



Immigration Court Trial Advocacy College

Arrest, Detention and Release

Kansas City, MO
April 24-26, 2025

Faculty Bios

Lauren Anselowitz is a partner at Harlan York and Associates. For the firm she focuses on detention and removal cases and the impact of a client's criminal history on his/her immigration status. 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 arguments before the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Annelise Araujo is the founder and principal at Araujo & Fisher in Boston. Attorney Araujo has over 18 years of practice in immigration, including removal and family-based, employment-based and humanitarian applications. She currently serves as the Chair of the American Immigration Lawyer Association (AILA) National Removal Defense Section Steering Committee and as a liaison on the EOIR National committee. She is a past chair of the New England chapter of AILA. She represents clients before the First, Second, Fifth and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals, U.S. District Court for the Districts of Massachusetts, Vermont, and Nebraska, the Immigration Courts, the Board of Immigration Appeals and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. She was named a Boston Magazine Top Lawyer for 2021-2024. She is a nationally recognized thought leader and is a frequent speaker on the latest developments in immigration law. She serves on the Boards of Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) and Pathways for Immigrant Workers. She is a graduate of University of Toledo College of Law.

David Bell: After obtaining a business degree and tax law degree, Mr. Bell worked as a tax and estate planning attorney at a big firm where he was paid a bunch of money. Without intending to cause his parents the resulting heart palpitations, Mr. Bell then left to serve as a trial attorney with the Missouri Public Defender's System in Jackson County, Missouri where he remained for over six years. After representing thousands of clients in matters ranging from misdemeanor assault to first degree murder, Mr. Bell joined the Wyrsh Hobbs Mirakian P.C. in 2007 where he is now a shareholder representing persons in federal, state and local criminal matters. David loves learning from and helping immigration lawyers because it reminds him that he doesn't have it so bad on the criminal law side of things after all. When not practicing law and spending time with his family, Mr. Bell is a host of Jaws of Justice (90.1 FM KKFI).

Aditya Chothani is a Master of Arts candidate in Psychology in Education at Columbia University. He also holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from George Washington University and a diploma in Vedanta Philosophy. As a Positive Psychology Practitioner, he blends research-based insights with a profound understanding of human behavior to drive personal and organizational growth. Aditya's professional journey spans diverse sectors, including strategy consulting and investment banking, where he developed a nuanced understanding of organizational dynamics and business operations. This foundation has shaped his ability to design strategic initiatives that enhance employee engagement, retention, and performance. His collaborative approach to addressing complex challenges integrates workplace wellness with data-driven strategies for sustainable program improvement. Across all his roles, Aditya is committed to fostering growth, well-being, and a culture of continuous learning. His diverse expertise empowers individuals and organizations to unlock their full potential, paving the way for meaningful and enduring success.

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 served as a two-year term clerk 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, Nathan has become a well-respected trial lawyer: He has tried 15 felony cases to jury verdict, several of which resulted in acquittals. Nathan also is known as a skilled and creative motions writer, and is successful in sentencing mitigation. In his spare time, he is an avid traveler and concert-goer; a serviceable partner and father; and a non-ineffective basketball and tennis player.

Kelly Driscoll received her Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law in 2005. After spending a year in private practice, 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. In addition to her work at the PD's office, Kelly is an instructor at Hutchinson Community College, where she teaches online courses to those working towards a paralegal degree. She lives in Olathe, Kansas with her husband, son, several dogs and 1 mean cat.

Angel Graf is the Directing Attorney for the Las Vegas Office of the Immigration Center for Women and Children (ICWC). ICWC is a non-profit legal organization providing free and affordable immigration services to underrepresented immigrants in California and Nevada. ICWC strives to provide security and stability for children who are abused, abandoned, or neglected and for immigrants who are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes. Angel received her B.A. from Elmhurst College, her M.A. in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University, and her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law. In a previous life, Angel worked in International Development and Human Rights. In 2008 she decided to pursue Immigration Law and during her time in Law School volunteered, worked, and interned with several organizations including Life Span Center for Legal Services and Advocacy, World Relief Chicago, the DePaul Immigration Clinic, and ProBAR. In 2012 Angel joined the Kansas City Immigration Court as an Attorney Advisor through the Department of Justice Honors Program. She left government service in 2014 to join ICWC in San Francisco, CA, where she worked until 2019, helping to develop their growing removal practice. In June of 2019 Angel opened the ICWC office in Las Vegas, Nevada where she oversees a diverse caseload of removal defense, humanitarian-based protection, and affirmative relief. Angel also manages

ICWC Las Vegas's Unaccompanied Children program and provides trainings on issues related to humanitarian relief and removal.

Hon. Edward ("Ed") F. Kelly teaches Refugee Law and Policy at Georgetown Law, and Immigration Law at George Mason University Scalia School of Law, both in the Washington, D.C. area.

Mr. Kelly previously served in several positions in the United States Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). These included positions as Appellate Immigration Judge at the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), and Deputy Chief Immigration Judge, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Senior Counsel and Chief of Staff, and Counsel for Operations in the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge (OCIJ). Mr. Kelly also served as Acting Assistant Director, Office of Administration (EOIR) and Senior Legal Advisor, Team Leader, and Attorney Advisor at the BIA. During his tenure at OCIJ, Mr. Kelly also supervised the Immigration Judge Training program and the offices of Conduct and Professionalism and Vulnerable Populations. Mr. Kelly also served EOIR as liaison to the Congressional Appropriations staff in the House of Representatives, and the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Kelly's experiences outside the Department of Justice include positions as an Assistant Counsel to the United States House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and International Law; and as a high school teacher of humane letters. Mr. Kelly graduated from the University of Notre Dame, received his J.D. Degree from Notre Dame Law School, and is currently pursuing an M.A. in Classical Studies at Villanova University. Prior to his legal career, he served as a volunteer teacher with the United States Peace Corps in Gabon, Africa.

Patrick Lewis graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1988. He then obtained an LLM in Litigation from Emory University in Atlanta. Patrick began his practice on April 26, 1989 at the Sedgwick County Public Defender's office. He transferred to the Johnson County Public Defender's office in September 1993. At the public defender's office, his caseload was limited to felony criminal defense. Patrick eventually took over as Chief Public Defender in that office. Finding administration much less fun than the courtroom, he left BIDS in 2008. After a brief stint with a small criminal defense firm, he hung his solo shingle.

Patrick limits his practice to criminal defense in Kansas state and municipal courts. He has taught at the Washburn University School of Law as an adjunct professor in their trial advocacy program for twenty some years. He has taught continuing legal education on topics which include ethics, voir dire, billing, evidence, trial presentation, search and seizure, jail credit, and who knows what else. He is the Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and has held that post for twenty plus years. That and five bucks might get you a cup of coffee. Patrick stopped counting jury trials at about 80. He never kept track of bench trials, although those have been fewer. Although he will not accept sex cases any longer, he will defend just about anything else. He probably spends half his time with drug cases.

Sarah Owings is a partner at Owings MacNorlin, LLC, based in Atlanta, GA. She obtained her Juris Doctor degree from the Georgia State University's College of Law in 2007 and she has practiced immigration law exclusively since that time. Sarah has experience in representing foreign nationals in a variety of immigration proceedings including removal defense, family-based petitions, humanitarian forms of relief, and asylum proceedings. Sarah served as an elected director on the Board of Governors of the American Immigration Lawyers Association

from 2017-2023. Sarah currently serves on AILA's national ICE and CBP Liaison Committees as well as the Removal Defense Section Steering Committee. She has been involved in immigration advocacy and support efforts at the state and local level throughout her career and she is frequently asked to speak at continuing legal education programs and to provide commentary to the media on the rapidly changing immigration landscape. She lives in Atlanta and is a member in good standing of the Georgia Bar.

Hon. Susan G. Roy began her legal career through the Department of Justice Attorney General Honors Program, as an Attorney Advisor at the Board of Immigration Appeals. She became an Assistant Chief Counsel and National Security Attorney for ICE. From 2008-2010, she served as an Immigration Judge in Newark, NJ. Sue then entered private practice and is a solo practitioner specializing in complex criminal immigration cases. Sue is the former Chair of both the AILA-NJ Chapter and the NJ State Bar Association (NJSBA) Immigration Law Section. She is currently on the AILA Distance Learning Committee and the Removal Defense Steering Committee. Sue is a member of the Round Table of Former Immigration Judges and has been a speaker and/or moderator for many AILA national, regional and local conferences, as well as NJSBA, NYSBA, the Federal Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and many others. She is also the servant to four furry feline overlords.

Hon. Lory Rosenberg is renowned for her distinguished work as a former appellate immigration judge (Board Member) on the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), and is a sought-after immigration lawyer, mentor and certified business and personal development coach. Ms. Rosenberg's legal mission is to elevate the cause of fairness and justice, establish best practices in the immigration law community, and champion due process for immigrants and refugees. She currently works on immigration law issues and cases with select law practices and individual counsel, and is active in the Round Table of Former Immigration Judges.

Ms. Rosenberg provides cutting-edge legal strategies to resolve complex immigration issues. Her legal expertise spans removal defense, asylum protection, waivers, "crim-imm," and immigration benefits. Her work covers administrative BIA appeals and motions, federal district court litigation and federal circuit court petitions for review in multiple circuits, as well as amicus curie representation. She mentors and coaches immigration attorneys, helping them acquire the techniques, confidence and expertise necessary to handle challenging issues and develop fulfilling immigration practices.

Ms. Rosenberg is the co-author of *Immigration Law and Crimes*, and a national and international speaker, trainer and writer. While serving on the Board of Immigration Appeals between 1995 and 2002, she reviewed over 20,000 appeals and personally wrote more separate opinions than written by former and current Board Members, combined.

Ms. Rosenberg taught multiple immigration and refugee law courses as an adjunct professor at AU Washington College of Law, and was a featured editor for *Benders Immigration Bulletin*. She served as the Director of Advocacy and Policy for Amnesty International, the Director of the NLADA Defending Immigrants Partnership, and the Director of the AIC Legal Action Center. She established the Centro Presente Central American refugee legal and pro bono programs, and was an active member of the International Association of Refugee Law Judges, the Federal Bar Association, and AILA, serving 3 terms on its Board of Directors.

Ms. Rosenberg is a recipient of AILA's Arthur Helton Human Rights Award, and AILA's Edith Lowenstein Award for Advancing the Practice of Immigration Law, as well as the recipient of numerous acknowledgments for her contributions to the field. She is a 1976 graduate of Northeastern School of Law and licensed in Massachusetts and the District of Columbia.

Michelle Saenz-Rodriguez is the co-founder of Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates in Dallas, Texas. Now in her 33rd year of practice, Michelle was a Judicial Law Clerk under the Attorney General's Honor program for Executive Office for Immigration Review in Harlingen, Texas. Michelle is Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law by the State Bar of Texas. She practices immigration law with an emphasis on removal litigation. Michelle and her husband George established their own practice in 1995 and represent immigrants from all over the world. Michelle has been selected several times as a "Texas Super Lawyer" by Texas Monthly Magazine and has been named one of the "Best Lawyers in America" in Immigration for over 20 years. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), where she serves as a member of the Board of Governors. She is a member of IMMLAW which is a nationally recognized top tier group of immigration lawyers. Michelle is an Adjunct Professor at SMU Dedman School of Law and in 2020 she was the Recipient of the W. Page Keeton Award for Excellence in Continuing Legal Education by the University of Texas Law School. She volunteers much of her time to mentor young or newly admitted lawyers and is active in her community.

Elina Magaly Santana, Esq. is an immigration attorney at Santana Rodriguez Law, P.A., a firm based in Miami, Florida with clients nationwide. She focuses her immigration practice on removal defense, waivers, family and marriage-based residency, and asylum. Elina is a past chapter chair of AILA South Florida and serves on AILA national's USCIS case assistance committee and annual conference committee. Elina is a Board Member for Capital Good Fund, one of the administrators of "Nerdy Immigration Lawyers" on Facebook, and manages 20+ immigration specific Whatsapp mentoring groups containing thousands of attorneys nationwide. Elina earned her JD from Boston University (BU) School of Law and her BA in both Sociology and Spanish Literature at New York University (NYU) with high honors. She is a fluent Spanish speaker and was raised in Miami, Florida by a proud Cuban American immigrant family.

Judge (Retired) Paul Wickham 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 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 a partner at Sharma-Crawford Attorneys at Law. He has been defending non-citizens in removal proceedings for more than 20 years. An accomplished and well recognized litigator and passionate advocate of fairness in immigration law. As a former law enforcement officer, Michael has a deeper understanding of the challenges of immigration law enforcement, detainment 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 Lawyer’s 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.

Rekha Sharma-Crawford is an expert in the field of immigration law. She has taken on many complex, high-profile cases and focuses on removal defense issues, trial advocacy and federal litigation. In 2023, Rekha was elected the first South Asian American Secretary for the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA); she is currently serves as Treasurer for the 2024-2025 term. In 2023, Rekha was a member of the AILA Amicus Committee when the committee was awarded AILA’s Jack Wasserman Memorial Award. In 2021, Rekha had previously been nationally recognized by AILA by being awarded the Edith Lowenstein Memorial Award for excellence in advancing the practice of immigration law. In 2018, the Kansas Bar Association honored her with the Courageous Attorney Award for having displayed exceptional courage in the face of adversity. She is also the author of two children’s books, [Aaliyah the Brave. Empowering Children Coping with Immigration Enforcement](#), released in 2022 and her new book, [Finding Freedom, Empowering Young Survivors of Human Trafficking](#), released in 2023. The net profits from the sale of the books are divided between 2 nonprofits: The Clinic at

Sharma-Crawford, which provides removal defense to indigent individuals in the Kansas City Immigration Court, and the National Immigration Litigation Alliance.

Erich C. Straub is an attorney concentrating in fiancé and marital visas, family immigration, citizenship, asylum, and deportation defense. He has been licensed since 1994. He has been recognized since 2006 in Best Lawyers. Since 2018, he has been a faculty member at the Trial College. He is also founder and chair of the yearly AILA Chicago Courtroom Skills Workshop. From 2006 to 2103, he was a faculty member at the American Immigration Counsel's Litigation Institute.