

Elizabeth M. Knowles, Esq.

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Bar Admissions

- ❖ State Bar of California (2012) #286077
- ❖ U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- ❖ U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Teaching Experience

Northeastern University School of Law, July 2021 – Present
Associate Teaching Professor

Teach two sections of social justice-focused legal research and writing course to first-year students, including instruction in objective and persuasive writing, and oral presentation skills. Meet with students regularly to provide feedback on progress. Supervise and teach two teams of first-year students working with public interest organizations on social justice projects. Engage students in analysis of professionalism and legal ethics issues that arise during course of legal representation. Introduce students to social justice lawyering by developing research, analysis, teamwork, and communication skills to use in service of public interest organizations. Explore how lawyers can play an effective role in pursuing justice for vulnerable and marginalized groups. Oversee and supervise second and third-year Lawyering Fellows in the Legal Skill Program.

The University of Akron School of Law, July 2016 – August 2020
Assistant Clinical Professor of Law; Director of Immigration & Human Rights Clinic

Created and directed Akron Law's Immigration & Human Rights Law Clinic. Taught clinical law students immigration removal defense practice. Taught the fundamentals of immigration removal defense with a focus on asylum as a form of relief. Students learned immigration court procedure, client interviewing and counseling skills, trial advocacy skills, legal research and writing in the civil, administrative context, and the fundamentals of asylum as a basis for relief in removal proceedings. Supervised and guided clinical students as they provided direct representation for detained individuals seeking asylum while in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Taught essential asylum case law and advocacy before U.S. Immigration Judges. Fundraised through grant-writing. Taught Asylum & Refugee Law Seminar, Immigration Appellate Advocacy Clinic, and Introduction to Immigrant Advocacy. Taught Constitutional Criminal Procedure in both live lecture and online formats (synchronous and asynchronous).

Thomas Jefferson School of Law, January 2015 – June 2016
Adjunct Clinical Professor of Law and Director of Immigration Removal Defense Clinic

Supervised and mentored clinical law students as they provided direct representation to detained individuals seeking asylum and bond while in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Taught students the fundamentals of immigration removal defense with a focus on asylum as a form of relief. Taught criminal conviction analysis as applicable to determining relief eligibility. Students learned immigration court procedure, client interviewing and counseling skills, trial advocacy skills, legal research and writing in the civil, administrative context, and the

fundamentals of asylum as a basis for relief in removal proceedings. Taught essential asylum case law and advocacy before U.S. Immigration Judges.

University of California San Diego, English Language Institute, Aug. 2008 – Feb. 2009
English as a Second Language Instructor

Planned, designed, and executed effective English language lessons. Taught intermediate English grammar, pronunciation, writing, and oral presentation skills to international business and engineering graduate students.

San Diego Unified School District, Encanto Elementary School, Sept. 2007 - June 2008
Elementary Teacher (Structured English Immersion Class)

Taught core curriculum to Structured English Immersion class comprised of 80% Latinx, English Language Learners. Devised, implemented and analyzed progress of Individualized Educational Plans for special needs students. BCLAD (Bilingual, Cross-Cultural, Language and Academic Development) certified.

Professional Legal Experience

Knowles Immigration & Human Rights Defense LLC, Akron, OH, Sept. 2020 – Present
Owner and Managing Attorney

Represent individuals before the Executive Office for Immigration Review, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and USCIS. Manage removal caseload and represent clients at Master Calendar, individual, and bond hearings. Conduct client consultations and advise current and potential clients on eligibility for immigration relief including Asylum, Withholding of Removal, Protection under the Convention against Torture, Cancellation of Removal, U-Visa, Adjustment of Status, Prosecutorial Discretion, SIJS, habeas, post-conviction relief, and various waivers of inadmissibility. Draft briefs and motions for submission to the immigration court, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and present oral arguments before the circuit courts.

ACLU of Ohio and ACLU of Ohio Foundation, July 2019 – July 2021

Board Member

Ensure that the organization fulfills its objective, that is, to aid in maintaining and extending constitutional and other fundamental rights, liberties, privileges, and immunities. Appoint, support, and monitor the performance of the Executive Director; Clarify the organization's mission; Approve long-range plans; Oversee educational, legislative, and litigation programs; Ensure the financial health of the organization; Preserve institutional independence; Enhance the public image of the organization; Interpret the community to the organization and the organization to the community; and Assess the performance of the Board.

American Bar Association Immigration Justice Project, June 2013 – June 2016

Executive Director

Oversaw all facets of the Immigration Justice Project and sought opportunities to advance our mission and expand the provision of our pro bono legal services. Represented appointed clients before the Executive Office for Immigration Review, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and USCIS. Supervised all IJP projects, including the Legal Orientation Program, EOIR- appointed representation of mentally incompetent immigrants under the National Qualified Representation Program, and the IJP Pro Bono Representation Program. Hired, trained, and supervised IJP staff, law student interns, and volunteers. Maintained relationships with local stakeholders including the Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Office of the Chief Counsel, Enforcement and Removal Operations, ICE Health Service Corps medical personnel, Corrections Corporation of

America personnel, and the San Diego Assistant Field Office Director for ICE. Fundraised through grant- writing, solicitation of in-kind and direct financial contributions. Managed relationships with funders to ensure the organization's sustainability. Worked with the ABA, local and specialty bar associations, and law firms, to recruit, train, and mentor local and national volunteer attorneys and law students in representing clients in removal proceedings. Reported to all funders, maintained budgets and compiled data. Worked in collaboration with an Advisory Board, the ABA Commission on Immigration, the VERA Institute of Justice, and the Executive Office for Immigration Review.

San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women, April 2015 –June 2016
Commissioner

Co-Chaired the Domestic Violence Committee and served on the Human Trafficking Committee; The Commission is mandated to study and advise the San Diego County Board of Supervisors on areas of concern to women's lives and needs in San Diego County including: Domestic Violence; Child Care Needs; Education Opportunities; Medical and Health Services; Welfare and Social Services; Criminal Justice Policies and Procedures; Legal Services; Employment Opportunities; Sexual Discrimination and Prejudice; Housing; Credit and Loan Policies; County Programs and Policies Affecting Women; Legislative Issues to Promote Women's Equal Right

Carney & Marchi, P.S., Seattle, WA, January 2013 – June 2013

Associate Immigration Attorney

Represented individuals before the Executive Office for Immigration Review, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and USCIS. Managed removal caseload and represent clients at Master Calendar, individual, bond, and reasonable fear denial review hearings. Conducted client consultations at Seattle office and the Northwest Detention Facility. Advised current and potential clients on eligibility for immigration relief including Asylum, Withholding of Removal, Protection under the Convention against Torture, Cancellation of Removal, U-Visa, Adjustment of Status, Prosecutorial Discretion, and various waivers of inadmissibility. Drafted briefs and motions for submission to the immigration court, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Law Offices of Murray D. Hilts, August 2012 – December 2012

Post-Bar Law Clerk/ Immigration Attorney

Represented individuals before the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and USCIS. Completed applications for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and work authorization requests. Drafted briefs for submission to the Board of Immigration Appeals. Accompanied clients to Immigration and Customs Enforcement appointments, prepared clients for USCIS asylum interviews, represented clients during reasonable fear interviews. Translated client asylum declarations and performed legal research.

U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Jan. 2012 – May 2012

Judicial Extern at San Diego Immigration Court

Performed legal research and drafted legal memoranda for immigration judges and EOIR Attorney Advisors. Observed immigration judicial proceedings and participated in recess and post-hearing in-chambers debriefs. Drafted proposed orders for immigration judges. Summarized new Ninth Circuit Opinions for circulation among immigration judges.

American Bar Association Immigration Justice Project, May 2011 – January 2012

Legal Orientation Program Law Clerk

Screened detainees for immigration relief eligibility and conducted legal orientation presentations and workshops in Spanish at Otay Mesa Immigration Detention Facility and the San Diego

Immigration Court. Followed up with individuals regarding their applications for immigration relief and explained ramifications of criminal convictions for non-citizens in removal proceedings. Performed legal research and drafted motions and memoranda for immigration cases. Prepared and submitted monthly data reports to VERA Institute of Justice. Maintained project database and communicated with clients and their families.

Casa Cornelia Law Center, August 2010 – April 2011

Law Clerk in Unaccompanied Minors Program

Performed legal research and drafted motions and memoranda for immigration cases involving minors detained in San Diego. Conducted client interviews and collaborated with pro bono attorneys. Accompanied minors to asylum interviews. Translated and interpreted client documents and statements in Spanish.

California Innocence Project, May 2010 - August 2010

Americorps Equal Justice Works Summercorps Legal Intern

Analyzed and translated inmates' criminal convictions, appellate arguments, and innocence claims. Performed legal research and drafted evaluative memoranda. Corresponded with inmates, families, attorneys, and other legal aid organizations. Assisted facilitation of bilingual training workshops for international legal professionals.

Education

American University, Washington College of Law, Diploma in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Summer Human Rights Academy, 2018

Thomas Jefferson School of Law, Juris Doctor, May 2012

Academic Honors

- ❖ *Thomas Jefferson Law Review*, Editor
- ❖ Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competitor 2012
- ❖ *Pro Bono* Honors Graduate, May 2012
- ❖ Center for Law and Social Justice Certificate Recipient
- ❖ Moot Court Honor Society, Vice Chair, 2011 – 2012
- ❖ Public Interest Law Foundation, President, 2010 – 2011

Awards / Public Interest Scholarships:

- ❖ California Bar Foundation Rosenthal Scholarship, March 2012
- ❖ Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services, 2012
- ❖ San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association Scholarship, October 2010 and May 2012
- ❖ Pan Asian Lawyers /Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego Scholarship, January 2012
- ❖ San Diego Lawyers Club Women in the Law Project Scholarship, December 2011
- ❖ Student Organization President of the Year, 2010 – 2011
- ❖ American Bar Association Judicial Clerkship Program Participant, February 2011
- ❖ AmeriCorps Equal Justice Works Summercorps Member, May 2010

San Diego State University

Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts,
December 2006 Double Minor in Spanish
and English Literature

Skills / Experience

- ❖ Bilingual (Fluent in Spanish/English)
- ❖ Clinical, Experiential Teaching
- ❖ Online Teaching (Quality Matters Certified)
- ❖ Cross-Cultural Competency in Classroom, Courtroom, and Detention Settings
- ❖ Leadership and Management

Select Media and Presentations

June 24, 2017: Presenter, AILA Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA. I modeled a Know-Your-Rights presentation for the Pro Bono Clinic Session at the conference.

October 5-6, 2017: Presenter, Ohio AILA Annual Meeting. I presented an asylum primer training for newer attorneys as well as a separate presentation on advanced legal strategies and issues in asylum law.

January 17, 2018: Moderator, League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland Immigration Panel.

January 22, 2018: Presenter, Duquesne Law Faculty as part of our faculty exchange series.

March 2, 2018: Presenter, 4th Annual Constitutional Law Scholars Forum at Barry Law School.

March 23, 2018: Presenter, Detroit Mercy School of Law Symposium on Sanctuary.

April 27, 2018: Faculty, Supreme Court of Ohio's Spring Magistrate Conference.

August 1, 2018: CLE Planner and Presenter, University of Akron School of Law Pro Bono Immigration Training for 80 pro-bono attorneys.

March 1, 2019: Presenter, 5th Annual Constitutional Law Scholars Forum at Barry Law School.

March 22, 2019: Presented a CLE at the Akron Bar Association on Immigration Law and Asylum & Refugee Law

April 24, 2019: Presenter, Akron Press Club panel on Immigration Law

March 25, 2019: Featured presenter, City Club of Mahoning Valley. "Immigration Enforcement and Detention: Who's in ICE Custody in Your Neighborhood?"

August 3, 2019: Presenter, asylum law and policy and Q&A after performance of "Admission Denied" at Gum Dip Theatre, Akron

September 5, 2019: Faculty, Fall Ohio Magistrates Conference in Columbus.

October 4, 2019: Speaker, 2020 Census: The Citizenship Question at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Conference, "Election Integrity in a Time of Political Polarization: Gerrymandering, Redistricting Commissions, and the 2020 Census."

October 11, 2019: Faculty at the Ohio State Bar Association Joint Federal Bench Bar Conference.

October 14, 2019: Faculty at the AAML Ohio Chapter Harold R. Kemp Annual Family Law Symposium

Professional Organizations

- ❖ American Immigration Lawyers Association
- ❖ American Civil Liberties Union (OH Board of Directors)
- ❖ Council on Legal Education Opportunity
- ❖ American Constitution Society
- ❖ American Bar Association