

Alexander T. Holtzman, Esq.

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Summary

Clinical law professor and deportation defense immigration attorney admitted in New York state by the Second Judicial Department and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Bilingual in English and Spanish.

Academic and Legal Experience

Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN NY)

Board Member

Hempstead, NY

Dec 2024 – Present

Hofstra University Maurice A. Deane School of Law

Director of Deportation Defense Clinic, Assistant Clinical Professor of Law

Hempstead, NY

July 2024 – Present

- Leads clinic, class, and casework. Supervises law students in deportation defense and in pursuing immigration relief such as by filing motions to reopen removal orders, T visas for trafficking survivors, U visas for crime victims, and defending clients falsely accused of gang membership. Won impact litigation campaigns, including ending Nassau County police unlawful ICE detainer arrest policy. Fundraised around \$1.5 million for clinic and Long Island Immigration Advocacy Fellowship. Teaches law students in annual Immigration Law and Border Enforcement study-abroad program at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Director of Deportation Defense Clinic, Visiting Clinical Associate Professor of Law

Sept 2019 – July 2024

Safe Passage Project

Staff Attorney II

New York City, NY

Sept 2018 – Aug 2019

- *Pro bono* legal services in English and Spanish for immigrant youth seeking humanitarian relief from deportation such as special immigration juvenile status and asylum. Represented separated youth and unaccompanied minors, mentored *pro bono* attorneys, and supervised law students.

Immigrant Justice Corps Justice Fellow and Staff Attorney I

Sept 2016 - Sept 2018

U.S. Court of Appeals in the Sixth Circuit, Honorable Jeffrey S. Sutton

Judicial Extern

Columbus, OH

Aug - Dec 2015

- Legal research and writing on state constitutional law and federal court litigation, including immigration.

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI)

Legal Intern

New York City, NY

May - Aug 2015

- Legal work and screenings for immigration, health, and civil rights issues. Legal screening at Rikers Island.

The Ohio House of Representatives, State Representative Michael Stinziano

Legislative Clerk

Columbus, OH

Jan - May 2015

- Wrote bills, testimony, and legal memoranda for Ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee.

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Professor Amna Akbar

Research Assistant

Columbus, OH

May - Nov 2014

- Legal research and writing on the civil-criminal divide, terrorism prosecutions, and community policing.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Office of the Chief Counsel

Legal Intern

Washington, D.C.

May - July 2014

- Legal work for the Adjudications Law and Refugee/Asylum Law Divisions.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)*Legal Intern*

Columbus, OH

March - Dec 2014

- Organized law students to host a series of “know your rights” conferences on constitutional rights.

Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity (BREAD)*Senior Community Organizer*

Columbus, OH

July 2010 - June 2013

- Led campaigns to improve housing, healthcare, education, jobs, and immigration policies. Won \$11+ million to combat vacant housing, and \$1.5+ million to create jobs through small business incubators. Turned out 750+ people per year to an annual advocacy event. Fundraised \$50,000+ each year. Interviewed and trained staff.

Farmworker Legal Services*Legal Intern*

Bangor, MI

Aug – Sept 2009

- Outreach to 100+ migrant camps for farmworker civil rights and Michigan Civil Rights Commission report.

E d u c a t i o n

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

Juris Doctor, June 2016. GPA: 3.716/4.0. Top 25%.

Columbus, OH

The Ohio State University John Glenn College of Public Affairs

Master of Arts Public Policy, June 2016. GPA: 3.793/4.0.

Columbus, OH

Kalamazoo CollegeBachelor of Arts English, minor in Political Science, June 2010. *Magna cum laude*. GPA: 3.759 /4.0.

Kalamazoo, MI

Universidad San Francisco de Quito, 2008-2009, study abroad and grant.

Quito, Ecuador

S e l e c t V o l u n t e e r a n d A w a r d s

- President and member of The Ohio State University chapter of the American Constitution Society. (2013-16).
- Scholarship for Outstanding Law Student and Federal Judicial Externship. Federal Bar Association. (2015).
- Leadership Award, awarded to one first year law student per class. The Ohio State University. (2013-14).
- Founder and president of Migrant Rights Action, a Kalamazoo College student organization (2009-10).
- Vice president of Helping Youth through Personal Empowerment, a student organization mentoring incarcerated youth in the Kalamazoo County juvenile jail. (2007-10).

S e l e c t S c h o l a r s h i p a n d M e d i a

Publications

- Holtzman, A.T., Sizer, D. ICE Un-Documented: How Campos-Chaves Allows ICE to Disobey Congress with Defective Notices to Appear. (Forthcoming).
- Brown, A., Holtzman, A.T. (2025). Deportation Defense Clinic Assists Non-Citizens Most at Risk of Being Deported. *The Robert and Priscilla Livingston Center for Children, Families and the Law Magazine*. [See article.](#)
- Fuzailov, J., Holtzman, A.T. (2023). Reflections from Friendship Park. *ImmigrationProf Blog*. [See article.](#)
- Holtzman, A.T. (2022). Border Enforcement Program Reflection. *ImmigrationProf Blog*. [See article.](#)
- Porcari, E., Holtzman, A.T. (2021). Distinguishing *Nivelo-Cardenas*. I-ARC The Labyrinth. [See article.](#)
- Appellate briefs filed with the Board of Immigration Appeals and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, among other courts, available upon request. (2019 – Present).

- Holtzman, A.T. (2016). Misery Acquaints a Man with Strange Bedfellows: A Plan to Pass Immigration Reform. *UCLA Chicana/o-Latina/o Law Review*, 34(1), 67-100. [See article.](#)
- Holtzman, A.T. (2015). A Modest Proposal: Legalize Millions of Undocumented Immigrants with the Change of a Single Statutory Date. *Indon. J. Intl. &Comp. L.*, 2: 133-160. [See article.](#)

Press

- “New U.S. citizenship test longer, covers more material,” *Newsday*, www.newsday.com (September 20, 2025). [See video.](#)
- “NY Law Schools See New Interest in Immigration Classes, Clinics” by Beth Wang, www.news.bloomberglaw.com (Aug. 8, 2025). [See article.](#)
- “Mass Deportations and the Rule of Law: A Conversation with the Deportation Defense Clinic’s Director” by Greg FeFreitas, *Regional Labor Review at Hofstra University* vol. 27, no. 2 (Spring 2025). [See article.](#)
- “ICE Is Working With Long Island Police. A Lawsuit Calls That Illegal” by Luis Ferré-Sadurní, *New York Times*, www.nytimes.com (June 24, 2025). [See article.](#)
 - Also covered by [Associated Press](#); [The Washington Post](#); [Newsday \(June 25, 2025\)](#) and [\(June 24, 2025\)](#); [Bloomberg Law](#); [City and State New York](#); [News12 Long Island](#); [PIX11](#); and [WTOP News](#).
- “Travel ban from 12 countries called racist, economically damaging by local immigration advocates and experts” by Lorena Mongelli, *Newsday*, www.newsday.com (June 12, 2025). [See article.](#)
- “Suffolk County, East Hampton on list of ‘sanctuary jurisdictions’ published by Trump administration” by Nicholas Spangler, www.newsday.com (June 11, 2025). [See article.](#)
- “Experts on Long Island urge caution for immigrants considering self-deportation” by Lorena Mongelli, *Newsday*, www.newsday.com (June 11, 2025). [See article.](#)
- “Birthright citizenship: ‘They were born here. This is their country,’ says LI mother of two who traveled to Washington, D.C. for Supreme Court hearing” by Lorena Mongelli, *Newsday*, www.newsday.com (May 15, 2025). [See article.](#)
- “Northern border officials eye Trump immigration orders with hope, concern” by Keshia Clukey, *Newsday*, www.newsday.com (April 2, 2025). [See article.](#)
- “Hofstra law students offer lifeline for immigrants facing deportation” by Brooklyn Dottin, *Long Island Advocate*, www.longislandadvocate.com (March 14, 2025). [See article.](#)
- “Indian Student Arrested In US | Alexander Holtzman Discusses Human Rights Under Trump Administration” *India Today Global Interview* (March 31, 2025). [See interview.](#)
- “Hofstra Law Deportation Defense Clinic Provides Crucial Assistance to Immigrants” by Hofstra University Law News, www.lawnews.hofstra.edu (March 17, 2025). [See article.](#)
- “Hofstra prof. speaks on fighting deportation amid Trump crackdown” *Long Island Advocate*, Interview with Scott A. Brinton, www.longislandadvocate.com (January 29, 2025). [See article.](#)
- “Alexander Holtzman On Trump’s Immigration Policy, Birthright Citizenship & Indian Immigrants” *India Today* (January 23, 2025). [See video.](#)
- “On the northern border: Illegal crossings rise along New York’s 445-mile boundary with Canada” by Keshia Cluckey, *Newsday*, www.newsday.com (January 11, 2025). [See article.](#)
- “Suoizzi Victory: What’s Next for Migrants on Long Island?” by Sophia Moore-Smith, *Journal of Political Inquiry*, www.jpinyu.com (May 13, 2024). [See article.](#)
- “Hofstra Law Hosts Long Island Legal Service Provider Conference” by Hofstra University Law News, www.lawnews.hofstra.edu (November 4, 2024). [See article.](#)
- “Law Enforcement Can’t Confirm the Tren de Aragua Gang is in New York City” by Maurizio Guerrero, www.documentedny.com (September 18, 2024). [See article.](#)
- “Is There Any Is There Any Room On Long Island For Immigrants?” by Rafael Fonseca Cruvinel and Darlene Ferreira, *Long Island Press*, www.longislandpress.com (December 12, 2023). [See article.](#)
- “Natural and political disasters fuel immigration and migration” *The Full Story with Tom Kuser*, NPR WSHU Interview (October 7, 2022). [See article.](#)
- “Policy Brief – Caught In The Web: The Role Of Transnational Data Sharing In The U.S. Immigration System” by National Immigrant Justice Center, www.immigrantjustice.org (December 13, 2022). [See article.](#)

- “Transfers From Essex County Jail Leave Immigrants Families and Lawyers in Limbo” by Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio, www.documentedny.com (July 2, 2021). [See article.](#)
- “Backlogged Immigration Courts Prepare for More Asylum Seekers” by Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio, www.documentedny.com (June 18, 2021). [See article.](#)
- “Immigration Bulletin: *Saravia v Barr* Litigation and Settlement Summary” (March 26, 2021). [See article.](#)
- “Hofstra Law Clinic Wins Salvadoran Gang PSG Asylum Case!” by retired U.S. Immigration Judge (Arlington, Virginia) and former Chairman of the Board of Immigration Appeals Paul Wickham Schmidt, www.immigrationcourtside.com (July 15, 2020). [See article.](#)
- “New Report Reveals ICE’s Main Intention Is Immigration Enforcement in its Operations Targeting MS-13 on LI, Despite Claims to the Contrary” by Camille J. Mackler, NYIC, www.nyic.org (May 27, 2020). [See article.](#)
- “Nassau Police Won’t Hold Immigrants For ICE If They’re Due To Be Released” by Matt Katz, NPR WNYC, www.wnyc.org, (March 10, 2020). [See article.](#)
- “Nassau County police end policy of holding immigrants for ICE deportation” by Robert Brodsky, www.newsday.com, (March 11, 2020). [See article.](#)
- “Exclusive: For migrant youths claiming abuse, U.S. protection can be elusive” by Mica Rosenberg, www.reuters.com, (March 7, 2019). [See article.](#)
- “Migrant Kids Choose Between Possible Death And Never Seeing Parents Again” by Angelina Chapin, www.huffpost.com, (August 11, 2018). [See article.](#)
- “Marijuana is Legal in Colorado – But Only if You’re a U.S. Citizen” by Joel Warner, www.westworld.com, (September 13, 2016). [See article.](#)
- “Protecting a Teen from Deportation—Family Protection for Victims of Trafficking” by Tanya Bush, www.safepassageproject.org, (December 14, 2017). [See article.](#)
- “Protection from Deportation: Safe Passage Project Aids a 14-year-old from El Salvador” by Tanya Bush, www.safepassageproject.org, (December 21, 2017). [See article.](#)

Presentations

- “Indian Student Arrested In US, Alexander Holtzman Discusses Human Rights Under Trump Administration” for [India Today](#) (2025).
- “Alexander Holtzman On Trump's Immigration Policy, Birthright Citizenship & Indian Immigrants” for [India Today](#) (2025).
- “Walls and Whistleblowers: Advocacy and Accountability at the Border” Introduction of guest speaker Jenn Budd at *Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University* (2024).
- Long Island Immigration Service Provider Conference at *Hofstra University Club* (2024).
- “Immigration Law: Representing Children” for Immigrant Justice Corps at [IJC Webinar](#) (2023).
- “Attorneys on the Frontline of the Migrant Crisis” and Las Abogadas film screening for *Hofstra Law* (2023).
- “Best Practices for Case Management” for Immigrant Justice Corps at *Fellow Training* (2022).
- “Emerging Issues in Children’s Cases” (2020) and “Best Practices & Ethics: Representing Children in Asylum Claims” (2021) for Federal Bar Association and New York Law School at *Asylum Conferences*.
- “Procedural Due Process before EOIR” for Immigrant Justice Corps at *IJC Conference* (2019).
- “Special Immigrant Juvenile Status” for Immigrant Justice Corps at *Fellow Training* (2018).
- “Legal Aspects and Documentation for Asylum, SIJS, and Other Immigration Protections” for Health Right International at *Human Rights Clinic Training*. (2018).
- “Careers in Immigration and Refugee Law” for American Constitution Society at *The Ohio State University Moritz School of Law*. (2018).
- Distinguished author and moderator at *UCLA Joining Voices: Cultivating Alliances in the Fight for Immigration Reform Conference* for UCLA Chicana/o Latina/o Law Review, which highlighted my article “Misery Acquaints a Man with Strange Bedfellows: A Plan to Pass Immigration Reform.” (2016).
- “A Tale of Two Justice Systems: A Qualitative Examination of Noncitizen Sanctions for Minor Marijuana Offenses.” Master’s Thesis by Holtzman, A.T at *The Ohio State University*. (2016).