

J. ANNA CABOT

4170 Martin Luther King Blvd, Room 341R, Houston, Texas 77204-6060 · (978) 578-4654 · jacabot@central.uh.edu · (she/her)

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER, Houston, TX

Clinical Associate Professor

Director, Immigration Clinic (2023 – present)

Teaching a semester-long, live-client, in-house clinic representing clients with humanitarian immigration cases including asylum, victims' visas, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, and related immigration status, and an advanced semester of the same clinic. Designed the syllabus and course materials. Teaching bi-weekly seminars on lawyering skills, substantive law, procedure, and professional responsibility. Supervising law students case-work. Member of the Strategic Opportunity and Community Engagement Committee and Library Committee. Faculty advisor to the Public Interest Law Organization.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW, Washington, DC

Practitioner in Residence, Gender Justice Clinic (2020 – 2023)

Taught and supervised students in the Gender Justice Clinic, a year-long, live-client, in-house clinic representing clients with cases involving family law, domestic violence, immigration, housing, probate, and estate planning. Designed and taught weekly seminars on lawyering skills, including client counselling, strategic development and fact finding, collaboration, trauma, and trial skills. Taught a doctrinal class entitled Asylum and Refugee Law. Co-coordinated the Mid-Atlantic Clinical Scholarship Workshop series (Spring 2022). Member of the faculty-wide Wellness Committee and the clinic-wide Language Access Committee.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL OF LAW, Hartford, CT

William Davis Clinical Teaching Fellow, Asylum and Human Rights Clinic (2014 – 2018)

Taught and supervised students in the Asylum and Human Rights Clinic, a live-client, in-house clinic focusing on individual clients seeking asylum and similar forms of relief in the U.S. before administrative agencies and federal courts. Taught weekly seminar on substantive law and lawyering skills. Developed and taught the Immigration Detention and DACA Clinic. Established an annual interdisciplinary spring break trip where law and social work students assisted asylum seekers detained in York County, PA. This trip was awarded the 2017 *Light of Liberty Award* from the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center for outstanding service to the community. Created an interdisciplinary training curriculum with psychiatry and psychology interns from the UConn Medical School on evaluating the mental health impacts of persecution and presenting mental health expert testimony in asylum proceedings. Maintained a joint program with UConn School of Social Work that provides a year-long placement in the Law School's Asylum and Human Rights Clinic for a social work student. Advised Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project, UConn Chapter. Supervised students doing independent writing projects. Served on faculty Pro Bono Committee.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary: Clinical Teaching, Immigration, International Law, Gender and the Law, Human Rights

Additional: Feminist Legal Theory, Family Law, Professional Responsibility

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CENTER FOR GENDER AND REFUGEE STUDIES, San Francisco, CA

Senior Staff Attorney (2018 – 2020)

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Represented immigrants seeking asylum based on gender and gang issues in U.S. Courts of Appeal and the Board of Immigration Appeals, as well as in front of immigration courts, including the case of *Matter of A-B* where Attorneys General Sessions, Whitaker, and Barr attempted to limit asylum for the victims of domestic violence and gang-based violence. Member of the litigation team for federal class action law suits challenging government policies, including *Grace, et al., v. Sessions* in United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Provided technical assistance to lawyers representing asylum seekers across the country. Managed grant compliance and reporting. Directed *Matter of L-E-A* litigation and technical assistance response. Conducted trainings and webinars on various aspects of asylum law. Drafted practice advisories. Trained and supervised legal program associates, law clerks, and interns.

LAS AMERICAS IMMIGRANT ADVOCACY CENTER, El Paso, Texas

Managing Attorney (2011 – 2014)

Represented detained and non-detained clients in immigration court and the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), with cases involving asylum, withholding of removal, Convention Against Torture, and cancellation of removal claims. Represented clients before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) who were seeking asylum and other humanitarian relief, citizenship, DACA, and family-based visas. Advocated for immigrants' rights through media appearances, press releases, coalition building, and negotiating with USCIS and DHS. Trained and supervised a staff of nine including attorneys, law clerks, paralegals and volunteers.

ASYLUM ACCESS – REFUGEE SOLUTIONS, TANZANIA, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Legal Services Coordinator (2010 – 2011)

Developed Asylum Access's legal aid operations in Tanzania, both technical protocols and legal service avenues. Designed and implemented a rights survey of the urban refugee population in Dar es Salaam. Advocated with the U.N. High Commissioner on Refugees and the Ministry of Home Affairs in Tanzania both for individual clients and for enforcement of rights of urban refugees. Supervised the volunteer attorneys and managed and conducted their training. Organized and directed focus group discussions, community legal education seminars, and know-your-rights trainings for refugees.

EDUCATION

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW, JD, *cum laude*, May 2009

Awards:

- *Washington College of Law Public Interest/Public Service Scholarship*, 2006 – 2009 (merit-based full-tuition scholarship awarded for outstanding commitment to public interest work)
- *Pro Bono Excellence Award*, May 2009 (graduating student who completed the greatest number of pro bono hours)
- *WBA Foundation Founders Fellowship*, Women's Bar Association Foundation, District of Columbia, June 2007

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR, Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, India (2003 – 2004)

AMHERST COLLEGE, Bachelor of Arts in Physics, *magna cum laude* with distinction, May 2003

PUBLICATIONS

Gender, Autonomy, and Duress (in progress)

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Understanding the Legal Framework for Asylum: A Guide for Expert Witnesses in PRACTICING ASYLUM: A HANDBOOK ON EXPERT WITNESSES IN LATIN AMERICAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, LGBTI, AND MOTHER/CHILD CASES (Kimberly Gaudermann ed.) (May 2023).

Problems Faced by Mexican Asylum Seekers in the United States, Journal on Migration and Human Security. 2014;2(4):361-377 (2014). Available at <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/233150241400200405>.

No Place Called Home: A Report on Urban Refugees Living in Dar es Salaam, Asylum Access Tanzania, November 2011, Dar es Salaam (created survey and managed data collection).

In the Footsteps of Generals: Musharraf and Martial Law: An Interview with Professor Nadeem Azam of the University of Peshawar, HUMAN RIGHTS BRIEF, Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Vol. 15, No. 2 (2008) (with Zeenat Iqbal).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Building a Better Foundation: Goal Setting and Design Strategies for Clinical Fellowship Programs, Panelist, 2023 AALS Clinical Conference, April 29, 2023.

Creating a Clinical Scholarship Community, Panelist, Mid-Atlantic Regional Clinical Conference, George Washington Law School, Washington, DC, February 4, 2023.

Empathy, Connection, and Dealing with Trauma, Panel Moderator, 50 and Forward: Celebrating 50 Years of the WCL Clinical Program, American University Washington College of Law, October 28, 2022.

Gender-based and Sexuality-based Violence in Latin American and U.S. Asylum, Panelist, University of Virginia Democracy Institute, October 27, 2022.

Creativity in Response to Crisis, Presenter, 2022 AALS Clinical Conference, May 11, 2022.

Mass Exodus: Venezuelans Flee Political Instability and Seek Refuge, Panel Moderator, Heightened Vulnerability: Refugees and Displaced Persons in Times of Crisis, International Refugee Assistance Project, American University Washington College of Law Chapter, November 9, 2021.

Best Practice and Recent Development in Children's Fear-of-Return Claims Webinar, Panelist, Vera LOPC, San Francisco, CA, May 15, 2020.

Asylum for Unaccompanied Children, Panelist, ABA Children's Immigration Law Academy, Houston, TX, February 28, 2020.

Facing the Metaphorical Wall: Seeking Asylum in the Trump Era, Invited Speaker, Amherst College Political Union, Amherst, MA, February 11, 2020.

Youth is No Excuse: Unaccompanied Children and the Asylum Transit Bar, Panelist, ABA Children's Immigration Legal Academy, National Training on Representation and Advocacy for Unaccompanied Immigrant Children, Houston, TX, December 12, 2019.

Protecting LGBTQ Lives By Restoring the Rule of Law to the US Immigration System, Panelist, 2020 Lavender Law Conference, LGBT Bar, Philadelphia, PA, August 7, 2019.

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Immigration Legal Remedies and Recent Legal and Policy Updates for Immigration Domestic Violence Survivors, Panelist, Working with Domestic Violence Immigrant Survivors: The Intersection of Basic Family Law, Immigration, Benefits, and Housing Issues in California 2019, Practicing Law Institute, San Francisco, CA, April 24, 2019.

Sending Students to Jail: Challenges and Best Practices for University Legal Clinics Working in Detention Centers, Panelist, Global Alliance for Justice Education 9th Worldwide Conference, Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Puebla, Mexico, December 8, 2017.

Cross-Border Clinical Collaboration to Provide Legal Aid and Advocacy for Asylum Seekers, Panelist, Global Alliance for Justice Education 9th Worldwide Conference, Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Puebla, Mexico, December 7, 2017.

Immigration Policy in the Current Administration, Panelist, American Association of University Women, Women's Empowerment Conference, University of Connecticut School of Law, October 13, 2017.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration in University-based Clinics Representing Asylum-Seekers: Opportunities and Challenges for the Professional Training of Lawyers, Health Professionals and Social Workers, Panelist, XXXVth Congress on Law and Mental Health, Charles University, Prague, July 10, 2017.

Executive Orders: The Good, the Bad, and the Constitution, Panelist, Connecticut Legal Conference 2017, Connecticut Bar Association, Hartford, CT, June 12, 2017.

Asylum, Human Trafficking and Religious Liberty: Non-existent Sexual Rights in the U.S., Faculty Workshop Paper Series, Western New England University School of Law, Springfield, MA, February 27, 2017.

The Central American Refugee "Crisis", Presenter, Istanbul Universitesi Hukuk Fakultesi, Istanbul, Turkey, May 4, 2016.

Cross-Cultural Communication, Bias and Representing Refugees, Presenter, Istanbul Universitesi Hukuk Fakultesi, Istanbul, Turkey, May 3, 2016.

Central American Refugees in the U.S. Asylum System, Presenter, Universita degli Studi di Brescia, Brescia, Italy, April 27, 2016.

Cross-Cultural Communication, Bias and Representing Refugees, Presenter, Universita degli Studi di Brescia, Brescia, Italy, April 26, 2016.

State Sovereignty versus Refugee Protection during a Crisis, Panel Moderator, Connecticut Journal of International Law 2016 Symposium – The Global Refugee Crisis, University of Connecticut School of Law, Hartford, CT, April 15, 2016.

Human Rights-Based Social Work Advocacy for the Rights of Migrant Children and Children in Mixed Status Families in the United States, Presenter, Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut School of Social Work, West Hartford, CT, September 18, 2015.

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Asylum Law, Human Rights Law, and the Critical Role of the Medical and Mental Health Professional, Presenter, Introduction to Forensic Documentation of Trauma: Evaluating Immigrant Survivors of Torture and Ill Treatment, Yale Center for Asylum Medicine and Physicians for Human Rights Training for Medical and Mental Health Evaluators, New Haven, CT, April 11, 2015.

Best Practices for Effective Medical-Legal Affidavits, Presenter, Introduction to Forensic Documentation of Trauma: Evaluating Immigrant Survivors of Torture and Ill Treatment, Yale Center for Asylum Medicine and Physicians for Human Rights Training for Medical and Mental Health Evaluators, New Haven, CT, April 11, 2015.

Humanitarian Forms of Immigration Relief, Students for a Dream Rally, Storrs, CT, October 29, 2014.

Access to Protection and Unaccompanied Minors, Panelist, Symposium on Creating a Robust and Secure U.S. Refugee Protection System, Center for Migration Studies, New York, NY, June 3, 2014.

Refugee Law: Theory and Practice, Presenter, Qatar University School of Law, Doha, Qatar, December 16, 2010.

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES AND QUOTATIONS

Quoted, Long, Colleen, *GOP says Biden has all the power he needs to control the border. The reality is far more complicated*, Associated Press, February 6, 2024, available at <https://apnews.com/article/biden-border-election-2024-republicans-3e905afaf7a68387aa58296e6cf91890>.

Quoted, Brigida, Anna-Catherine, *Houston is experiencing a serious lack of immigration lawyers, a trend seen nationwide*, Houston Landing, February 1, 2024, available at <https://houstonlanding.org/houston-is-experiencing-a-serious-lack-of-immigration-lawyers-a-trend-seen-nationwide/>.

Quoted, Weber, Paul J., *Police in Texas could arrest migrants under a bill that is moving closer to approval by the governor*, Associated Press, October 29, 2023, available at <https://apnews.com/article/immigration-texas-migrants-arrests-bill-mexico-49097d3961a79aefaad61a44b2f715a0>.

Quoted, *Eradicating Immigration Incarceration: Economic Arguments in Favor of Immigration Prison Abolition*, Berkeley Economic Review, February 11, 2021, available at <https://econreview.berkeley.edu/eradicating-immigration-incarceration-economic-arguments-in-favor-of-immigration-prison-abolition/>.

Quoted, Brigida, Anna-Catherine, *Mexican Asylum Seekers Are Facing Long Waits at the U.S. Border. Advocates Say That's Illegal*, TIME, October 16, 2019, available at <https://time.com/5701989/mexico-asylum-seekers-border/>.

Quoted, Ottaway, Amanda, *Threats to Family Not Enough for Asylum, Sparking Backlash*, Courthouse News Service, July 30, 2019, available at <https://www.courthousenews.com/threats-to-family-not-enough-for-asylum-sparking-backlash/>.

Quoted, Benevento, Maria, *Advocates fear attorney general to restrict family-based asylum claims*, National Catholic Reporter, April 17, 2019, available at <https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/advocates-fear-attorney-general-restrict-family-based-asylum-claims>.

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Interviewed about family-based asylum claims and the Acting Attorney General's referral of *Matter of L-E-A-*, KCBS Radio, San Francisco, CA, February 1, 2019.

Quoted, Smith, Steve, *Syrian Refugees Speak about New Life in Connecticut*, Hartford Courant, May 25, 2017, available at <http://www.courant.com/community/glastonbury/hc-gr-glastonbury-syrian-refugees-0525-20170525-story.html>.

Interviewed, WGAL8, *Law students provide free legal assistance to immigrant detainees at York County Prison*, York, PA, March 17, 2017, available at www.wgal.com/article/law-students-provide-free-legal-assistance-to-immigrant-detainees-at-york-county-prison/9149477.

Guest, *Where We Live*, WNPR, Connecticut Public Radio (Conversation about recent executive orders regarding immigration), Hartford, CT, February 3, 2017, available at <http://wnpr.org/post/becoming-tang-sauce-conversation-hip-hop-artist-john-manselle-young>.

Quoted, Knoll, Andalusia, *Student Who Escaped the Night 43 Classmates Disappeared in Mexico Seeks Asylum in the US*, Vice News, May 25, 2016, available at <https://news.vice.com/article/student-who-escaped-the-night-43-classmates-disappeared-in-mexico-seeks-asylum-in-the-us>.

Quoted, Spicer, Megan, *UConn Law Students Offer Hands-On Help to Immigrants Seeking Asylum*, The Connecticut Law Tribune, April 27, 2016, available at <http://www.ctlawtribune.com/id=1202756157317/UConn-Law-Students-Offer-HandsOn-Help-To-Immigrants-Seeking-Asylum>.

Quoted, Campos, Sara and Joan Friedland, *Mexican and Central American Asylum and Credible Fear Claims: Background and Context*, American Immigration Council, Special Report, May 2014, available at http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/asylum_and_credible_fear_claims_final.pdf.

Quoted, Estévez, Ariadna, *The Politics of Death and Asylum Discourse: Constituting Migration Biopolitics from the Periphery*, *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political*, Vol. 39(2): 75-89, 2014.

Quoted, Estévez, Ariadna, *The Biopolitics of Asylum Law in Texas: The Case of Mexicans Fleeing Drug Violence in Juárez Norteamérica*, *Revista Académica del CISAN-UNAM*, 2013, 8, ISSN 1870-3550.

Quoted, El Paso Times, *Young immigrants get a break under new policy*, June 16, 2012.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Advisory Board Member, Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative, January 2024 – present
Facilitator, Clinician Crew, September 2023 – present

AWARDS

2018 American Immigration Lawyers Association Chapter Pro Bono Champion – Connecticut

2017 *Light of Liberty Award* from the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center for outstanding service to the community

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Bar Admission – 2010, New York State

Language Skills - French (working knowledge); Spanish (elementary, formerly proficient); Hindi (elementary)