

LAURIS WREN

Hofstra Law School Political Asylum Clinic
108 Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY 11549

EDUCATION

Columbia University Law School, New York, NY
J.D. degree 1993. VG+ average. Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar (honors student).
Charles Evans Hughes Fellow. Public Interest Award (1993).

Columbia University School of Social Work, New York, NY. E- average.

Williams College, Williamstown, MA.

BA degree, magna cum laude, June 1988. Phi Beta Kappa. Psychology/English double major.

University of Durham, Durham, England. English and Psychology. 1986-87.

EXPERIENCE

Hofstra Law School, Political Asylum Clinic, Hempstead, New York, August 2003-present. Associate Clinical Professor and Attorney-In-Charge of the Political Asylum Clinic. Began the Political Asylum Clinic at Hofstra, teaching law students political asylum law and supervising their representation of political asylum applicants, including clients from Nepal, Congo, Chad, Trinidad, Albania, Haiti, Chile, Nigeria, Tibet, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Venezuela, and Peru. Although taking extremely challenging cases, the Clinic has never lost a case. Students also represented applicants for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. In collaboration with the Child Advocacy Clinic, the Political Asylum Clinic provided training to Family Court judges, Department of Social Services attorneys, and Law Guardians on Special Immigrant Juvenile Petitions and provided the Department of Social Services immigration assistance with those cases.

August 2004 – present: **Immigration Law**. Teach students both the policies behind and the practical applications of the immigration laws of the United States.

Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund, Inc, Community Outreach Law Program, Director, Refugee Assistance Program, January 2001 – present. Recruited, trained, and supervised *pro bono* attorneys in the representation of immigrants applying for political asylum. Provided direct representation on additional immigration cases, including Special Immigrant Juvenile petitions. Conducted community immigration clinics. Following September 11th, 2001, coordinated and provided immigration assistance to victims and their families; also coordinated and provided immigration assistance to immigrant communities targeted by government policies and bias attacks in the wake of September 11th.

Human Rights Mission to Malaysia, May-June 2002. Participated in a study of the Internal Securities Act and related Malaysian laws by the Fordham Law School Crowley Program in International Human Rights.

Human Rights Mission to Mexico, Summer 2000. Translated for and assisted a study of the Mexican criminal justice system by the Fordham Law School Crowley Program in International Human Rights and the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights.

Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN), Hempstead, NY. May 1997 – April 2000. Represented Central Americans, primarily Salvadorans, in political asylum and suspension of deportation cases. Conducted public outreach and educational meetings with the Central American community regarding immigration issues. Designed and implemented programs surrounding immigration legislation. Lobbied for legislation on behalf of Central Americans. Assisted Central Americans living on Long Island with other legal and civil rights concerns.

Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), San Jose, Costa Rica. Summer 1999. Represented the victims of human rights abuses in cases against the governments of various Latin American countries in front of the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Other experience includes: The Legal Aid Society, Criminal Appeals Bureau, New York, NY. 1993-96. Represented indigent clients on appeal from criminal convictions and in ancillary proceedings; **Morningside Heights Legal Services**, New York, NY. 1991-93. Legal intern at family advocacy clinic. Represented clients in family court cases involving foster care and payment of benefits; **Community Service Society**, New York, NY. 1992-93. Legal intern in eviction prevention program; **Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal**, New York, NY. Summer 1992. Summer associate in litigation department. Worked on briefs, opinion letters, and memoranda on procedural and substantive issues in cases involving commercial litigation and insurance; **Covenant House, Rights of Passage**, New York, NY. Nov. 1988 – May 1989: counseled homeless youth in residential program. May – Sept. 1989: unit coordinator – trained and supervised staff.

Extensive pro bono and volunteer work, including with **Network for Women's Services (now InMotion)** obtaining orders of protection for victims of domestic violence and with **The Door's Legal Services Center**, working with immigration issues for young people and educational/school issues.

Professional Memberships: Association of the Bar of the City of New York, Committee on International Human Rights, Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

PERSONAL

Extensive athletics (soccer, running, tennis). Bicycled 3,500 miles across U.S. Ran NYC marathon. Extensive traveling, especially in Latin America. Fluent in Spanish.