

Sarah Dávila A.

School of Law University of Illinois Chicago
(312) 360-2654 • sdavila@uic.edu
300 S. State Street, Chicago IL 60604

EDUCATION

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO, IL August 2016
Certificate, Refugee Protection and the Rights and Process of (Re)Settlement.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, SYRACUSE, NY May 2007
Juris Doctor; Certificate, Center for Global Law and Policy.

- Fasken Martineau First Year International Law Moot Court Competition
- Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition
- Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition
- International Legal Research Assistant, Professor Donna Artz

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, DC May 2003
Cum Laude; B.A., International Studies; B.A., French Language and Area Studies.

- Frank Scotton Award
- Dean's List

UNIVERSITÉ DE PARIS (SORBONNE), PARIS, FRANCE June 2002
Certificate in French Culture, Civilization and Language.

PUBLICATIONS & WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

The Rights of Present and Future Generations to a Healthy Environment: A Comparative Analysis in Intergenerational Equity and Solidarity (Work-in-Progress)

How Many More Brazilian Environmental Defenders Have to Perish Before We Act? President Lula's Challenge to Protect Environmental Defenders, 47 WM. & MARY ENVTL. L. & POL'Y REV. 657 (2023).

The Escazú Agreement: The Last Piece of a Tripart Normative Framework in the Right to a Healthy Environment, 42 STAN. ENVTL. L. J. 3 (2022).

Time to Wake Up! Pushing the Boundaries in the Americas to Protect the Most Vulnerable, 39 UCLA J. ENVTL. L. & POL'Y 123 (2021).

Making a Case for the Right to a Healthy Environment for the Protection of Vulnerable Communities: A Case of Coal-Ash Disaster in Puerto Rico, 9 MICH. J. ENVTL. & ADMIN. L. 379 (2020).

Reframing Sexual Harassment as Gender-Based Violence: The Value of a Rights Framework, OPEN GLOBAL RIGHTS (2018).

The Sprouting of Human Rights Initiatives in the Midst of a Humanitarian Storm, 74 NLG REVIEW 100 (2017).

Lawyering Skills and Clinical Cooperation: Teaching Spanish for Lawyers at John Marshall, SECOND DRAFT, Legal Writing Institute (2016) (with Kim Perez Ricardo formerly Chanbonpin).

Beyond the Destruction of Syria: Considering a Future in Syria and the Protection of the Right to Culture, 15 J. MARSHALL REV. INTELL. PROP. L. 999 (2016).

ICE's New Policy on Segregation and the Continuing Use of Solitary Confinement in the Context of International Human Rights, 47 J. MARSHALL L. REV. 1433 (2014).

PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

Presentation, “Environmental Human Rights and Intergenerational Equity and Solidarity,” UIC Global Health Colloquium, Chicago, Illinois (remote), November 2023.

Lecture, “Human Rights in a Changing Society” (online course), Law Institute at Taras Shevchenko National University, Kyiv, Ukraine & Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University, Kharkiv, Ukraine, March 2023.

Presentation, “*Protecting Present and Future Generations through the Right to a Healthy Environment Normative Framework*,” Justicia, Derecho, y Sociedad, Promoviendo Teorías Prácticas Críticas en las Culturas Jurídicas de las Américas, Intercambio Sur-Norte sobre Teoría, Cultura y Derecho (SNX), Facultad de Derecho Universidad Alberto Hurtado (Montevideo, Uruguay), March 2, 2023.

Discussion, Author Night, Stanford Environmental Law Journal, Stanford Law School, February 27, 2023.

Discussion, “*International Environmentalism: A Global Approach to Global Challenges*,” Environmental Law and Policy Review 2023 Symposium on International Environmentalism, William & Mary Law School, February 17, 2023.

Presentation, “*How Many More Brazilian Environmental Defenders have to Perish Before We Act?*” Environmental Law and Policy Review 2023 Symposium on International Environmentalism, William & Mary Law School, February 17, 2023.

Lecture, “*Health and Human Rights in the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights in Cases of Irreparable and Urgent Harm*,” UIC Center for Global Health, UIC College of Medicine, November 27, 2022.

Organized and Moderated, Symposium, 27th Belle R. & Joseph H. Braun Memorial Symposium: Environmental Justice and Human Rights in the Americas and the Caribbean,” University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, November 18, 2022.

Presentation, “*Human Rights and the Invasion and Violence in Ukraine*,” A Faculty-led Conversation about International Law & the Conflict in Ukraine, April 4, 2022.

Presentation, “*Human Rights Community Work in Chicago relating to the surveillance of BLM activism*,” Human Rights Clinicians’ Conference, February 18-20, 2022.

Presentation, “*The Escazú Agreement: The Last Piece of a Tripart Normative Framework in the Right to a Healthy Environment*,” ASIL-Midwest Interest Group 2022 Virtual Works-in-Progress Conference, January 28, 2022.

Lecture, “*Health and Human Rights in the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights in Cases of Irreparable and Urgent Harm*,” UIC Center for Global Health, UIC College of Medicine, November 19, 2021.

Organized and Moderated, “*Privacy & Human Rights in Syria: Facing New Challenges in the Digital Age*,” University of Illinois Chicago School of Law (UIC John Marshall Law School), April 16, 2021.

Presentation, “*A Human Rights Approach to Protecting the Environment and the Populations Affected by Environmental Harm and Climate Change*,” Power of Words 2021AALS Annual Meeting, January 9, 2021.

Presentation, “*A Human Rights Approach to Protecting the Environment and the Populations Affected by Environmental Harm and Climate Change*,” Braun Symposium: Working across the UI System to

Achieve Sustainability, UIC John Marshall Law School, October 30, 2020.

Training, “Asylum as a Legal Process & the Role of Expert Witnesses,” Departments of History and LALS Workshop, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, February 10, 2020.

Presentation, “Protecting the Vulnerable: A Legal Imperative for Asylum Representation,” The Refugee Crisis: A Conference, UIC Institute for Humanities, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, October 25, 2019.

Presentation, “The Right to a Healthy Environment: Pushing the Boundaries in the Inter-American System,” Second Annual Chicagoland Juniors Scholars Conference, Northern Illinois University College of Law (held in Loyola University Chicago School of Law), Chicago, IL, September 27, 2019.

Presentation, “The Right to a Healthy Environment: Pushing the Boundaries in the Inter-American System,” WIP at ALWD Scholars Forum at the Central States Conference, UIC John Marshall Law School, Chicago, IL, September 13, 2019.

Presentation, “#EnvironmentalRacismIsKillingUS: Teaching About Environmental Racism in Clinical Legal Education, Lightning Session, AALS 2019 Conference on Clinical Legal Education, San Francisco, May 5, 2019.

Presentation, “Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity on Law Review Boards,” National Conference of Law Review, The John Marshall Law School, Chicago, IL, March 16, 2018.

Presentation, “Refugees” and Asylum Law in the U.S.” Department of Political Science, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, February 28, 2018.

Presentation, “Introduction, Putting Puerto Rico in Context: Colonialism, Disaster Capitalism, and the Debt Crisis.” Hurricane Maria Legal Assistance, The John Marshall Law School International Human Rights Clinic, Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, Puerto Rican Bar Association of Illinois, National Lawyers Guild Chicago Chapter, Chicago, IL, December 11, 2017.

Presentation, “Sexual Harassment and Human Rights.” Standing Up for Dignity and Respect: An IDHR Panel Discussion Honoring Human Rights Day, Illinois Department of Human Rights, Chicago, IL, December 5, 2017.

Presentation, “Invisible Women: Syrian Victims of Gender-Based Violence as a Particular Social Group in U.S. Asylum Law.” The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy, Conference, University of Dayton Human Rights Center, Dayton, OH, November 9, 2017.

Presentation, “The Interconnectedness of the Right to Cultural Heritage and Self-determination.” Human Rights and Cultural Heritage: A New Paradigm, Symposium, DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, IL, November 2, 2017.

Presentation, “Lawyering with Purpose: Holistic Representation, Relational Lawyering, and Resilience; Teaching and Practicing Holistic Representation in the Clinical Setting.” 2016 SALT Teaching Conference, Chicago, IL, October 1, 2016.

Presentation, “Synergies: Legal Writing, Skills, and Clinical Teaching.” 2016 SALT Teaching Conference, Chicago, IL, October 1, 2016.

Presentation, “Spanish for Lawyers: A Course Proposal,” Legal Writing Institute, Biennial Conference, Portland OR, July 11, 2016.

Presentation, “Legal Rights of Older Persons,” Decalogue Society of Lawyers, Jewish Association of Illinois, The John Marshall Law School International Human Rights Clinic, Social Action Committee of EHNTJC, Skokie, IL, October 25, 2015.

Presentation, “Cultural Preservation as a Human Right” in Panel: “Art Restitution, Preservation of Cultural Heritage, and the Human Right to Identity” The Braun Memorial Symposium, The Review of Intellectual Property Law, International Human Rights Clinic, The John Marshall Law School, Chicago, IL, October 15, 2015.

Presentation, “Solitary Confinement in Immigrant Detention: ICE’s New Directive,” International Human Rights Clinic, The John Marshall Law School, Chicago, IL, February 7, 2014.

Training, “The Art of Humanitarian Negotiation,” Humanitarian Practice Training Program, Peacebuilding & Development Institute, American University, Washington DC, February 2009.

Training, “Human Rights and State Law: New Strategies for Economic Justice,” Human Rights Institute, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 2009.

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Sarah Dávila A., Francisco Rivera Juaristi, & Britton Schwartz, “Escazú Toolkit: Using the Escazú Agreement in Cases Before the Inter-American System” (November 2022).

Sarah Dávila A., et al. “Violating Human Rights: Chicago Law Enforcement’s Excessive Force Against Black Lives Matter Activists and Human Rights Defenders” (August 2022).

Sarah Dávila-Ruhaak, et al. “Digital Dominion: How the Syrian regime’s mass digital surveillance violates human rights,” International Human Rights Clinic White Paper (March 2021).

Submission to the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Health, “Human Pipeline to the Continental United States: Puerto Rico’s Trafficking of a Vulnerable Population as a Violation of the Right to Health” (2019).

Submission to the U.N. Human Rights Committee in Relation to the List of Issues of the United States Concerning the Unsafe Dumping and Mismanagement of Coal Ash in Puerto Rico (2019).

Submission to the U.N. Committee Against Torture, The Puerto Rico-Chicago Connection: Cross-Boundary Drug Treatment in the United States (2016).

Brief of Amici Curiae in Support of the Petitioners, *Santa Barbara Campesino Community v. Perú*, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, No. 10.932 (2015).

Brief of Amici Curiae Human Rights Organizations in Support of Plaintiffs-Appellants, *Georges v. United Nations*, Docket No. 15-00455 (Second Circuit 2015), William Aceves, Baher Azmy, and Sarah Dávila-Ruhaak.

Joint Submission to Catarina de Albuquerque, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, Cholera as a Grave Violation of the Right to Water in Haiti (2014).

U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement’s New Directive on Segregation: Why We Need Further Protections, Report, International Human Rights Clinic, The John Marshall Law School (2014).

Joint Submission to the U.N. Committee Against Torture Concerning the United States’ Mistreatment of Immigrant Detainees in Violation of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Relation to the United States 5th Periodic Report on the Convention Against Torture (2014).

Joint Submission to the U.N. Human Rights Committee, Concerning the Use of Solitary Confinement in Immigrant Detention Facilities in the United States of America, In Relation to the United States 4th Periodic Report (2013).

TEACHING INTERESTS

International Human Rights Law, International Law, Clinical Teaching, International Criminal Law,

Humanitarian Law, Environmental Justice, Women in the Law, Civil Rights, International Litigation, International Legal Research.

COURSES TAUGHT

International Human Rights Law, International Human Rights Clinic Seminar, International Law, Environmental Human Rights, Transitional Justice, Human Rights in the United States, Criminal Law, International Litigation (as facilitator), Lawyering Skills (legal writing).

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO SCHOOL OF LAW (formerly UIC John Marshall Law School and The John Marshall Law School), CHICAGO, IL

Assistant Professor of Law

January 2019 – Present

- Teach international human rights and international law related courses.
- Supervise students working towards the International Human Rights Concentration (formerly International Human Rights Certificate).
- Mentor students seeking to gain employment, internships, volunteer positions or other opportunities in international law, human rights, and civil rights in the United States and abroad.

Director, International Human Rights Clinic

January 2013 – Present

- Co-founded and developed clinical curriculum for the International Human Rights Clinic (IHRC).
- Teach the lecture component of the IHRC
- Supervise students on clinical projects and cases involving asylum representation, local advocacy and outreach, and impact advocacy in international and domestic venues.
- Coordinate overall programming and administrative matters, including:
- Drafting IHRC policies, training manuals, reporting, and other materials;
- Maintaining and coordinating daily clinic operations;
- Conducting community outreach to establish community relations, seeking cases and projects, and promoting the work of the IHRC;
- Recruiting and supervising *pro bono* attorneys, volunteers, and interns;
- Conducting fundraising efforts in coordination with the Office of Alumni Relations & Development;
- Organizing IHRC events with the assistance of the administrative staff of the Community Legal Clinics;
- Representing the IHRC in human rights networks;
- Serving in taskforces focused on the implementation of international treaties.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO, CHICAGO, IL.

August 2012 –

December 2014

Adjunct Lecturer

- Designed and taught classes in International Law, Transitional Justice, Human Rights, and Criminal Law through the Political Science, and Criminology, Law & Justice Departments.
- Designed and taught writing courses through the Department of Political Science.
- Mentored students planning to attend law school.
- Supervised UIC students taking independent study or volunteering to work in clinical projects at the IHRC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY (REMOTELY).

May 2011 –

December 2012

Online Course Facilitator (Masters in Paralegal Studies, College of Professional Studies through Embanet Compass now Pearson Online Learning Services)

- Assisted students in achieving course objectives.

- Mentored and assisted students in daily communications via email, discussion boards, or telephone.
- Conducted weekly assessments, provided constructive feedback, graded student work, and managed class section's gradebook, and provided constructive feedback.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE & DEMOCRACY IN HAITI, NEW YORK, CHICAGO

September 2010 –April 2011

LERN Pro Bono Attorney

- Researched, drafted, and edited sections of the Universal Periodic Review Report for Haiti as part of a collaboration team.
- Prepared advocacy materials for the Petition for Precautionary Measures submitted to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on behalf of internally displaced persons in Haiti.
- Drafted materials for human rights advocacy and education relating to the rights of displaced persons.
- Researched and drafted materials analyzing Haitian, American, and international policies affecting displaced persons.
- Researched news articles in the international press in English, Spanish and French relating to Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake in 2010. Researched archival published periodicals from the Duvalier regime from 1971-1986.

CAMBA LEGAL SERVICES, BROOKLYN, NY

January 2008-August 2010

Staff Attorney

- Represented tenants at Civil Court (Housing Part) in civil law cases and special proceedings (Non-payment, Holdover proceedings, and HP Actions).
- Represented tenants at New York Supreme Court in housing discrimination cases.
- Conducted research and drafted legal memoranda, motions, opinion letters, and analyzed government policies relating to poverty law and housing policy.
- Conducted investigations and informed tenants of their rights against harassment, discrimination, and wrongful actions by landlords.
- Engaged in the different stages of client advocacy in governmental agencies and charities relating to client public assistance benefits.
- Conducted legislative advocacy at the New York State Senate and the New York City Council.
- Worked with coalitions of nonprofits and advocates to promote human rights in the area of housing in New York.
- Supervised *pro bono* attorneys and law students in their research and drafting of litigation materials.

BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE, NYU SCHOOL OF LAW, NEW YORK, NY

June-September 2008

Pro Bono Attorney

Researched relevant constitutional issues for the litigation of cases on behalf of persons labeled “enemy combatants.” The primary research assignment focused on the illegality and unchecked power of the Executive Branch to detain individuals labeled as “enemy combatants” in the United States.

SIERRA LEONE PROJECT, SU COLLEGE OF LAW, SYRACUSE, NY

September

2005-May 2007

Project Member

- Drafted legal memoranda for the Office of the Chief Prosecutor on issues raised in motions and challenges before the Special Court for Sierra Leone.
- Conducted comparative legal research on criminal law, international criminal law, and procedure.

CENTER FOR JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, WASHINGTON, DC

June-August 2006

Legal Intern

- Researched and drafted legal briefs for cases before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
- Drafted litigation research memo for the Case of *La Cantuta v. Perú*.
- Translated relevant jurisprudence in French, English, and Spanish.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Licensed to Practice Law in New York and Illinois.

AWARDS

International Human Rights Clinic at University of Illinois Chicago School of Law (formerly The John Marshall Law School), 2016-17 ISBA Gertz Award Winner (Human Rights Award), Illinois State Bar Association.

SKILLS

Languages: native English and Spanish speaker; proficient in French and Turkish.

Non-profit Management: Vast knowledge in nonprofit strategic planning, design, and management.