SHEILA I. VÉLEZ MARTÍNEZ
Jack and Lovell Olender Professor of Asylum
Refugee and Immigration Law

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CURRICULUM VITAE

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

May 2013-present — UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF LAW
Jack and Lovell Olender Professor of Asylum
Refugee and Immigration Law
Director of Clinical Programs
Director Immigration Law Clinic
Director Low Income Tax Payer Clinic

May 2010 — UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF LAW
Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor
Director Immigration Law Clinic
Developed and directed the new Immigration Clinic

2007-present — JUDICIAL ACADEMY OF THE PUERTO RICO SUPREME COURT
Teach courses to judges and professors of the judicial academy in matters related to Immigration, International Family Law, Domestic Violence, cultural competence and teaching techniques.

INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO SCHOOL OF LAW
Visiting Professor

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO SCHOOL OF LAW
Visiting Professor

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH AGENDA

POST HURRICANE MARIA: PUERTO RICAN'S AS INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS, UC Davis Journal of International Law and Policy (forthcoming 2018)

LATCRIT THEORY AT XX: KINDLING THE PROGRAMMATIC PRODUCTION OF CRITICAL AND OUTSIDER LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP 1996-2016. 37 Whittier Law Review 101 (2016)

FOREWORD CHALLENGES TO JUSTICE EDUCATION: SOUTH-NORTH PERSPECTIVES Vol. 10 Charleston Law Review 213, 2015)

TOWARDS AN OUTCRIT PEDAGOGY OF ANTI SUBORDINATION IN THE CLASSROOM 90 Chicago-Kent Law Review (2015)

REMITTANCES FROM PUERTO RICO: UNSUSPECTED TRANSNATIONAL LOCALITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS. 4 Journal of Race, Gender, & Poverty (2014)

DESDE QUISQUEYA HACIA BORINQUENA: EXPERIENCES AND VISIBILITY OF IMMIGRANT DOMINICAN WOMEN IN PUERTO RICO: VIOLENCE, LUCHA AND HOPE IN THEIR OWN VOICES 18 ILSA J. Int'l & Comp. L. 683 (2012)

DESDE QUISQUEYA HACIA BORINQUÉN: VIOLENCIA, LUCHA Y ESPERANZAS EN LAS PROPIAS VOCES DE LAS MUJERES DOMINICANAS INMIGRANTES 18 ILSA J. Int'l & Comp. L. 807 http://www.nsulaw.nova.edu/students/orgs/ILSAJournal/documents/18-3.pdf

Book Chapter. MIGRATION AND FAMILY: CHALLENGES FOR FAMILY LAW IN LATIN AMERICA. (Migración y Familia: retos para el derecho de familia) in Family Law in Latin America: Social and Legal Challenges for Families in the contemporary legal landscape The name of the book is El derecho de Familia en Latinoamérica :Las familias en el Derecho contemporáneo. Los desafíos sociales" . (2011)

Book. VARONA, RODRIGUEZ, VELEZ AT. AL., JUDICIAL BENCH BOOK FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES published by the Puerto Rico Supreme Court Office of Court Administration (2010)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

WOMEN AND COLLECTIVE NATURALIZATION IN THE US TERRITORIES (Derick Bell Research Fellow Award)

HUMANITARIAN ASYLUM AND THE ROLE FOR FORENSIC Psychiatrists (Joint project with Dr. Jain Abishek and Dr. Drew Calhoun University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and UPMC)

OTHER RESEARCH INTERESTS

Ethical issues in the representation of immigrant children

Use of video conferencing hearings in immigration court

Taxing Remittances

AMICUS BRIEFS (DRAFTED)

December 2015. Amicus Brief filed together with Geoffrey Hoffman, University of Houston, in support of Cornell Law School clinical students denied access to represent clients in Immigration Court. The three appeals supported by the Pitt Immigration Law Clinic and the University of Houston Law Center Immigration Clinic were granted overturning the immigration judge's decision. More than 50 Immigration Law Clinics joined the Brief.

Brief can be downloaded here
http://law.uh.edu/faculty/ghoffman/AMICUSbriefHoffman01192016.pdf
LexisNexis article here:
https://www.lexisnexis.com/legalnewsroom/immigration/b/insidenews/archive/2016/02/02/geoffrey-hoffman-on-unpub-bia-victory-for-cornell-law-students.aspx

February 2017. Amicus Brief filed together with Geoffrey Hoffman, University of Houston, and the Florence Immigrant Refugee Rights Project in support of a Pennsylvania Immigrant Resource Center case that involved an important issue of due process and family separation inasmuch it involved a man who arrived at a land border with his family members, a wife and their children, but was detained at the border after seeking admission. The other family members were able to be released after they passed their credible fear interviews as did the detained father. The Immigration Judge terminated the case to allow the family to reunite and apply for asylum jointly. The Government appealed.

Brief can be downloaded here:
http://www.law.uh.edu/faculty/ghoffman/AmicusBrief4.pdf
LexisNexis article here:
https://www.lexisnexis.com/legalnewsroom/immigration/b/insidenews/archive/2017/05/07/geoffrey-a-hoffman-on-due-process-asylum-family-separation.aspx?Redirected=true

March 2018. Currently working on another Amicus together with CLINIC and the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies in support of continued recognition of "private actions of persecutions" as basis for protection in faith based asylum claims. This is part of a concerted nation wide effort to prevent the Attorney General from vacating the precedential decision that protects survivors of domestic violence, Matter of ARCG.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The Cruelest Storm Sept 30 with Aurea Sotomayor et al.
https://www.commondreams.org/views/2017/09/30/cruelest-storm-200-academics-speak-out-puerto-rico

How will Caribbean Immigrants in the United States benefit from President Obama Executive Action on Immigration Insight Magazine, Guyana March 2015

La Accion ejecutiva sobre inmigracion. http://www.80grados.net/la-orden-ejecutiva-sobre-inmigracion/

On the appointment of Maite Oronoz to the Puerto Rico Supreme Court 80 grados.net
http://www.80grados.net/significados-del-nombramiento-de-maite-oronoz/

Una mirada con perspectiva de género al propuesto impuesto a las remesas ,80grados.net
http://www.80grados.net/una-mirada-con-perspectiva-de-genero-al-propuesto-impuesto-a-las-remesas/ Feb 2014

Gender is more than sex. A commentary on the High Court of the Supreme Court of Judicature decision in *McEwan, Fraser, Clarke, Persaud and SASOD vs. AG of Guyana.* Insight Guyana Magazine. November 2013

Nostalgia and Xenophobia in Puerto Rican Politics, 80grados,Aug 2013, (PR) www.80grados.net/la-nostalgia-en-la-politica-puertorriquena/

Gov't Shouldn't Let Dwayne Jones' Death Go In Vain The Gleaner Aug 13, 2013 jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20130813/cleisure/cleisure3.htm (Jamaica)

MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND COMMENTS

In Pittsburgh, immigration advocates lament new Trump policy toward Salvadorans Jan 8 2018, Pittsburgh Post Gazette

Hurricane brings Puerto Rican law students to Pitt
Pitt news Dec 4 2107

Panel tackles immigration uncertainty Vol. 19 No. 5 The Journal of the Allegheny County Bar Association March 3, 2017

Latino Community Is Small, Diverse, Growing - and Anxious Aug. 5, 2017, at 3:02 a.m. USNews

DACA offers no clear-cut road map to U.S. citizenship | Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, 12:36 a.m. Pittsburgh Tribune

Pittsburgh Post Gazette, Local Officials, Clergy Challenge the Narrative of Trump's Immigration Policy. Pittsburgh Post Gazette January 22

Channel 11. January 9, 2017 on the how removal procedures in immigration court work.

On How the Presidential Election might impact immigration law and policy. Pittsburgh Now.http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?StationID=11560&DateTime=12/15/2016%206:03:17%20PM&PlayClip=true

On What can Dreamers expect after the Presidential election. Elle Magazine. http://www.elle.com/culture/career-politics/news/a40780/trump-immigration-daca-dreamer/ and Cosmopolitan magazine

On Judge's Schwab ruling unconstitutional President's Obama executive action on immigration http://triblive.com/news/adminpage/7391756-74/escobar-juarez-executive#axzz3RgF1naEd

On President's Obama Executive Action on Immigration http://www.post-gazette.com/local/region/2014/11/22/Pittsburgh-area-immigrants-applaud-Obama-s-executive-action/stories/201411220048

On the Impact of immigrants and refugees in Pittsburgh. http://www.post-gazette.com/business/businessnews/2012/08/22/Refugees-plant-roots-in-Pittsburgh/stories/201208220123

Pittsburgh's New Immigrants: Learning English, the 'crucial passport' http://www.post-gazette.com/newimmigrants/2014/08/10/Pittsburgh-s-New-Immigrants-Learning-English/stories/201407270011#ixzz3BSz7qgxO

Pittsburgh's new immigrants: DACA life-changing for some immigrants' children http://www.post-gazette.com/newimmigrants/2014/07/13/Pittsburgh-s-new-immigrants-DACA-life-changing-for-some-immigrants-children/stories/201407130144#ixzz3BSzddgTi

On the Pittlaw immigration clinic and Immigration Law as an emerging practice area. (The National Jurist) http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/cypress/nationaljurist1013/#/10

On the ruling of the Supreme Court of the Dominican Republic that leaves Dominicans of Haitian descent stateless. *Dominican Caricom chances in doubt over Immigration policy*.

http://guardian.co.tt/columnist/2013-10-20/dominican-caricom-chances-doubt-over-immigration-policy

On Pittburgh's Desire to Increase Immigrant Population August 2012 Read the full article here

On the Deportation of Young Illegal Immigrants in Hoy newspaper Chicago. Los dreamers pasan de la excepcion a la constante . http://www.vivelohoy.com/noticias/8101762/los-'dreamers'-pasan-de-la-excepcion-a-la-constante (June 2012)

Comments on Profiling of Latino Drivers March 29, 2011 http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/business/legal/immigration-profiling-issues-274405/

On the Impact of Immigrants and Refugees in Pittsburgh See the full article here.

On Gay Asylum Claims from the Caribbean, Wesley Gibbings, Trini Fets US Asylum after gay persecution claim, The Guardian , March 4, 2011 www.guardian.co.tt/news/2011/03/03/trini-gets-us-asylum-after-gay-persecution-claim

Experts Question the Purposes of the Proposed Dominica Broadcast Act March 2009 www.dominica-weekly.com/news/media-experts-question-the-purposes-of-the-proposed-dominica-broadcast-act/

On the creation of the Immigration Law Clinic in La Jornada Latina

On remedies for immigrant victims of violence and trafficking in La Jornada Latina

PUBLIC SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

I have lectured extensively on issues relating to Domestic Violence, Immigration Law, Immigrant Rights, International Family Issues, Latino Critical Theory and Pedagogy.

Puerto Rican's as internally displaced persons PRSA October 28, 2017 CUNY

Religious & Ethnic Intimidation - Western PA UMC Pittsburgh Comission on Human Rights June 2017

Joint ACBA/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce program on immigration law, Feb 10, 2018

February 23, 2017 University of Pittsburgh Medical School "Undocumented Trauma: Practical Considerations in the Care of Human Trafficking Victims and Other At-Risk Immigrant Groups". Discussant

February 25, 2017 Morgan Lewis. Asylum Law CLE

March 8, 2017 Universidad Carlos Albizu. Keynote Speaker on International Women's Day

March 9. 2017 University of Puerto Rico Immigration Policy in Trumped up times.

Christ United Methodist Church, Bethel Park, will host a forum on Immigration and Refugees to address basic questions regarding the process through which refugees and immigrants must go before coming to the United States. March 15, 2017

Selected Academic Presentations

2017

"Reimagining Advocacy: Adapting Clinical Models to Meet Community Needs," AALS Clinical Conference

The ABA Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice's Rapid Response Team and its Environmental Justice Committee will host a free webinar on "Hurricane Maria and its Aftermath in Puerto Rico" on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, at 12:30 p.m. ET.

February 20, 2017. Vanderbilt Law School. Critical Justice and Social Impact Advocacy Workshop (with Steve Bender and Francisco Valdes)

February 15, 2017 Center for Latin American Studies. Panoramas Roundtable on Immigration Policy after the Election.

February 11, 2017 University of Pittsburgh Teach In. The Immigration Executive Orders Explained.

January 18, 2017 University of Pittsburgh School of Law The Future of DACA and Immigration Policies. Current Issues Series. Inaugural Lecture (with W. Carter and O. Portela)

2016

University of Pittsburgh Teach In, Steven Foster Memorial. Immigration Law ad Policy in Context.

American Association Psychiatry and the Law. Presentation: Humanitarian Asylum and the Role of the Forensic Psychiatrist (Portland, October)

Society American Law Teachers. Social Justice Advocacy Coursebook (October, John Marshall School of Law Chicago

LatCrit/SALT Faculty Development Workshop How to introduce social justice and progressive thinking into the classroom (October, John Marshall School of Law Chicago) (Invited)

Inns of Court. The State of Immigration in America: Up Against a Wall.", presenter (Pittsburgh)

University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Immigration and the Constitution. Constitution Day Event. (September, Pittsburgh)

University of Puerto Rico School of Law. Emerging Issues in Immigration Law. (June, San Juan)

Center for Latin American Studies. Puerto Rico Crisis Roundtable.

2015

Society of American Law Teachers Conference, LatCrit Principles and Values

ACBA Asian Caucus Immigration Round table (April 30)

Law and Society Conference (Panel of Emerging Outcrit Scholars) May 2015

University of Puerto Rico School of Law Lecture on Emerging Issues in Immigration Law (June 2015)

October 2015 Biennial LatCrit Conference, Outcrit Teaching Positionality

March 16 2015 presentation before the Inter American Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur on Women's Rights (immigrant women in PR)

March 16, 2015 Washington College of Law Panel on Human Rights in Puerto Rico

March 17, 2015 presentation before the Inter American Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur for Immigrants Rights and USA (immigrant women in PR)

Feb 2015, University of Pittsburgh School of Law: Cuba Panel

Center for Latin American Studies: Panoramas Round Table on Obama's Executive Action

2014

December 23, Reed Smith, FAME Panel

November, Panelist MBLSA "Survey of the Law" , PittLaw

October 10-11 SALT Teaching Conference in Las Vegas
Panelist, Concurrent Panel on Emerging Voices in Outcrit Theory

October 23, Puerto Rican Studies Association Conference,
University of Colorado, Denver
Migrant Remittances to and from PR during the Financial Crisis

September 26, CLE Allegheny County Bar Association
Representing Unaccompanied Minors

June 2014 Inter American University School of Law
Special Protections for Immigrant Women Survivors of Violence
Lecture offered as part as the international day of Community Service

June 2014 LatCrit SNX , Bogota Colombia
A LatCrit Perspective on a Progressive Experiential Learning Curriculum

May 2014 Judicial Academy of the PR Supreme Court
Domestic Violence and Immigrant Women

April 2014 Tri School Colloquia West Virginia University Law School
Towards a Progressive Experiential Learning Practice that Incorporates Outcrit Perspectives.

March 2014 Bell Symposium , moderator

March 2014 University of Puerto Rico School of Law
Lecture: Emerging Issues in Asylum and Refugee Law

2013

Judicial Academy of the Puerto Rico Supreme Court. Immigrant Women and Domestic Violence November 2013

Carnegie Mellon University, Immigration Reform Conference, Panelist. October 16, 2013

2013 Latino and Latina Critical Studies Biennial Conference in Chicago
Cross Sector alliances in the struggle against the US Navy in Vieques October 4, 2013

ACLU Immigration 101 September 26, 2013, presenter

Visiting Professor Inter American University School of Law Summer 2013

Discussant at this year's Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe and Central Asia's Tenth Annual Conference at the University of Pittsburgh on February 23, 2013. Discussant on a conference panel entitled "Immigration as a Threat in Contemporary Europe."

Spoke at the UNESCO Celebration of World Press Freedom Day (WPFD) and the Caribbean Media Summit in Curaçao. Spoke about criminal defamation prosecution of journalists as political persecution. She discussed recent cases where journalist have been granted asylum in the United States and Central America. May 3, 2013

Delivered the opening paper at the 2013 LatCrit South North Exchange on Theory, Culture and Law in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The theme of the conference was "The Costs of Exclusion: Austerity Policies and Anti-Social Governmental Strategies". Professor Velez Martinez was one of the coordinators of the conference, which examined the impact of legislation and governmental practices designed to push the marginalized from the border to the outer border. May 16-18, 2013

2012

Presenter QUEER ESCAPES: CARIBBEAN LGBTI ASYLUM CLAIMS IN THE USA Paper presented at the 2012 LatCrit SNX in Costa Rica , April 2012

Presenter CLE Special Protections Available Immigrant Women Survivors of Violence Allegheny County Bar Association

Moderator Panel The State of Immigration regarding States efforts to enforce immigration laws. Unviersity of Pittsburgh 2012 Policy Conference Regulating Unregulated Migration European & U.S. Reactions to Immigration

Discussant at the 2012 Conable Conference in International Studies. The theme of the conference this year was, "Refugees, Asylum, Law, and Expert Testimony: The Construction of Africa & the Global South in Comparative Perspective."

Presenter at the 7th Annual Pittsburgh Conference on Child Maltreatment: Working Towards Hope and Healing

2011

Speaker, Judicial Remedies and procedures in cases of International Parental Kidnapping, at the Judicial Academy of Puerto Rico.

Speaker, Effect of Padilla v. Kentucky in the Adjudication of Criminal Cases at the Judicial Academy of Puerto Rico.

Presenter CLE Refugee Adjustment of Status at Allegheny County Bar Association

Presented paper Remittances from Puerto Rico: Unsuspected Transnational Locality in times of crisis at LatCrit annual meeting

Speaker The Business Case for Hiring Immigrants and Refugees, Pittsburgh SRHM Chapter

Presenter DE QUISQUEYA A BORINQUEN EXPERIENCE AND VISIBILITY OF DOMINICAN IMMIGRANT WOMEN IN PUERTO RICO IN THEIR OWN VOICES Paper presented at the 2011 LatCrit SNX in Dominican Republic , April 2011

SELECTED CLE PRESENTATIONS

2017

Morgan Lewis, Asylum Law and Procedure

2016

KL and Gates, Asylum Law and Procedure

ACBA Refugee Greencards (January and February)

2015

ACBA Asian Attorneys Committee, Regional Impact of Immigration Law

2014

ACBA Pro Bono Program: Special Immigrant Juveniles and Confirmation of Custody

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

University Senate Diversity Committee

University Senate Ad Hoc Committee Steven Foster Memorial

Pitt Global Future Faculty Advisory Group

Center for Latin American Studies affiliated faculty

Law School Budget and Planning Committee

Law School Pro Bono Committee

Appointments Committee (3 years in a row)

Diversity Committee

Ad Hoc Scholarship Committee

Building and Safety Committee

COMMUNITY SERVICE

LATCRIT INC. , Board Member, Co Coordinator of the SNX International Conference

Friends of Farmworkers of PA, Board Member

YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh, Vice President and Board Member

Vibrant Pittsburgh, Mini Grant Review Panel

National Immigration Project, member

Hague Convention Attorney Network

SELECTED COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

I have substantial community engagement in Pittsburgh and as such I participate routinely in a wide range of community events. For example, once a month I do a roundtable with the Latino community after Mass in St. Regis Church in Oakland. I serve as a consultant for community organizations like the Latino Cultural Union, Casa San Jose, Union of African Organizations, AJAPO, ACBA, Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) and the Bilingual Pediatric Clinic of UPMC just to name a few. I meet regularly with this communities and participate in their community events. Just to give an example of the deep community connections that I have been able to develop in Pittsburgh, this is a list of the community events that I have engaged in since, November 8, 2016.

February 18 2017. Community Legal Orientation at St. Regis Catholic Church on the impact of the Executive Orders in the Latino community

February 17, 2017. Met with the Immigration Services Coordinators for the ISAC program in Allegheny County. Legal Orientation about the impact of the Executive Orders.

February 11, 2017 Open teach in at the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning

February 5, 2017 Town Hall with the Latino Community at the St. Catherine de Sienna Church

February 4, 2017 Town Hall meeting with the Somali Bantu community at the Global Switch Board in Lawrenceville

February 2, 2017 ACBA Hispanic Committee Meeting panel on immigration after the election.

January 2017 Meeting with services providers Latino Family Center

December 2016 Meeting with parents Latino Family Center

December 2016 Meeting St Regis Church

November 13, 2018 community meeting St. Regis Church

November 9, 2016 Meeting with Parents and personnel of Latino Family Center

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

May 2010-present	JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES Pittsburgh, Consulting Supervisor
July 2000-2013	Inter American University of Puerto Rico Office of the General Counsel Of Counsel
January 2000-2010	Law Office of Sheila I. Vélez Martínez Solo practitioner: immigration law, education law, domestic violence, appellate practice and civil law
2000- 2002	Puerto Rico Bar Association Executive Director
LANGUAGE SKILLS	Fluency in Spanish and English, conversant in French