

ANNA R. WELCH

University of Maine School of Law
Portland, Maine

EDUCATION

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW, Washington, D.C.

Juris Doctorate, 2005
Summa Cum Laude, Order of the Coif, Top 1 % (rank: 4/554)
American University Law Review

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, Boulder, Colorado

Bachelor of Science, Journalism (News/editing), *highest distinction*, 2001
Bachelor of Arts, Spanish Language and Literature, *highest distinction*, 2001
Minor, Technology, Arts & Media, *highest distinction*, 2001
Phi Beta Kappa
Kappa Tau Alpha National Journalism Honor Society

TEACHING AND LEGAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SCHOOL OF LAW, Portland, Maine

Libra Visiting Professor, July 2012 – May 2014

Associate Clinical Professor, May 2014 – September 2016

Clinical Professor, September 2016 – Present

Sam L. Cohen Refugee and Human Rights Clinical Professor, July 2017 – Present

Courses: Refugee and Human Rights Clinic (founder and director); Immigration Law Seminar; PLUS Program

Designed, launched and supervise a live, in-house clinic in which second and third year students represent individual noncitizens in immigration matters and engage in community-based education and advocacy. Develop curriculum for classroom teaching, supervisory meetings, and case rounds. Supervise students on a range of cases and projects including: asylum, U visa applications, Violence Against Women Act petitions, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status petitions, community organizing and outreach, and advocacy reports and manuals. Focus on interviewing, counseling, fact development/investigation, negotiation, legal research, legal writing, oral argument, and problem-solving skills. Coordinate involvement with local legal aid organization, immigrants' right coalition, and other nonprofit organizations on referrals and collaborative projects.

Teach and develop the curriculum for the Immigration Law Seminar (3-credit course). Teach class on immigration consequences of criminal activity in First-Year Criminal Law course. Teach client interviewing and counseling in First-Year Professionalism course.

Supervise several students on independent writing projects and independent studies/projects related to immigration law and practice. Advise students on pursuing careers in immigration and human rights law.

Member of the following Maine Law faculty committees: Bar Exam Task Force (co-chair), Curriculum, Faculty Personnel Policies, DEI Taskforce. Meet with prospective students and give presentations at Admissions Office events.

STANFORD LAW SCHOOL, Stanford, California
Cooley Godward Kronish Fellow, July 2010 – June 2012
Course: Immigrants' Rights Clinic

Co-taught live, in-house clinic in which second and third year law students represented individual immigrants and engaged in multiple forms of immigration advocacy. Supervised students on a range of cases and projects including: deportation defense cases, Violence Against Women Act petitions; U visa applications; asylum applications; appellate litigation; advocacy reports; community organizing; and Know Your Rights materials.

Participated in curriculum development, classroom teaching and case rounds. Lectured on asylum law, domestic violence, client interviewing, working with interpreters, case theory and other select topics as part of weekly seminar.

Represented clinic clients in immigration courts, before administrative agencies, and in federal court litigation. Participated in local and national immigrants' rights coalitions.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SCHOOL OF LAW, Portland, Maine
Adjunct Professor, Immigration Law, Fall 2009

Designed curriculum for immigration law course and instructed approximately 20 second and third year law students on fundamentals of immigration law. Led discussion sessions and moot hearings on a range of immigration topics. Provided feedback on student work through one-on-one student meetings and final grading. Advised and counseled students within Maine Law's Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic on asylum cases.

VERRILL, LLP, Portland, Maine
Chair of Immigration Department, September 2006 – May 2010
Labor & Employment Associate, March 2007 – May 2010

Represented clients in a variety of family and employment-based immigrant and non-immigrant matters, naturalization, adjustment of status, waivers of inadmissibility, and removal defense. Represented immigrants seeking asylum (both at the affirmative and defensive levels) and protection under the Violence Against Women Act. Supervised associates handling complicated asylum, refugee and VAWA cases. Represented clients in state and federal court litigation and before state administrative agencies on a wide range of labor and employment matters.

Conducted extensive pro bono immigration work and awarded *Attorney of the Year* in 2008 by the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project.

REFUGEPOINT (FORMERLY MAPENDO INTERNATIONAL), Nairobi, Kenya
Human Rights Attorney, Protection Unit, January – March 2010

Handled dozens of urban refugee cases. Prepared Resettlement Referral Forms (RRFs) for submission to the U.S. and Australian governments. Prepared waivers of inadmissibility and otherwise advocated on behalf of refugees before the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the U.S. and Australian governments.

Collaborated with the UNHCR in addressing mechanisms in place to protect orphaned children and young girls.

J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIP, U.S. STATE DEPT., Lima, Peru
Fulbright Fellow, August 2005 – July 2006

Investigated the Peruvian government's ongoing efforts to privatize Peru's water system to determine whether those efforts effectively balanced efficiency goals with human rights needs. Monitored legislation, contracts, and various legal norms in place to regulate private and public water utilities.

Conducted interviews with, and gathered information from, local experts including regulatory professors at the University of the Pacific in Lima, officials at the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation, and the general manager and other key officials at SUNASS (Peru's federal water and sanitation regulatory agency).

Collaborated with Lima-based, non-profit organization DESCO to establish a public water management system in Chosica, one of Lima's "pueblos juvenes" (shantytowns).

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

Non-State Actors "Under Color of Law:" Closing a Gap in Protection under the Convention Against Torture, with SangYeob Kim (work-in-progress)

Integrating Skills and Collaborating Across Law Schools: An Example from Immigration Law, 16 NEV. L. J. 147 (2015) (with Jennifer Koh), available at <http://scholars.law.unlv.edu/nlj/vol16/iss1/6/>.

Comment, *Obligations of State and Non-State Actors Regarding the Human Right to Water under the South African Constitution*, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LAW & POLICY, Winter 2005

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND WRITINGS

Self Help Asylum Guide: Seeking Protection in the United States, the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic, Penn State Law in University Park Center for Immigrants' Rights Clinic, the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project and Thrive International Programs (January 2020), available at <https://mainelaw.maine.edu/news/rhrc-and-ilap-publish-self-help-guide-for-asylum-seekers/>

Anna Welch, Faculty Research, Blog Post "Student attorneys in Refugee & Human Rights Clinic win asylum case", November 2016, University of Maine School of Law, available at <http://mainelaw.maine.edu/faculty/student-attorneys-win-asylum/>

Asylum Seekers Come to Escape Persecution, Not Commit Fraud, BANGOR DAILY NEWS, Op-Ed, Aug. 29, 2015, available at <https://bangordailynews.com/2015/08/29/opinion/contributors/asylum-seekers-come-to-escape-persecution-not-commit-fraud/?ref=OpinionBox>.

LePage's Immigration Lawsuit has no Legal Basis. Instead, He Should Urge Congress to Act, BANGOR DAILY NEWS, Op-Ed, Dec. 29, 2014, available at <http://bangordailynews.com/2014/12/29/opinion/lepages-immigration-lawsuit-has-no-legal-basis-instead-he-should-urge-congress-to-act/>

Cutting Aid to Immigrants Comes with Too High a Cost, PORTLAND PRESS HERALD, Letter to the Editor, July 1, 2014, available at <http://www.pressherald.com/2014/06/28/letter-to-the-editor-cutting-aid-for-illegals-comes-with-too-high-a-cost/>

Anna Welch, Faculty Research, Blog Post, University of Maine School of Law, available at <http://mainelaw.maine.edu/faculty-highlights/tag/anna-welch/>.

A Guide to Applying for Asylum in the United States, Pro Se Asylum Manual, Refugee and Human Rights Clinic and the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, December 2013, available at http://mainelaw.maine.edu/academics/pdf/how_to_apply_for_asylum.pdf

Maine Voices: Comprehensive immigration reform remains essential for Maine's future, PORTLAND PRESS HERALD, Op-Ed, Anna Welch and Sue Roche (December 16, 2013), available at http://www.pressherald.com/opinion/Maine_Voices_Comprehensive_immigration_reform_remains_essential_for_Maine_s_future.html

Deciphering the Alphabet Soup: U.S. Visa Categories for Foreign Athletes, MOVES MAGAZINE, January 2009

Hiring Outside the H-1B Program, EMPLOYMENT LAW 360, July 18, 2008

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, AALS Clinical Conference, *Confronting Emotional Depletion: Making the Case for Rational Compassion*, April 2021

Presenter, Plenary Session, New England Clinicians' Conference, *Reimagining the Clinic Seminar through the Lens of Justice Lawyering*, March 2021

Co-Moderator, 28th Annual Judge Frank M. Coffin Lecture, Lee Galernt, *Challenging Immigration Policies: An Inside View from an ACLU Lawyer at the Center of the Fight*, October 2020

Presenter at the University of Maine's Graduate and Professional Center, Muskie School and Maine Law, *Understanding the COVID-19 Pandemic: Resilience and Recovery Speaking Series, Global Disparities in Impacts and Outcomes: Immigration Law* (June and October 2020)

Speaker, *Biden's First 100 Days: Immigration*, Maine Law (January 2021)

Presenter, Maine Conservation Voters, *Climate Change Refugees and the Impending Crisis* (Fall 2020): <https://www.maineconservation.org/lunchnlearn/climate-change-refugees-and-the-impending-crisis>

Selected Presenter at AALS Clinical Conference, May 2020, Orlando, Florida (cancelled because of the pandemic)

Presenter, Maine's Inn of Court, March 2020

Presenter, The MDI Racial Equity Working Group, *Immigration Law in These Challenging Times*, February 12, 2020, Bar Harbor, Maine (featured in this article: <https://www.mdislander.com/living/racial-equity-group-speaking-series>).

Guest Lecturer, *Immigration Consequences of Criminal Offenses*, March 2020 Criminal Law Class, Maine Law

Guest Lecturer, *Working with Immigrants in Maine*, Dartmouth College, January 2020

Speaker, Plenary Session, New England Clinicians' Conference, *Elevating Empathy in Legal Education*, November 1, 2019

Speaker, Greater Good Podcast, "Seeking Asylum in 2019," October 2019

Panelist, *Law as a Tool of Oppression*, Maine Law, April 2019

Presenter, College of the Atlantic, *A Conversation on Immigration* (Bar Harbor, May 2018)

Presenter, Immigration Professors' Conference, *Faculty Rounds: Bring us your most challenging supervisory moments* (Philadelphia, May 2018)

Presenter and Organizer, Maine State Bar Association, Continuing Education Program on Immigration, *Special Immigrant Juvenile Status* (December 12, 2017)

Presenter, 2017 Global Awareness and Responsibility Conference, *Immigration and Refugee Law and Policy* (USM, December 2, 2017)

Presenter, Concurrent Session, *Teaching Empathy to Millennials for These Tumultuous Times*, AALS Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education, May 7, 2017

Presenter, *Refugees and Global Migration: Humanity's Crisis*, 2017 Camden Conference Course, University of Maine, Orono, March 25, 2017

Panelist, University of Maine School of Law, *The Power of Executive Orders*, February 23, 2017

Panelist, University of Southern Maine, *The Path Forward – America After the Elections*, November 15, 2016

Panelist, University of Maine School of Law, *Election 2016: Implications and Impact*, November 15, 2016

Presenter, New England Clinicians Conference, Opening Concurrent Session, *Clinical Collaborations and Building Communities to Address the Holistic Needs of Immigrant Youth*, October 21-22, 2016

Panelist, Portland Public Library, *Choose Civility Series: Immigration*, October 11, 2016

Presenter, Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project Pro Bono Panel Training (CLE), *Representing Asylum Seekers in Removal Proceedings*, September 2016

Presenter, Maine State Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Series, Family Law Division, the intersection of immigration law with family law, Augusta, Maine, September 2015

Presenter, Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project Pro Bono Panel Training (CLE), *Representing Asylum Seekers in Removal Proceedings*, May 2015

Presenter, *Hot Topics in Immigration Law for 2014*, Maine State Bar Association, Legal Year in Review, Augusta, Maine, November 2014

Presenter, Plenary Panel, *Bridging Practice and Doctrine in the Survey Immigration Law Course Through Cross-Country Collaboration and the Infusion of Skills in the Classroom*, Immigration Professor Conference, UC Irvine, May 2014

Presenter, Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project Pro Bono Panel Training (CLE), *Representing Asylum Seekers in Removal Proceedings*, May 2014

Presenter, Maine State Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Series, Family Law Division, the intersection of immigration law with family law, Augusta, Maine, May 2014

Presenter, Concurrent Session on “The Law School Clinician as Part of and a Partner with the Community,” Association of American Law Schools, Clinical Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2014

Testified before Maine’s Department of Health and Human Services related to Proposed Rule 17P, which aims to cut General Assistance to certain immigrant groups, January 2014

Presenter, Pro Se Asylum Manual, Welcoming Immigrants Network, Portland, Maine, December 2013

Presenter, Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project Pro Bono Panel Training (CLE), *Representing Asylum Seekers in Removal Proceedings*, May 2013

Presenter, *Immigration Consequences of Criminal Activity*, Maine Violence Intervention Board, December 2012

Presenter, *Immigration Consequences of Criminal Activity*, Maine Judicial Conference, October 2012

Presenter, *Works-in-Progress Session, Key Components to Newly Established Legal Clinics in the 21st Century*, Association of American Law Schools, Clinical Conference in Seattle, Washington, June 2011

Speaker, *Stories from Africa – the Urban Refugee Dilemma*, University of Maine School of Law, April 19, 2010

Speaker, *Hot Topics in Immigration*, Maine State Bar Association Annual Meeting, January 2009

SELECT MEDIA APPEARANCES

Media appearances related to FOIA litigation against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (March 2021) [Portland Press Herald](#); [Bangor Daily News](#) (among a number of other news outlets including the [Associated Press](#))

Jaw American Civil Liberties Union of Maine Foundation v. US Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2:20-cv-00422, November 12, 2020 (in collaboration with ACLU-ME, the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project and the RHRC in seeking to compel production related to FOIA request we filed in 2019). Related press: [US News and World Report](#), [Associated Press](#), [Law360](#), [Maine Public Radio](#), [Portland Press Herald](#)

RHRC students in the news (Laredo Project): [National Jurist](#), [Portland Press Herald](#), [Maine Biz](#)

Mount Desert Islander, Racial Equity Group speaking series, February 3, 2020, *available at* <https://www.mdislander.com/living/racial-equity-group-speaking-series>)

Maine Public Radio, “Trump Administration Proposes Changes to the U.S. Asylum System,” November 14, 2019, *available at* <https://www.mainepublic.org/post/trump-administration-proposes-changes-us-asylum-system>

Bangor Daily News, “Making asylum seekers wait longer to work is misguided policy,” November 15, 2019, *available at* <https://bangordailynews.com/2019/11/15/opinion/editorials/making-asylum-seekers-wait-longer-to-work-is-misguided-policy/>)

Greater Good Podcast Series, “Seeking Asylum in 2019,” *available at* <https://umainecenter.org/podcasts/seeking-asylum-in-2019-008/>)

Portland Press Herald, “Asylum Seekers to Travel to Portland in Droves, Overwhelming City Services,” *available at* <https://www.pressherald.com/2018/12/23/asylum-seekers-travel-to-portland-in-droves-overwhelming-city-services/>

Portland Press Herald, “Federal presence leaves some Mainers wary,” *available at* <https://www.pressherald.com/2018/07/01/federal-presence-leaves-some-mainers-wary/>

Portland Press Herald, “Judge will decide by Friday whether Deering student can compete in poetry contest,” *available at* <https://www.pressherald.com/2018/04/18/judge-will-decide-friday-whether-deering-high-student-may-go-to-poetry-contest/>

The National Jurist, “Maine Law Students Provide Legal Aid at Federal Immigration Detention Center in Texas,” *available at* <http://www.nationaljurist.com/national-jurist-magazine/maine-law-students-provide-legal-aid-federal-immigration-detention-center>

Portland Press Herald, “The asylee: He fled the Congo after being tortured and threatened with death” *available at* <https://www.pressherald.com/2017/10/08/the-asylum-seeker-marcel-kabongo-mafuku-fled-the-congo-after-being-tortured-and-threatened-with-death/>

Boston Globe, “Maine refugees fear permanent separation from families under Trump,” *available at* <https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2017/01/26/maine-refugees-fear-permanent-separation-from-families-under-trump>

Portland Press Herald, “Trump’s plan to suspend resettlements raises fears for refugees in Maine,” *available at* <http://www.pressherald.com/2017/01/26/trump-plan-to-suspend-resettlements-upsets-refugees-in-maine/>

Portland Press Herald, "Maine's Refugee and Human Rights Clinic receives \$500,000 grant, available at <http://www.pressherald.com/2017/03/24/maines-refugee-and-human-rights-clinic-receives-500000-grant/>

Interview regarding work with Mapendo International (now RefugePoint) in Nairobi, Kenya, *Good Morning Maine*, FOX NEWS, April 8, 2010

Trevor Maxwell, *Lawyers Emphasize Big Need for Donated Aid*, PORTLAND PRESS HERALD, March 4, 2010

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND BAR ADMISSIONS

Admitted to practice in (1) Maine, (2) United States District Court, District of Maine, and (3) First Circuit Court of Appeals

The American Bar Association

The Association of American Law Schools

The Maine State Bar Association

The Clinical Legal Education Association

The American Immigration Lawyers Association, both its national association and its New England chapter

The Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition

The Asylum Working Group of Maine

AALS New England Clinicians group (member of planning committee)

The Immigrant Youth Working Group (co-founder with Professor Chris Northrop)