

TRANSFORMATIVE IMMIGRATION DEFENSE

LAW IN SUPPORT OF AN INTERSECTIONAL MOVEMENT

Friday, March 31

This spring, the City University of New York Law Review is hosting a Symposium exploring the role of legal practitioners at the intersection of aggressive federal immigration enforcement and emerging people's movements for racial, economic, and social justice. The Symposium will feature introductory remarks, a plenary session, two sets of panels, and a keynote address. The following panel descriptions are subject to change.

Opening Plenary

Featuring:

Jessica González-Rojas, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

Ramzi Kassem, Immigrant and Non-Citizen Rights Clinic and Creating Law Enforcement Accountability and Responsibility (CLEAR), CUNY School of Law

Abraham Paulos, Families for Freedom

Moderated by: **Shirley Lung**, CUNY School of Law and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

The opening plenary discussion will frame current issues facing organizers, attorneys, and advocates fighting for non-citizens' rights. The panelists will examine the ways in which directly impacted communities, organizers, and legal advocates can collaborate in support of an inclusive, intersectional movement. Together, we seek to defend and advance the rights and interests of all non-citizens, regardless of status or criminal history.

Intersectional Movement Building

Featuring:

Tania Mattos, Queens Neighborhoods United

Ben Ndugga-Kabuye, Black Alliance for Just Immigration

Diana Perez-Ramirez, Families for Freedom

Moderated by: **Jackie Mariano**, BAYAN-NYC

This panel will explore how legal advocates, organizers, and communities can best collaborate to protect their communities and advance people's movements for racial, economic, and social justice. In particular, this panel will address immigrant rights advocacy and organizing at the intersection of racial justice, residential and commercial displacement, police accountability, workers' rights, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) campaigns. Additionally, the panelists will discuss strategies for building inclusive, intersectional movements.

Redefining "Sanctuary"

Featuring:

Tarek Ismail, Creating Law Enforcement Accountability and Responsibility (CLEAR), CUNY School of Law

Azadeh Shahshahani, Project South

Josmar Trujillo, Coalition to End Broken Windows

Alisha Williams, 5 Borough Defenders

Moderated by: **Nicole Smith**, Criminal Defense Clinic, CUNY School of Law

In light of numerous cities' proclaimed "sanctuary city" status, this panel will explore what makes a city a true "sanctuary," and for whom. The panel will examine the current realities of collaboration between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and local law enforcement in jurisdictions from New York City to Georgia and discuss strategies to challenge that collaboration. Looking beyond the day-to-day fight for local resistance to ICE, panelists will speak to their own visions of what a true "sanctuary city" might look like.

Beyond Defense: Interdisciplinary Legal Advocacy

Featuring:

Nishan Bhaumik, NYC Anti-Violence Project

Elizabeth Gibson, Immigrant Protection Unit, NYLAG

Vichal Kumar, Civil Defense Practice, Neighborhood Defender Services

Susanna Saul, Her Justice

Moderated by: **Janet Calvo**, Health Law Practice Clinic, CUNY School of Law

The impact of non-citizen status extends far beyond immigration enforcement. This panel will focus on the unique challenges non-citizens face in accessing health care, housing, safety, education, licensing, and public benefits. How can non-citizens access these important daily necessities and how can advocates support non-citizen clients' legal challenges in these areas of their lives? Panelists will explore multi-disciplinary approaches to advancing immigrant rights in the criminal and civil legal systems, discuss supporting survivors of hate crimes, and present creative approaches to supporting youth impacted by intimate partner violence.

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Panel descriptions continued, subject to change.

Immigration Detention & Challenges

Featuring:

Anthony Enriquez, Immigrant Defense Project

Talia Peleg, Brooklyn Defender Services

Laura St. John, The Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project

Michael Tan, Immigrants' Rights Project, ACLU

Moderated by: **Luis Mancheno**, Immigration Justice Clinic, Cardozo School of Law

This spring, the constitutionality of mandatory detention is being reviewed by the Supreme Court. At the same time, the executive branch has recommitted to expanding the punitive and profit-minded incarceration scheme that feeds the deportation system. This panel will explore pending and future constitutional challenges to immigration detention and what happens on the ground when they succeed. The panel will also discuss how impact litigators and direct service advocates can better collaborate to ensure that people impacted by detention are able to take full advantage of the limited due process protections won in court. Topics highlighted include current challenges to punitively high bonds, frameworks for structural due process limitations for immigration detention, and creative strategies to support people seeking release.

Transforming the Role of Direct Service Providers

Featuring:

Maria Monica Andia, The Door

Ruben Loyo, Immigrant Rights Clinic, Yale Law School

Swapna Reddy, Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project, Urban Justice Center

Moderated by: **Nermeen Arastu**, Immigrant & Non-Citizen Rights Clinic, CUNY Law

The massive representation gap facing non-citizens interacting with the immigration and criminal legal systems is widely cited, but is simply making more attorneys available the answer? This panel will explore how direct service providers, particularly legal advocates working with immigrants, can better collaborate with their clients, social workers, and organizers to push beyond good legal outcomes. Working together, we can improve our clients' legal and overall health and safety without reinforcing the systems and structures that hurt and disempower them. Panelists will discuss the problems confronting direct service providers and their clients, present innovative models for integrating social work and legal representation and for serving clients across geographic barriers, and explore ideas for creative, persistent advocacy in the face of high demand and seemingly intractable legal hurdles.

Reframing the Border

Featuring:

Naz Ahmad, Creating Law Enforcement Accountability and Responsibility (CLEAR), CUNY School of Law

Nicole Hallett, Community Justice Clinic, SUNY Buffalo School of Law

Laura St. John, The Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project

Nabila Taj, Empire Justice Center

Moderated by: **Shaw Drake**, Human Rights First

This panel will explore the challenges faced by non-citizens seeking to enter the U.S. with or without authorization and the legal frameworks used to justify diminished rights at the border. The panel will also examine how the persistent rhetoric of national security and public safety is used to justify widespread violations of people's civil and human rights along the border and at ports of entry all over the United States. Panelists will discuss strategies to protect people passing through ports of entry, look to the pending expansion of the expedited removal scheme, previously only implemented within 100 miles of the border, and discuss the tenuous legal and conceptual distinction between "the border" and everywhere else.

Co-sponsored by:

The American Constitution Society, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association, Education & Law Society, If/When/How (formerly Law Students for Reproductive Justice), International Refugee Assistance Project, Jewish Law Students Association, Latin American Law Students Association, Muslim Law Students Association, the National Lawyers Guild, and the Sorensen Center for International Peace and Justice