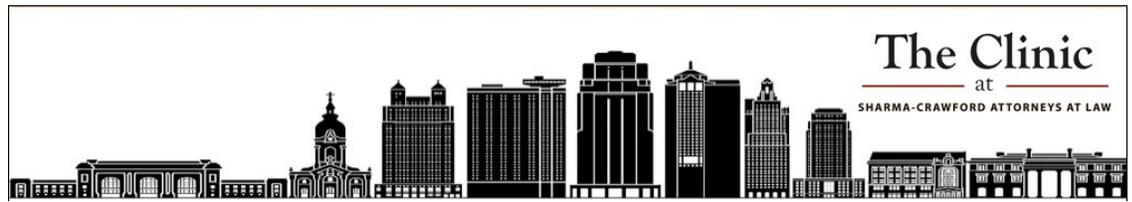




IMMIGRATION COURT TRIAL ADVOCACY COLLEGE DEFENSIVE ASYLUM KANSAS CITY ♦ APRIL 25 - 27, 2019



Faculty Bios

Genevra Alberti is the sole full-time attorney at The Clinic at Sharma-Crawford Attorneys at Law, which is a nonprofit removal defense organization in Kansas City, Missouri, and is currently the only nonprofit west of St. Louis providing representation to those facing removal proceedings in the Kansas City Immigration Court. Genevra has represented over 550 indigent noncitizens in removal proceedings – many of whom are asylum-seekers – since The Clinic opened in January 2012. In 2017, she argued a criminal immigration issue in front of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. She has also presented on a variety of immigration-related topics at multiple national and local conferences and is a contributing author to the AILA Litigation Toolbox, 5th Ed. (2016) and 6th Ed. (forthcoming). Prior to The Clinic's inception, Genevra practiced removal defense at Sharma-Crawford Attorneys at Law. She received her B.A. with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (go Heels!), and graduated *cum laude* from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law.

Lindsay A. Curcio is a solo practitioner located in Brooklyn and Niagara Falls, New York. Her practice includes all facets of U.S. immigration law. She has taught as an adjunct professor at New York Law School, ADA Diplomatic University (Baku) and Molloy College. She is a co-author of the first edition of *Immigration and Nationality Law: Problems and Strategies* (LexisNexis/Carolina Academic Press). Lindsay has received the Super Lawyers Immigration, Metro New York designation. Lindsay has a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Northwestern University, juris doctor degree from IIT-Chicago Kent College of Law, MBA from Fordham University and LLM in Transnational Commercial Practice from the Center for International Legal Studies/Lazarski University and a graduate certificate in health care compliance from the University of Pittsburgh Law School. She also is an actress and a writer of short stories.

Nathan Dayani graduated in 2011 from the University of Kansas School of Law, at which he was awarded for outstanding achievements in both lawyering and moot court. He clerked a 2-year term for the Kansas Court of Appeals, and then worked for 2 years as an associate attorney at an insurance-defense firm before joining the Johnson County Public Defender's Office in May 2015. Since then, he has sharpened his trial skills, successfully trying several cases and winning dispositive motions on at least two others.

Kelly Driscoll received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Kansas in 2000 and her Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law in 2005. After spending a year at a private firm, Kelly started working for the Board of Indigent Defense Services (Hutchinson office) in August 2006, where she remained for almost 9 years. In July 2015, Kelly transferred to the Johnson County Public Defender's Office and in October 2015, was promoted to Deputy. Kelly handles all types of felony criminal matters and has tried approximately 40 cases. In addition to her work at the PD's office, Kelly is an instructor for Hutchinson Community College, where she teaches online courses to those working towards a paralegal degree. Kelly loves dogs, KU basketball, traveling, coffee, and reading. She lives in Olathe with her significant other, their son, 3 dogs, and 1 mean cat.

Lindsay Gray runs a small immigration law firm in Austin, Texas. She represents clients in a wide variety of immigration matters, including defensive asylum, cancellation of removal, and appeals. Lindsay also represents individuals accused of federal crimes related to immigration, such as illegal reentry. Prior to becoming an immigration lawyer, Lindsay was a public defender for the Colorado State Public Defender's Office. There she represented hundreds of clients in many aspects of litigation, including bond hearings, motions, and over twenty jury trials. Outside of her law practice, Lindsay is an adjunct professor of law at Washington University in St. Louis, where she teaches Immigration Law in the online LLM/MLS program. Lindsay loves spending time outside with her husband, Steve, and her two daughters, Lilah (6) and Ellie (4).

Patrick Lewis is a fifth generation Kansan. He graduated from Lawrence High School, Kansas University (B.S. in Journalism, B.A. in Political Science – so he had no choice but to go to law school), Kansas University School of Law (notice the pattern – he does not travel much) and earned (?) a LLM in Litigation from Emory University in Atlanta. Patrick joined the Sedgwick County, Kansas Public Defender's office in May 1989. He transferred to the Johnson County, Kansas Public Defender's office in September 1993, where he moved from assistant to deputy to chief public defender. Patrick escaped BIDS in July 2008, joining Morgan Pilate in Olathe, Kansas. He then opened his solo firm in Olathe in October 2011. Patrick has handled one divorce case and assisted in three civil suits against police for beating people. Otherwise, he has handled almost 6500 criminal defense cases. Patrick has taught trial advocacy, cross examination, and depositions at Washburn Law School. He has taught many different topics at various CLE seminars over the years, more often than not on ethics. Patrick is the Executive Director and Cruise Director for the Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He has tried between 80 and 100 jury trials over the years ranging from disorderly conduct to chain saw murder. More than half of his trials have been on sex charges. Patrick now primarily focuses his defense practice on weed, DUIs and traffic. Patrick enjoys hunting, kayaking, and hiking. He is still going to scout summer camp and is learning Tai Chi. His favorite Constitutional Amendment is the Second. Patrick's role model is either Winnie the Pooh or Sun Wu Kong – or more honestly, both.

Hon. John R. O' Malley was born and raised in Kansas City, MO and received his BA ('70) and JD ('73) from St. Louis University. Judge O'Malley worked at the City Counselor's office in St. Louis for two years, then in private practice in Kansas City and Grandview, MO for 14 years. In 1989, he was appointed as a Circuit Judge in Jackson County, MO and served two terms as Presiding Judge. Judge O'Malley has been the Chairman of the Judicial Discipline Commission of Missouri, Chairman of the Supreme Court Circuit Court Budget Committee, and various other committees. Judge O'Malley was a state judge until 2009 when he became the first Immigration Judge at the Kansas City Immigration Court. He retired from there 6 years later. From 1975 to 2008, Judge O'Malley also taught as an adjunct faculty member at various colleges including Rockhurst University, Avila University, and all of the local Metropolitan Community Colleges. Judge O'Malley completed 26 years in the US Army Reserve JAG Corps and retired at the rank of Lt. Colonel. He continues to hear cases as a senior judge in Missouri state courts and to do mediations.

Lorena Rivas is an experienced and accomplished trial attorney with the Tulsa Law Firm of Fry & Elder, where her practice encompasses both family and immigration law. As a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), much of Lorena's work centers on the legal representation of individuals who are facing the numerous and complicated immigration laws of the United States in affirmative and defensive cases. For her notable efforts, Lorena was the recipient of the 2018 Fern Holland Award, which is annually given to a lawyer who advocates for human rights or the empowerment of women, and was selected as a 2018 Super Lawyers Rising Star. She is the current chair of the immigration law section for the Oklahoma Bar Association (OBA) and has served on various committees with AILA. Lorena is a graduate of the OBA's Leadership Academy and the OBA Family Law Trial Advocacy Institute, and has participated in various seminars with the Trial Lawyers College. She was nominated for the 2015 Williams Women of Inspiration Award and is a member of Leadership Tulsa Class 60. Lorena

graduated with a Juris Doctorate from the University of Tulsa College of Law where she not only graduated with honors, but also actively participated in the Immigrant Rights Legal Clinic.

Lory D. Rosenberg is the CEO of IDEAS Consultation and Coaching at www.loryrosenberg.com. She is a senior advisor and attorney at Immigrant Defenders Law Group, and a sought-after immigration lawyer, mentor, and certified professional and personal life coach. Ms. Rosenberg provides cutting-edge legal analysis and strategies to resolve complex cases and appeals, and helps attorneys overcome their business, personal, and financial success blocks, manage unhealthy stress and mindset challenges, and reconnect with their vision of making a difference. A national speaker and trainer, Ms. Rosenberg currently is active in efforts to defend due process and humanize brutal immigration enforcement processes. She previously served as an appellate judge on the Board of Immigration Appeals, is co-author of *Immigration Law and Crimes*, was an adjunct professor at the American University Washington College of Law, was Director of the NLADA Defending Immigrants Partnership, Director of the American Immigration Council Legal Action Center, and founder of the Centro Presente Central American asylum seekers' legal and pro bono programs. Ms. Rosenberg is a former member of the Board of the Federal Bar Association Immigration Law Section and was elected 3 times to the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Board of Governors. She is the recipient of AILA's Arthur Helton Human Rights Award and Edith Lowenstein Award for advancing the practice of immigration law.

Michael Sharma-Crawford is a founding member of Sharma-Crawford Attorneys at Law. Mr. Sharma-Crawford has practiced immigration law since 2002. The Firm, founded in 2003, has carved a niche in the Midwest handling complicated immigration litigation. In 2012, Mr. Sharma-Crawford and his partner, both in life and in the practice of law, opened The Clinic, a nonprofit law clinic providing top-shelf immigration court representation to indigent noncitizens where no representation existed previously. The Clinic serves the Kansas City Immigration Court and is the only low-fee and pro bono removal defense service provider west of Springfield, Missouri to the Kansas-Colorado border. As a result, Mr. Sharma-Crawford and his partner were awarded the Missouri Bar Association's Pro Bono Publico Award in 2017. Before becoming an attorney, Mr. Sharma-Crawford served nearly 15 years in the Sedgwick County, Kansas Sheriff's Department, and is scarily good at speaking "good ole boy."

Rekha Sharma-Crawford is a founding partner of Sharma-Crawford Attorneys at Law in Kansas City, MO. Known for aggressive and creative litigation strategies, she devotes her practice to representing clients in complex immigration matters including appeals and federal litigation. In recognition of her courage in the face of adversity, she was awarded the Kansas Bar Association's 2018 Courageous Attorney Award. Ms. Sharma-Crawford is active with AILA, and served as Chair of the AILA Midyear Conference – Removal Track in 2016, as Vice Chair of the Federal Litigation Steering Committee from 2015-2017, and served twice on the AILA National Conference planning committee, including Chair of the Due Process/Removal track. Ms. Sharma-Crawford is a contributing author in AILA's *The Waivers Book* and has been a repeat instructor at the AIC Litigation Institute. She is also the Editor in Chief of the AILA Litigation Toolbox, 5th Ed. (2016). In 2012, she and her law partner and husband, recognizing the enormous gap in competent, indigent legal representation, opened the first nonprofit legal clinic dedicated solely to providing low-fee and pro bono representation for those in removal proceedings in the Kansas City Immigration Court. Prior to founding Sharma-Crawford Attorneys at Law in 2003, Ms. Sharma-Crawford spent several years working as an assistant district attorney in Sedgwick County and Douglas County, Kansas.

Munmeeth ("Meeth") Kaur Soni is the Co-Legal Director at Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef), a social justice law firm dedicated to advancing due process for immigrants in removal proceedings and defending immigrant communities against systematic injustices within the legal system. ImmDef attorneys represent over 750 clients in removal proceedings and provide legal education classes to approximately 1200 annually. ImmDef is the largest deportation defense *pro bono* legal services organization in Southern California. At ImmDef, Munmeeth helps direct and manage ImmDef's legal representation practice with a focus on complex criminal-immigration litigation, mental disability and

incompetency issues, and appellate litigation. Munmeeth represented Petitioner in the Ninth Circuit en banc decision *Bringas-Rodriguez v. Sessions*, a major victory for asylum seekers who suffered sexual abuse during childhood at the hands of non-state actors. Munmeeth also represented Petitioner in the 2015 Ninth Circuit decision *Avendano-Hernandez v. Lynch*, a groundbreaking decision recognizing trans individuals and their experiences as separate and distinct from the gay and lesbian community. Prior to joining ImmDef in May 2016, Meeth spent seven years as a staff attorney in the immigration unit at the Public Law Center (PLC) in Santa Ana. At PLC, she received the Equal Justice Works Fellowship sponsored by Latham & Watkins to build Orange County's first-ever asylum and deportation defense practice. Prior to PLC, she was an associate at a boutique business litigation firm in Los Angeles. Munmeeth received the 2016 California Lawyer Attorney of the Year award from the Daily Journal and in 2012. she received the inaugural M. Katherine B. Darmer Outstanding Community Service Award by the Orange County Lavender Bar Association in recognition of her advocacy on behalf of LGBTQI immigrants. Munmeeth is member of the adjunct faculty at the UCI School of Law and the Western State College of Law. She received her Juris Doctor cum laude from American University, Washington College of Law (2007) and her B.A. with honors from Wesleyan University (1997). Munmeeth speaks Punjabi, Hindi, and Spanish and is a native of Los Angeles.

Erich C. Straub is an attorney concentrating in family-based immigration and deportation defense. He has been licensed since 1994. He has been listed in Best Lawyers in America since 2006, including being named "Lawyer of the Year" for Milwaukee in 2016 and 2018. He served on the AILA Board of Governors from 2007 to 2009.