

# MARIELA OLIVARES

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## TEACHING & PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

### **Howard University School of Law, Washington, DC**

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*, 2019-2025

*Professor of Law*, 2019

*Associate Professor of Law*, with Tenure, 2017- 2019

*Associate Professor of Law*, 2014-2017

*Assistant Professor of Law*, 2011-2014

Faculty Member of the Year—selected by the student body (May 2020)

Director of the Family Law Certificate Program.

Courses taught: Torts, Family Law, Domestic Violence Law, Immigration Law.

### **The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, Washington, DC**

*Adjunct Lecturer*, Fall 2010

Taught Family Law lecture course to upper-level students.

### **Georgetown University Law Center- Domestic Violence Clinic, Washington, DC**

*Teaching Fellow; Fellow with the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program*, July 2008 to July 2010

Taught, supervised and evaluated third-year students in a clinical litigation course. Interviewed clients at DC Superior Court Domestic Violence Unit for potential case representation and supervised students throughout the case development and litigation processes. Cases involve *ex parte* representation in a Temporary Protection Order hearing; research, investigation, development of attorney-client relationship, witness preparation, and extensive litigation document drafting in preparation for Civil Protection Order negotiation and trial. Moreover, during breaks in the academic calendar, maintained primary responsibility for ongoing client representation, including sole counsel in a multi-day trial (2009). Developed curriculum and taught classes in seminar format.

### **Ayuda, Washington, DC**

*Managing Attorney*, September 2006-June 2008

Supervised and managed the Family Law/Domestic Violence Division staff, including social services staff, of Ayuda, Washington, DC's oldest legal service organization serving the metropolitan area's low-income immigrant population.

*Interim Managing Attorney*, November 2005-March 2006; May 2006-September 2006

*Staff Attorney*, May 2005-November 2005

Served as legal counsel to low-income immigrant victims of domestic violence at the trial and appellate level (primarily Spanish-speaking clients). Responsible for all aspects of family law and domestic violence cases.

### **Wiley Rein & Fielding, LLP, Washington, DC**

*Associate*, October 2003- April 2005

Associate in appellate practice, as well as labor and employment discrimination and insurance coverage litigation, including complex motion practice and trial preparation. Completed 180 hours of *pro bono* service in first year, assisting English and Spanish-speaking clients in Social Security benefit appeals due to disabilities attributable to HIV+ status. Obtained asylum for a Venezuelan client on the basis of sexual orientation and HIV+ status.

Supreme Court of Texas, Austin, TX  
Judicial Clerk, August 2002- August 2003  
The Honorable Deborah Hankinson and the Honorable J. Dale Wainwright

### PUBLICATIONS

*The Migrant Family Separation Crisis: The Multifaceted Approach to End the practice, Obtain redress, and Prevent its Return*, 76 MERCER L.R. 737 (2025).

*The Unpragmatic Family Law of Marginalized Families*, 136 HARV. L.R. FORUM 363 (2023).

Olivares, Mariela. 2023. The Trauma of the Family Separation Policy on Migrant Children (2017-2022), Laws 12: 17. <https://doi.org/10.3390/laws12010017>.

*Family Detention and Family Separation: History, Struggle and Status*, 9 BELMONT L. REV. 512 (2022).

*The 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act as Antecedent to Contemporary Latina/o/x Migration*, 37 UCLA CHICANX-LATINX LAW REVIEW 65 (2020).

*The Rise of Zero Tolerance and the Demise of Family*, 36 GA. STATE U. L. REV. 287 (2020).

*Resistance Strategies in the Immigrant Justice Movement*, 39 N. ILL. U. L. REV. 1 (2018) (lead article).

*Narrative Reform Dilemmas*, 82 MO. L. REV. 1089 (2018).

*Intersectionality at the Intersection of Profiteering & Immigration Detention*, 94 NEB. L. REV. 963 (2016).

- Blog post: *New Efforts to Push Private Prisons Out of Immigration Detention*, <http://crimmigration.com/2015/10/27/new-efforts-to-push-private-prisons-out-of-immigration-detention/>

*Unreformed: Towards Gender Equality in Immigration Law*, 18 CHAPMAN U. L. REV. 419 (2015).

*Battered by Law: The Political Subordination of Immigrant Women*, 64 AMER. U. L. REV. 231 (2014).

*Renewing the Dream: DREAM Act Redux and Immigration Reform*, 16 HARV. LATINO L. REV. 79 (2013).

*The Impact of Recessionary Politics on Latino-Americans and Immigrant Families: SCHIP Success and DREAM Act Failure*, 55 HOWARD L. J. 359 (2012).

*A Final Obstacle: Barriers to Divorce for Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence in the United States*, 34 HAMLINE L. REV. 149 (2011).

- This article was cited in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Schneider, Hanna, Sack & Greenberg, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE LAW: THEORY AND PRACTICE (2013) at p. 565.

Mariela Olivares, *Chapter 7: Family Law Practice in the District of Columbia*, in ASSISTING BATTERED IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN TO FILE IMMIGRATION CLAIMS UNDER THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT: A MANUAL FOR IMMIGRATION AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ATTORNEYS AND ADVOCATES (5th ed. 2006), published in CD ROM format.

### EDUCATION

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER, Washington, DC**  
**Master of Laws in Advocacy with Distinction, awarded October 2010**

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL, Ann Arbor, MI**  
**Juris Doctor, awarded May 2002**

Honors: Clarence Darrow Merit Scholar: Awarded full three-year tuition scholarship plus stipend  
Juan Tienda Scholarship Recipient: Awarded to outstanding first-year Latino law students  
Bodman-Longley Award: Awarded to members of the *Michigan Law Review* editorial board  
Activities: *Michigan Law Review*: Executive Editor, Volume 100  
Latino Law Students Association: First Year Representative, Admissions Liaison for two years  
Child Advocacy Law Clinic, student attorney.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, Austin, TX**

**Bachelor of Arts in Plan II Honors (selective program encompassing classic liberal arts curriculum); Second major in Spanish literature with a minor in Portuguese, awarded May 1999**

Honors: *Phi Beta Kappa*  
Awarded Highest Honors and Special Honors  
1998-1999 Dean's Distinguished Graduate in the Liberal Arts (one of thirteen selected in college)  
Merit Scholar: Awarded full five-year tuition scholarship plus stipend  
Thesis: *A critical evaluation of the Weed & Seed program*  
Awarded Model Thesis Distinction  
Activities: Liberal Arts Council (student government); elected to Board

**LA UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE, Madrid, Spain**

**Student with the Institute for European Studies, 1997-1998**

Honors: Adelyn Dougherty Urban Issues Scholarship (one national recipient): awarded half-tuition stipend for study abroad program  
Superior Certification in Business Spanish  
Lead role in Spanish-language University theatre production  
Thesis: Spanish language thesis on "The Sociology of Urban and Suburban Neighborhoods in Madrid" (as translated from Spanish)

**ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**D.C. Volunteer Lawyers Project, Washington, DC**

*Litigation Supervisor and Consultant, 2011*

Assisted in family law cases and other organizational matters.

**Ayuda, Washington, DC**

*Consultant, 2011*

Assisted attorneys in family law cases and administrators in other organizational matters.

**Arnold & Porter, LLP, Washington, DC**

*Summer Associate, 2002*

Assisted in corporate law and litigation projects, as well as immigration appeal and trust matters for *pro bono* clients.

**Wiley Rein & Fielding, LLP, Washington, DC**

*Summer Associate, 2001*

Assisted in a wide variety of litigation projects, including *pro bono* matters.

**University of Michigan Law School Child Advocacy Clinic, Ann Arbor, MI**

*Student Attorney, 2001*

Served as guardian *ad litem* for abused and neglected children in semester-long clinic.

**Texas Civil Rights Project, Austin, TX**

*Summer Law Clerk, 2000*

Interviewed clients and drafted pleadings concerning filing of ADA claims.

**Locke Liddell & Sapp, Austin, TX**

*Summer Associate, 2001 & 2000*

**ADMISSIONS, ACTIVITIES & HONORS**

- Elected to the American Law Institute (2024)
- Commissioner, Maryland Public Ethics Commission, appointed by Governor Wes Moore (2023)
- Selected- Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, 2019
- Member of the Dean Search Committee for the Howard University School of Law (2023)
- Leader of the School of Law ABA Site Visit (2023)
- Chair, Academic Affairs Committee (2019-present); Member, Curriculum Committee (2019-present), Assessment Committee (2023), Appointments, Promotion & Tenure
- Selected participant- Howard University Office of the President Howard Forward Leadership Group (2020-2021)
- Selected Chair of the Executive Committee of the AALS Section on Minority Groups (2019-2020); Chair-elect 2018-2019
- Member- Howard University Chair Leadership Academy, 2019
- Member of Faculty Initial Appointments Committee (2017- 2019), active participant in faculty hiring
- Member of the Faculty Executive Committee (2018- 2019)
- Invited member of the Provost Search Committee for Vice President of Research (2017-2018)
- Faculty organizer of panels and programs for Howard Law students interested in entering academia
- Faculty advisor to the Family Law Society (past), La Alianza Latino/a Law Students Society, and the Immigration Law Students Society (past)
- Former advisor to the Howard Law Journal and research advisor to student authors
- Howard University Advanced Summer Faculty Research Fellowship Award, Summer 2016
- Selected member of the Executive Committee of the AALS Section on Minority Groups
- Co-chair of the LatCrit Faculty Development Workshop planning committee (2015)
- Member of the LatCrit Faculty Development Workshop planning committee (2014)
- Awarded Best Bar Project 2013 as part of the Family Law Task Force, by the DC Bar
- Selected Peer Reviewer for Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women Legal Assistance to Victim grants (2015, 2013)
- Howard University Summer Faculty Research Fellowship Program Award, (Summer 2012)
- Invited member of the Family Law Task Force: committee of the DC Bar aimed at improving access to justice in the DC Family Court (2009-2011)
- Elected member of DC Bar Family Law Section Steering Committee, the committee of the DC Bar dedicated to family law practitioners (2007); Re-elected for a three-year term (2008); Served as CLE liaison; Financial Affairs Chair; Programming Chair; and supervising editor of the DC Bar Family Law Practice Manual
- Selected as 2006 Rising Legal Star by the Hispanic Bar Association of DC
- Member, Hispanic Bar Association of DC (past)
- Selected Member, DC Courts Improving Court Access Advisory Committee: served as member of the committee and advocated for access to justice issues for limited-English proficient members of our community
- Selected Member, DC Domestic Violence Unit Task Force: task force dedicated to reform initiatives of the Domestic Violence Unit of DC Superior Court

- Member, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) VAWA Advisory Task Force: group of practitioners and service providers meeting with representatives of the MPD to discuss issues, concerns and policies to improve police response to domestic violence in Washington, DC
- Selected member of the 2004 Whitman-Walker Clinic Legal Community AIDS Walk Taskforce: dedicated to recruiting attorneys to fundraise and participate in the annual AIDS Walk
- Admitted to the District of Columbia Bar (2003); Texas Bar (2002) (inactive)

### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

*Keynote presenter at the annual conference of the Minnesota Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, “Justice and Belonging: Advocating for and Supporting Marginalized and Immigrant Families in the Legal System,” July 24, 2025.*

*Workshop commentator at the Graciela Olivarez Latinas in the Legal Academy Workshop, invited by Workshop committee, July 2025 (Boston University College of Law).*

*Panelist at the AALS New Law Teachers’ Conference on the importance of service, June 2024.*

*Planning committee member, panelist and moderator at the Graciela Olivarez Latinas in the Legal Academy Workshop, May 2024 (Berkeley Law School).*

*Invited speaker at the George Washington University College of Law for the Faculty Speaker Series, November 2023.*

*Panelist at the Graciela Olivarez Latinas in the Legal Academy Workshop, invited by Workshop committee, May 2023 (Stanford Law School).*

*Panelist at A Dream Deferred, Never to Come, or Misbegotten? Assessing the DREAMer Paradigm in 2023, A Symposium in Memoriam of Michael Olivas, invited by the Berkeley Law Raza Law Journal, February 2023 (Berkeley Law School).*

*Panelist at the Immigration Law Teachers & Scholars Workshop, June 2022.*

*Presenter at the AALS New Law Teachers’ Conference, June 2022.*

*Presenter at The Belmont Law Review Symposium on Immigration Law, October 2021.*

*Panel presenter on Immigration Law at the National People of Color Conference, March 2019.*

*Invited speaker at Harvard Law School Symposium on ICE and Immigration Enforcement, March 2019.*

*Panel presenter on Immigration Law at the AALS Conference, January 2019.*

*Invited speaker at the American University Washington College of Law for the Faculty Speaker Series, November 2018.*

*Panel organizer and selected presenter at the SALT Teaching Conference, October 2018.*

*Invited speaker at Vanderbilt School of Law, October 2018.*

*Panel organizer at the LatCrit Conference on Immigration Law Strategic Organizing, September 2017.*

*Panel organizer at Howard Law School on the Trump Travel Bans*, 2017.

*Panel organizer at the AALS Conference on Presidential Politics and the Future of the Supreme Court*, January 2017.

*Panel presenter at the Law & Society Conference on The Politics of Respectability and Immigrants*, June 2016.

*Invited presenter at the U.S. Capitol Historical Society Conference on the historical effects for Latino immigrants of the Immigration Reform and Control Act*, U.S. Senate, May 2016. Presentation available at: <https://www.congress.gov/people/marielaolivares>.

*Invited presenter on immigration detention at the Crimmigration Law Lecture Series*. University of Denver Sturm College of Law, April 2016.

*Moderator of panel discussion on the evolving meaning of family*. Mid-Atlantic People of Color Law Professor Conference, January 2016.

*Presentation on subordinated identity and immigrant detention*. LatCrit Conference, October 2015.

*Moderator of panel discussion on planning the next five years of your academic career*, LatCrit Faculty Development Workshop (2015).

*Next Generation Issues of Sex, Gender and Law—the Social Safety Net (or Lack Thereof)*. Invited panelist in plenary session of AALS Workshop, June 2015.

*Disruptive Intersectionality*. Presentation in the Emerging Immigration Law Professors conference on work in progress article, 2015; presentation at Howard Law School faculty colloquium, 2015.

*Forum on the Future of Law and Inequality*. Invited panelist on forum regarding present and future civil rights controversies, Tulane Law School, 2014.

*Faculty Development Workshop*. Presentation and participation in the Society of American Law Teachers and LatCrit Workshop, 2014.

*The Private Prison Industry and Immigration Reforms*. Work-in-progress presentation at the Mid-Atlantic People of Color Conference, University of Baltimore School of Law, 2014.

*10<sup>th</sup> Annual Wiley A. Branton/Howard Law Journal Symposium*. Moderated panel presentation—*Hidden Borders: Opportunities and Obstacles for Immigrants' Rights*, Howard University School of Law, 2013.

*Reframing the Narrative in the Era of Immigration Reform*. Selected panel participant at the LatCrit Conference, Chicago, Illinois, 2013.

*The Politics of Subordination: How Identify Affects Battered Women*. Work-in progress presentation at the Emerging Immigration Law Scholars Conference, University of California at Irvine, California, 2013.

*Teaching Immigration Law*. Moderated panel presentation at University of California at Irvine, California, 2013.

*The Politics of Subordination: How Identify Affects Battered Women*. Work-in progress presentation at the Midwest People of Color Conference, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, 2013.

*The Impact of Recessionary Politics on Latino-Americans and Immigrant Families: SCHIP Success and DREAM Act Failure.* Work-in-progress presentation at the LatCrit Scholars Conference, San Diego, California, 2011.

*DREAM Act and Secure Communities- Impact on Immigrant Communities.* Moderated panel presentation at Howard University School of Law, 2011.

*The Intersection of Family Law and Immigration Policy.* Work-in-progress presentation at the Immigration Law Professors Emerging Scholars Workshop, Washington D.C., 2011.

*Legislative updates in District of Columbia family law practice,* served as moderator in panel discussion regarding recent case law and legislative changes affecting domestic relations and child abuse and neglect practice in the District of Columbia, 2011.

*The Domestic Violence Unit of the District of Columbia Superior Court Bench-Bar Dialogue,* served as moderator in a discussion between the judges of the Domestic Violence Unit, members of the DC Bar and other participants, 2010.

*The “Must Haves and Can’t Stands- a View from the Bench,”* served as moderator in a panel discussion by judges of the District of Columbia family court for members of the DC Bar, 2010.

*Domestic violence law and practice in the United States and the District of Columbia,* served as a consultant in a roundtable discussion with judges from the Supreme People’s Court of the People’s Republic of China interested in implementing changes in domestic violence response and practice in the Chinese judicial system, 2009.

*Domestic violence law practice in the District of Columbia Superior Court,* presented to fellows as part of the Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program, 2009.

*Immigrant perspectives, immigration reform and the role of women leaders,* panelist in forum of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (conducted in English and Spanish), 2008.

*The next wave of domestic violence leadership,* invited participant in national conference sponsored by the Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago, 2008.

*Perspectives on a career in litigation,* presented to incoming Georgetown law students, 2008.

*Working with immigrant survivors of domestic violence & immigration law remedies,* guest lecturer at Domestic Violence Law seminar, George Washington Law School, 2008 & 2007; American University, 2007.

*Domestic violence: know your rights,* presented to group of over 100 adult education students and faculty at Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School, 2008.

*Domestic violence law and family law rights and responsibilities: know your rights,* presented to various groups of domestic violence survivors (conducted in Spanish), 2005-2008.

*Domestic violence in immigrant communities,* presented to staff and members of the Inter-American Development Bank, 2007; Howard University School of Law forum, 2011; Maryland interfaith workshop, 2011.

*Domestic violence and sexual assault: A comparison of law and approaches in Maryland and DC,* presented at STOP training institute to legal/social service grantees, providers, police, and judges from the DC metropolitan area, 2007.

*Career paths after law school*, panelist at Hispanic Bar Association of DC event for area law students, Georgetown University Law Center, 2007.

*Ayuda services to victims of domestic violence*, presented to DC Superior Court judges and staff, 2007 & 2006.

### **SELECTED TRAININGS**

*Dynamics of Domestic Violence and the Lawyer Client Relationship*, training to entire legal staff of Legal Aid of DC on working with victims of domestic violence, 2014.

*Litigating family law cases in the District of Columbia*, creating and conducting training on essential legal and trial skills for attorneys in the family courts of DC Superior Court, 2012 & 2010.

*Poverty lawyering and working with indigent clients*, training for new attorneys sponsored by the DC Consortium of Legal Service Providers, 2009 & 2007.

*Teaching Ethics in a Clinical Setting*, class seminar for first-year teaching fellows at Georgetown University Law Center, 2009.

*Clinical teaching and teaching values to students*, training for incoming teaching fellows at Georgetown University Law Center, 2009.

*Issues in domestic violence law and practice and areas for continued reform*, training session as part of the Judicial Training curriculum for judges and staff in the Domestic Violence Unit of DC Superior Court, 2008 & 2007.

*Legislative and practice updates, including: advocating in protection order and family law cases; divorce law and practice; third-party custody legislation; contempt proceedings and the interaction with U-visa and VAWA immigration remedies*, various trainings to Ayuda staff, interns and pro bono partners, 2005-2008.

*Domestic violence law and family law practice in DC: How recent changes to VAWA affect our practice*, training to legal service and pro bono practitioners, 2006.

### **INTERVIEWS**

Interview with “Out of the Shadows” podcast on I-Heart media regarding IRCA, April 2022.

Interview with Montgomery Blair High School students for C-SPAN Student Competition on immigration reform, December 2021 (students won third place in national competition).

Interview with Radio Caracol (Miami) on Trump Executive Order effects on immigrant communities, February 2017.

Interview with the Afro-American newspaper for an article on how comprehensive immigration reform may affect the African-American and/or African communities, March 2013.

Interview with the *Howard University Alumni Magazine* (Winter 2012), “*Advocating for the Rights of Immigrants*,” on my work researching and writing about immigration law (at pp. 22-23).

*Linea Directa* (translation: *Direct Line*), Spanish-language television talk show shown on Washington, DC and other national NBC affiliates. Half-hour interview on domestic violence and family law, psychological effects of domestic violence and options for immigrant victims of domestic violence, 2007.



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El Zol 99.1, Spanish-language radio station broadcasting music and community service messages to Washington, DC and surrounding areas. Interview on talk show on the effects of domestic violence and options for immigrant victims of domestic violence, 2007.

*Violencia Doméstica: La Lente Muerte del Espíritu* (translation: *Domestic Violence: As the Spirit Dies*) in *Washington Voz*, Washington, DC Spanish-language newspaper. Interview by Encarna Segura on domestic violence law and options for immigrants, 2005.

*Admitting Diversity* on the *NewsHour* with *Jim Lehrer*. Interview regarding affirmative action at the University of Michigan Law School in the era of the *Grutter v. Bollinger* case, 2001.

### **LANGUAGES**

Fluent in Spanish; Knowledge of Portuguese and Italian