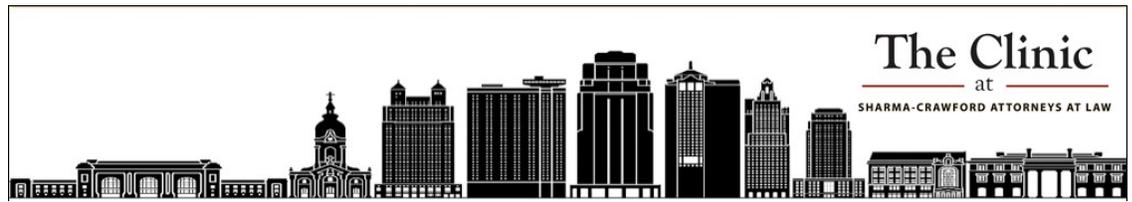




IMMIGRATION COURT TRIAL ADVOCACY COLLEGE CANCELLATION OF REMOVAL KANSAS CITY ♦ APRIL 22 - 24, 2021



Faculty Bios

Genevra Alberti is the sole dedicated 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 specializing in representing those in removal proceedings in the Kansas City Immigration Court. She has held this position since The Clinic opened in January 2012, focusing her practice solely on removal defense. Genevra has presented on a variety of immigration-related topics at multiple national and local conferences, frequently provides “Know Your Rights” and other presentations in the community, and is a contributing author to the AILA Litigation Toolbox, 5th Ed. (2016) and 6th Ed. (2019). From 2017 to 2021, she served on the steering committee for the Deportation Defense Legal Network (DDLN), a local nonprofit dedicated to providing pro bono legal representation in bond proceedings for detained noncitizens in Missouri and Kansas. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the Missouri-Kansas AILA Chapter, as chapter co-EOIR liaison, and as chapter pro bono liaison. In 2019 and 2020, Genevra was selected as a Super Lawyers Rising Star, and in 2020 was given one of her chapter’s two Pro Bono Champions awards. Genevra graduated with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (go Heels!) with a B.A. in both Psychology and Italian Language. After spending three years working and traveling, Genevra attended Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, graduating *cum laude*. During her time at Wash U., she was admitted to the school’s Transnational Law Program, enabling her to spend a summer interning at the European Council on Refugees & Exiles in Brussels, Belgium and a semester studying abroad in Trento, Italy.

Lauren Anselowitz is a partner at the firm Harlan York and Associates. Named to Best Lawyers in America, her most noted accomplishments include successfully arguing multiple cases under the Convention Against Torture before the U.S. Immigration Court. The Executive Office for Immigration Review reported that less than 1% of these cases are granted. Ms. Anselowitz also won oral argument before the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals to vacate a deportation order for a client of the firm. In recent years, she has personally represented clients of Harlan York & Associates at Immigration Court and Service Offices in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Ms. Anselowitz is admitted to the Supreme Court of New Jersey, the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Ms. Anselowitz has been an adjunct professor of Immigration Law in the Justice Studies Department at Montclair State University. She has lectured at Rutgers University School of Law as well as before the New Jersey State Bar, the Federal Bar Association and the American Immigration

Lawyers Association. She was honored as a Super Lawyers Rising Star for four years. A graduate of North Carolina State University and Seton Hall Law School, Ms. Anselowitz earned a Master of Arts Degree from the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations. She also attended the American University in Cairo, Egypt and served in the field of international criminal law at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. She previously lived in Pretoria, South Africa and has spent time in Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Senegal, the Gambia, Ethiopia and Morocco.

David Bell graduated from the University of Pennsylvania (Wharton School) with a degree in accounting and finance. After college, David earned his law degree and LL.M. (Taxation) from New York University School of Law. After three years at the firm now known as Stinson LLP, David went to work as a trial attorney with the Public Defender's Office in Kansas City, Missouri. David remained with the Public Defender's Office for six years. While at the Public Defender's Office, David received the Charles M. Shaw Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy and was named one of the 16 Up & Coming Lawyers by the Missouri Lawyers Weekly in 2006. David joined the law firm of Wyrsh Hobbs & Mirakian, P.C. in July, 2007 and he is now a shareholder. His primary practice is criminal defense in state and federal courts.

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. After law school, he clerked for the Kansas Court of Appeals, and then worked as an associate attorney at an insurance-defense firm before joining the Johnson County Public Defender's Office in May of 2015. Since then, he has become a respected trial lawyer, obtaining acquittals in a host of felony jury trials, winning dispositive motions on several other cases, and obtaining dismissal on dozens more.

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, focusing primarily on person felony crimes. She has tried approximately 45 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 and volunteers much of her free time with Always and Furever Midwest Animal Sanctuary, a rescue located in Spring Hill, Kansas, that focuses on saving the lives of senior dogs in high kill shelters. Kelly also enjoys wine, KU basketball, traveling, coffee, and reading. She lives in Olathe with her husband, their son, 4 dogs and 1 mean cat.

Lindsay Gray is the CEO of VECINA, a nonprofit organization focused on mentoring pro bono attorneys representing asylum seekers before the Immigration Court. The organization provides training and mentoring for attorneys who do not have experience with immigration law but want to fight back against the terrible injustices perpetrated against asylum seekers. Lindsay is based in Austin, Texas and for the past seven years has run a small immigration firm representing clients in a wide variety of immigration matters. 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 (8) and Ellie (6).

Katelyn M. Hufe is a Partner at Gian-Grasso, Tomczak, & Hufe, P.C., in Philadelphia, PA. She focuses a significant portion of her practice on deportation defense, litigation, appeals and protecting clients with final orders of removal. Ms. Hufe is also an Adjunct Professor at Drexel University's Thomas Kline School of Law where she currently serves as Co-Director of the Federal Litigation and Appeals Clinic. Ms. Hufe has successfully litigated cases before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third and Sixth Circuits. Ms. Hufe handles various types of litigation cases, including asylum, cancellation of removal, adjustment of status, waivers, motions to reopen and motions to suppress evidence. She also handles business immigration, family immigration, and humanitarian-based applications. She is an active member of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and currently serves as the Secretary of the Executive Committee. Ms. Hufe served as the Philadelphia Ambassador for the American Immigration Council for 5 years and was honored with the Ambassador of the Year award at the 2018 AILA National Conference. She is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

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 was a lecturer on ethics in the US Army JAG Corps and taught Legal Ethics to undergrad paralegal students for many years. He continues to hear cases as a senior judge in Missouri state courts and to do mediations.

Davorin J. Odrdic is based in Milwaukee with a focus on removal defense and post-conviction relief for noncitizens. He is the author of the *Immigration Consequences of Wisconsin Criminal Offenses*, which was published by the State Bar of Wisconsin in 2015. Davorin also served as program chair for the Wisconsin State Bar's seminar titled *Beyond Padilla v. Kentucky: The Immigration Consequences of Criminal Convictions*. The seminar earned the State Bar a national award for Outstanding Achievement in Programs by the Association for Continuing Legal Education (ACLEA).

In 2014, the U.S. Department of Justice conferred the Distinguished Public Service Award on Davorin regarding his pro bono legal service for the family members of the victims of the violence at the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. For the past four years he has been selected in *Best Lawyers®* in the field of immigration law. Davorin is the former chapter chair for the Wisconsin chapter of AILA. He is a 2001 graduate of Notre Dame Law School.

Lorena Rivas is an experienced and accomplished trial attorney with the Tulsa Law Firm of the Lawyers of Kendall Whittier, 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. Additionally, she was selected to speak at the annual American Immigration Council's American Heritage Awards in Orlando, Florida for their American Dreams speech contest in July 2019. She is the past 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.

Hon. Lory D. Rosenberg is CEO of IDEAS Consultation and Coaching at www.loryrosenberg.com, a senior advisor and attorney at Immigrant Defenders Law Group, and a sought-after immigration lawyer, legal 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 business, personal and financial blocks, manage 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 American University, Washington College of Law, Director of the NLADA Defending Immigrants Partnership, Director of the AIC Legal Action Center, and founder of the Centro Presente, Central American asylum seekers' legal and pro bono programs. She previously participated in the Association of Refugee Law Judges, and presently is active in the former IJ and BIA Judges Roundtable. Ms. Rosenberg served as a member of the Board of the Federal Bar Association Immigration Law Section, was elected 3 times to the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Board of Governors, and is the recipient of its Arthur Helton Human Rights Award, and the Edith Lowenstein Award for advancing the practice of immigration law.

Michelle L. Saenz-Rodriguez is the co-founder of Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates in Dallas, Texas. Now in her 30th year of practice, Michelle is Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law by the State Bar of Texas. She started as a Judicial Law Clerk under the Attorney General's Honor Program for 7 Immigration Judges in Harlingen, Texas. She and her law partner (and husband), George Rodriguez, opened their own firm 26 years ago and have remained passionate advocates for immigrants from around the world.

Michelle is former Chair for the Texas Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. She is an Elected Director for the AILA Board of Governors and has served in that capacity for 3 years. She is also a member of IMMLAW which is a top tier group of immigration lawyers nationwide. Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates has been named one of the "Top Tier Immigration Law Firms in America" for almost two decades. Michelle has recently been awarded the 2020 W Page Keeton Award for Excellence in Continuing Legal Education from the University of Texas Law School. She is a member of the Bishop of Dallas Diocese Immigration Task Force. Michelle serves as Chair of the Governance Committee for the AILA BOG and also serves as the EOIR Liaison in Dallas, Texas.

Hon. Paul Schmidt was appointed as an Immigration Judge at the U.S. Immigration Court in Arlington, Virginia in May 2003 and retired from the bench on June 30, 2016. Prior to his appointment as an Immigration Judge, he served as a Board Member for the Board of Immigration Appeals, Executive Office for Immigration Review, in Falls Church, VA, since February 12, 1995. Judge Schmidt served as Board Chairman from February 12, 1995, until April 9, 2001, when he chose to step down as Chairman to adjudicate cases full-time. He authored the landmark decision *Matter of Kasinga*, 21 I&N Dec. 357 (BIA 1996), extending asylum protection to victims of female genital mutilation. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lawrence University in 1970 (cum laude), and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin School of Law in 1973 (cum laude; Order of the Coif). While at the University of Wisconsin, he served as an editor of the Wisconsin Law Review. Judge Schmidt served as acting General Counsel of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (“INS”) (1986-1987; 1979-1981), where he was instrumental in developing the rules and procedures to implement the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. He also served as the Deputy General Counsel of INS for 10 years (1978-1987). He was the managing partner of the Washington, DC, office of Fragomen, Del Rey & Bernsen (1993-95), and also practiced business immigration law with the Washington, DC, office of Jones, Day, Reavis and Pogue from 1987-92 (partner, 1990-92). Judge Schmidt also served as an adjunct professor of law at George Mason University School of Law in 1989 and at Georgetown University Law Center (2012-14; 2017-). He has authored numerous articles on immigration law, and has written extensively for the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Judge Schmidt is a member of the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, and the Wisconsin and District of Columbia Bars. Judge Schmidt was one of the founding members of the International Association of Refugee Law Judges (“IARLJ”). In June 2010, Judge Schmidt received the Lucia R. Briggs Distinguished Achievement Award from the Lawrence University Alumni Association in recognition of his notable career achievements in the field of immigration law. Since retiring, in addition to resuming his Adjunct Professor position at Georgetown Law, Judge Schmidt has established the blog immigrationcourtside.com, is a member of the Round Table of Former Immigration Judges, is an Americas Vice President of the IARLJ, serves on the Advisory Board of AYUDA, and assists the National Immigrant Justice Center/Heartland Alliance on various projects, as well as speaking, lecturing, and writing in forums throughout the country on contemporary immigration issues, due process, and U.S. Immigration Court reform.

Michael Sharma-Crawford is an aggressive litigator and compassionate advocate of fairness in immigration law. As a former law enforcement officer, Michael has a deep understanding of the challenges of immigration law enforcement, detention issues and litigation. Michael frequently handles complex immigration proceedings where current statutes require greater experience and understanding. Michael frequently lectures at the AILA national and mid-year conferences. He has also lectured about immigration law to the Kansas and Missouri Bar Associations, and Kansas and Missouri Public Defenders.

Michael was one of the attorneys who was counsel on the successful Supreme Court appeal, *Mellouli v. Lynch*, 135 S. Ct. 1980 (2015). He has successfully argued other cases before the Circuit Courts of Appeal and has handled many successful matters before the Board of Immigration Appeals. He is admitted to the District Courts of Kansas and Missouri and the Federal Appeals Court for the Second, Seventh, Eighth and Tenth Circuits. He is also a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Kansas Bar Association, Missouri Bar Association, Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association. Michael serves as ICE liaison for the local AILA Chapter. His former

service includes the Board of Directors for Kansas Legal Services, the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation, the Advisory Committee for the ABA Commission on Immigration and as a member of the USCIS Field Operations Liaison Committee for AILA.

Before becoming an attorney, Michael served nearly 15 years in the Sedgwick County, Kansas Sheriff's Department, and is scarily good at speaking "Good Ole Boy."

Rekha Sharma-Crawford's fiery advocacy for immigrant's rights and devotion to the rule of law has kept Rekha up all night more times than she can count. Her fearlessness has put Rekha in the local, national and even international spotlight as she's taken on extremely complex and high-profile cases that others have turned away. These cases are complicated further by the state of immigration laws and the court of public opinion. Rekha has an ability to articulate the law and its implications on cases that are anything but cut and dry. She has often turned the tide of misunderstanding and misinformation that plays out in television, print and social media, brought clarity to vague areas, and protected the fundamental right of due process.

Rekha is a respected and published contributor for legal journals and other publications. Her expertise in immigration law is sought out by clients and colleagues in the legal field, from judges and immigration official to lawmakers. Rekha is a frequent speaker at the American Immigration Lawyers' Association (AILA) national conference. She was also the Editor-in-Chief of The AILA Litigation Toolbox, a hands-on approach to litigating immigration issues and a contributing author for the AILA Waiver's Book. She has served on various other National Committees for AILA and is an Elected Director for the AILA Board of Governors, 2019-2023. Rekha is also a member of the Board for the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild 2020-2023. In 2018, the Kansas Bar Association honored Rekha with the Courageous Attorney Award, an award presented from time to time, to attorneys who have displayed exceptional courage in the face of adversity, thus bringing credit to the legal profession.

Rekha was the lead counsel in *Jamal v. Sessions*, 18-cv-06015 (W. Dist. MO. 2018); *Bringas-Rodriguez v. Jefferson Sessions*, III, et al, 18-70049 (9th Cir. 2018); *Matter of A-L*, (AAO Jan. 12, 2017); *Matter of Lemus*, 25 I&N Dec. 734 (BIA 2012), *Matter of Lemus*, 24 I&N Dec. 373 (BIA 2007), clarified; *Lemus-Losa v. Holder*, 576 F.3d 752,761 (7th Cir. 2009) and was part of the legal team on the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Kansas v. Garcia*, 140 S.Ct. 791 (2020). She regularly practices before the Federal District Courts on cases involving affirmative immigration benefits as well as the Courts of Appeal.

It is not Rekha's nature to sit out and hope for the best. Her personal and professional philosophy to make a meaningful difference in her community and country led to the birth of The Clinic at Sharma-Crawford ("The Clinic") a nonprofit organization. Rekha and her husband, Michael, established The Clinic to close the gap between low-income immigrants facing removal and the availability of qualified, affordable representation in the Kansas City Immigration Court. The Missouri Bar Association honored Rekha and Michael with its Pro Bono Publico Award in 2017.

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. He is a long-time supporter of The Clinic and is one of the founding members of the annual Trial College.