigration law. He received his J.D. for the University of Houston Law Center and his B.A. from Mississippi College. He is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana.
Liz Shields, Supervising Attorney- Houston, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

Liz Shields currently serves as the Supervising Attorney for KIND’s Houston, Texas office. She began her career with KIND in April of 2009 when KIND opened the Baltimore office. She served as the Supervising Attorney of the Baltimore office until July of 2015. Shields’ expertise is primarily related to child asylum claims, adjustment of status based on special immigrant juvenile status, and u visas. Prior to joining KIND in 2009, Shields worked with the Community Services Team of Holland & Knight LLP in Washington, D.C., where she provided pro bono immigration representation, focusing mainly on refugee resettlement and complex asylum claims. Additionally, Shields assisted with a report by the Women’s Refugee Commission, critiquing US family detention standards. Locally, she is an active member of the Texas AILA Chapter and additionally participates in a number of local immigration advocacy working groups. A native Texan, Shields completed her undergraduate at Rice University followed by law school at the University of Houston School of Law, where she spent a year working in the UH Immigration Clinic as well as clerking at both the law firm of Harry Gee and Nguyen, Jazrawi & Chen. When she is not working on behalf of unaccompanied children, she can be found spending time with her own two young children.

Josephine Sorgwe, Clinical Supervising Fellow, UHLC Immigration Clinic

Josephine Sorgwe is a Clinical Supervising Fellow at the University of Houston Law Center Immigration Clinic. At the Immigration Clinic, she supervises student attorneys on pro bono immigration cases and represents immigrants who have been the victims of crime, domestic violence, and human trafficking. Sorgwe completed her undergraduate studies at Texas A&M University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. After completing her undergraduate studies, she attended the University of Houston Law Center (UHLC) where she received her Doctor of Jurisprudence. While at UHLC, Sorgwe interned for the Honorable Caroline Baker in the 295th Civil District Court, and the Honorable Martha Hill Jamison in the Fourteenth Court of Appeals. She also served as the Senior Articles Editor of the Houston Journal of Health Law & Policy, a board member of the Immigration & Human Rights Law Society, and the Community Service Chair of the Black Law Students Association. In addition, she was a Regional Finalist at the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition, one of the largest moot court competitions in the country.

As the child of two immigrants, Sorgwe has always had a passion for vulnerable populations. Thus, she was the recipient of the 2013 Public Interest Fellowship, volunteered in the legal department of YMCA International Services, and worked in the Immigration Clinic as a student attorney. Before working at UHLC, Sorgwe worked at a prominent Houston immigration firm assisting business clients in various immigration matters.
The Honorable William K. Zimmer (personal capacity)
United States Immigration Judge, retired

Judge Zimmer was appointed as an immigration judge in September 1995, presiding in Houston, Texas from March 1997 to 2012 and in Miami, Florida from 1995 to 1997. From 1987 to September 1995, Judge Zimmer served with the Litigation and Legal Advise Staff, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service) in several capacities: From 1994 to 1995 as Deputy District Counsel; and from 1987 to 1994 as assistant district counsel. Judge Zimmer served as an assistant district attorney in the Montgomery County District Attorney Office, 9th Judicial District of Texas, from 1985 to 1987. He served as a customs inspector in the Treasury Department from 1974 to 1985. Judge Zimmer is a member of the Texas State Bar. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1973 from Wayne State University and a Juris Doctorate in 1984 from the South Texas College of Law.

Kristin Zipple-Shedd, Asylum/Human Trafficking Clinical Adjunct Professor and Staff Attorney,
South Texas College of Law Asylum and Human Trafficking Clinic

Kristin Zipple-Shedd serves as an adjunct clinical professor and staff attorney in the Immigration Initiative of the Randall O. Sorrells Legal Clinic at South Texas College of Law where she runs the Human Trafficking and Asylum Clinic. Before she joined STCL, Zipple-Shedd opened the Houston office of the Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights, which serves as Child Advocate (best interests guardian ad litem) for unaccompanied immigrant children. She previously worked at Catholic Charities’ St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance, where she supervised the Crime Victims Program as well as no-fee refugee and asylee adjustments and family reunification cases. Before she moved to Houston, Zipple-Shedd served as a staff attorney at the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic in Chicago, Illinois. She also taught as an Adjunct Professor in the Legal Writing Program at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Zipple-Shedd completed a J.D./M.S.W. cum laude at Loyola University Chicago, where she was a fellow in Loyola's CIVITAS ChildLaw Program. Before graduate school, Zipple-Shedd served as a case manager at the Dorothy Day House, a shelter for women and children experiencing homelessness as a result of domestic violence, in Syracuse, New York, and graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in psychology from Wake Forest University.