

# Faiza W. Sayed

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## EDUCATION

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER**, Washington, D.C.  
L.L.M. in Advocacy with distinction received October 2020

**COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL**, New York, NY  
J.D. received May 2012

Honors: Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, James Kent Scholar (both awarded for academic excellence)  
Lowenstein Fellowship (awarded to one outstanding graduate who has demonstrated dedication to and exceptional promise for leadership in public interest law)  
Equal Justice America Fellowship

Activities: *Columbia Law Review* (Executive Sidebar Editor)  
Research Assistant to Professor Olatunde Johnson  
Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Empowering Women of Color, High School Law Institute

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA – LOS ANGELES**, Los Angeles, CA  
B.A., *magna cum laude*, in English and International Development Studies, received June 2009  
Honors: Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad Talent Scholarship, Dean’s Honors List, AmeriCorps Education Award  
Activities: Connecting Communities to UCLA, UCLA Bruins Corps, Project Literacy

## WORKS IN PROGRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

*Secret Law at the Board of Immigration Appeals* (work in progress)

- Selected for AALS 2022 Annual Meeting, Immigration Law Section, New Voices in Immigration Law Panel

*Terrorism and the Inherent Right to Self-Defense in Immigration Law*, 109 Calif. L. Rev. 615 (2021)

Note, *Challenging Detention: Why Immigrant Detainees Receive Less Process Than “Enemy Combatants” and Why They Deserve More*, 111 Colum. L. Rev. 1833 (2011)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL**, Brooklyn, NY  
*Assistant Professor of Law; Director, Safe Harbor Project* July 2021 – Present

*Visiting Professor of Clinical Law, Safe Harbor Project* Aug. 2020 – Present  
Teach and supervise law students representing immigrants in humanitarian immigration applications before USCIS. Co-teach weekly seminar on immigration law and developing advocacy skills. Conduct weekly case team meetings with students to evaluate, reflect on, and advance legal strategy, client representation, and student goals and performance. Provide extensive feedback on students’ legal writing, client counseling, and case preparation. Participate in and share responsibility for clinic management, including making intake decisions; developing a curriculum; developing, reviewing, and revising clinic policies/procedures; and selecting students.

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER**, Washington D.C. July 2018 – July 2020

*Clinical Teaching Fellow and Supervising Attorney, Center for Applied Legal Studies*  
Taught and supervised law students in a semester-long, ten-credit clinic, offered in spring and fall semesters, that represents asylum seekers in removal proceedings. Co-taught twice-weekly seminar on asylum law and developing legal practice skills. Conducted weekly case team meetings with students to evaluate, reflect on, and advance legal strategy, client representation, and student goals and performance. Provided extensive feedback on students’ legal writing, oral advocacy, and case preparation. Participated in and shared responsibility for clinic management, including making intake decisions; developing a curriculum; preparing a proposed budget; developing, reviewing, and revising clinic policies, procedures, and manuals; and selecting teaching fellows and students. Completed year-long “Elements of Clinical Pedagogy” course taught by Georgetown Law clinical faculty.

**IMMIGRANT DEFENSE EXTERNSHIP, COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL**, New York, NY Fall 2011

*Teaching Assistant for Maria Navarro and Olivia Cassin*

Updated course materials and syllabus, recruited students, coordinated with guest speakers, conducted mock client interviews with students, served as intermediary between students and field placement supervisors, and met with students individually to discuss externship experience and address concerns.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**NEW YORK LEGAL ASSISTANCE GROUP**, New York, NY June 2017 – June 2018

*Staff Attorney, LegalHealth Unit*

Provided advice and counsel and represented clients in affirmative and defensive immigration matters before USCIS, EOIR, and New York state courts, including in applications for asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, U visas, Violence Against Women Act petitions, medical deferred action, visa extensions, family-based petitions, adjustment of status, and naturalization. Conducted twice-weekly immigration legal clinics at Lincoln Hospital in Bronx, NY.

Trained and supervised paralegals.

**REFUGEE AFFAIRS DIVISION, U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**, Washington, D.C. July 2016 – June 2017

*Refugee Officer*

Interviewed applicants and adjudicated applications for refugee status. Drafted proposed policy. Conducted country conditions and legal research relating to refugee and asylum law. Assisted with trainings of new officers, security checks, and lifting of holds. Received highest academic standing in the Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate Combined Training course.

**SANCTUARY FOR FAMILIES**, New York, NY Sept. 2014 – July 2016

*Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow/Staff Attorney*

Represented survivors of gender-based violence and trafficking in affirmative and defensive immigration matters before USCIS, EOIR, and New York state courts, including in applications for asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, T and U visas, Violence Against Women Act petitions, adjustment of status, and naturalization. Conducted legal clinics and outreach with community-based organizations. Trained and supervised pro bono attorneys.

**THE HONORABLE KIMBA M. WOOD, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**, New York, NY Oct. 2013 – Aug. 2014

*Judicial Law Clerk*

**HER JUSTICE**, New York, NY Sept. 2012 – Sept. 2013

*Kirkland & Ellis New York City Public Service Fellow* (awarded to one graduating student)

Represented South Asian survivors of gender-based violence in immigration, family law, and matrimonial matters before USCIS and New York state courts. Conducted Know Your Rights presentations and legal clinics with community-based organizations. Trained pro bono attorneys.

**ACLU – IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS PROJECT**, New York, NY May 2011 – July 2011

*Legal Intern*

Conducted legal research and wrote legal memoranda relating to the ACLU's litigation challenging state immigration laws, prolonged immigrant detention, and the use of immigration detainees.

**NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND**, New York, NY Spring 2011

*Legal Intern, Political Participation Group*

Wrote legal memoranda concerning LDF's ongoing litigation under the Voting Rights Act (VRA). Researched state and VRA reauthorization legislative history, and federal case law concerning treatment of various voting practices.

**LEGAL AID SOCIETY – IMMIGRATION LAW UNIT**, New York, NY Fall 2010

*Extern*

Interviewed clients and family members, drafted affidavits, and drafted brief to the Board of Immigration Appeals. Researched country conditions, motions to reopen, and waiver issues.

**CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF LOS ANGELES**, Los Angeles, CA

June 2010 – July 2010

*Summer Law Clerk*

Drafted brief to the dependency court, interviewed clients and caretakers, and researched services available to clients.

### **SELECTED VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

**IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CORPS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, New York, NY

July 2017 – Present

Advise Immigration Justice Corps staff on issues relating to fellow and host recruitment and selection, fellow training, fellowship application and interview procedures, and other programmatic matters.

**AMERICAN FAZL MOSQUE**, Washington D.C.

July 2018 – May 2020

*Member, Women's Association*

*Outreach Director*

Participated in women's group meetings, events, and fundraising efforts. Planned and coordinated interfaith events, including annual Women's Interfaith Iftar.

**TAHIR ACADEMY**, Washington D.C.

July 2018 – June 2019

*Volunteer Teacher*

Taught "Basics of Islam" and "History of Islam" courses for Level 2/3 children enrolled in Tahir Academy.

**BAITUL TAHIR MOSQUE**, Brooklyn, NY

Sept. 2012 – July 2016; June 2017 – June 2018

*Member, Women's Association*

*Religious Training Director; Outreach Director*

Participated in women's group meetings, events, and fundraising efforts. Instructed members on religious teachings. Planned and coordinated interfaith events.

**IMMIGRANT DEFENSE PROJECT**, New York, NY

Jan. 2016 – June 2016

*Hotline Volunteer*

Provided legal advice to attorneys and noncitizens regarding immigration consequences of criminal convictions.

**RAICES**, San Antonio, Texas

September 2015

*Volunteer Attorney, Family Detention Pro Bono Project*

Prepared detained families for credible fear and reasonable fear interviews. Drafted parole requests and advocated for the removal of ankle bracelets.

### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS**

#### *Addressing Immigration Law*

- Building an Anti-Racist Curriculum, Brooklyn Law School; May 2021
- COVID-19 and the Constitution Seminar, Brooklyn Law School; November 2020
- Clinic Speaker Series, Brooklyn Law School; October 2020
- Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship Lunch, Brooklyn Law School; October 2020
- D.C. Affordable Law Firm; October 2018, October 2019
- Perseus Strategies, LLC; July 2019
- Pediatric Grand Rounds, Lincoln Hospital; March 2018
- Gibson, Dunn, & Crutcher; April 2016
- Arab American Association of New York; June 2015
- Sakhi for South Asian Women; August 2013

#### *Cultural Competency and Anti-Racism*

- Building an Anti-Racist Curriculum, Brooklyn Law School; May 2021
- Queens Family Justice Center (South Asian survivors of abuse); December 2015
- New York Immigration Coalition (immigrant survivors of abuse); September 2015

- Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe (cultural competency); September 2013

*Addressing Family Law*

- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Advocates Meeting; June 2013
- South Asian Bar Association of New York; June 2013

*Know Your Rights Presentations*

- Sakhi for South Asian Women; June 2013
- Her Justice; October 2012

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:** Ahmadi Muslim Lawyers Association.

**BAR ADMISSIONS:** Admitted in New York and California (currently inactive).