

# CURRICULUM VITAE

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## EDUCATION

### **Boston College Law School – Newton, MA**

*Juris Doctor, May 2013*

- Drinan Family Fund Award, Equal Justice America Fellow, Equal Justice Works Summer Corps, Bingham McCutchen Public Interest Fellow

### **Boston College Graduate School of Social Work – Chestnut Hill, MA**

*Master of Social Work, May 2013*

- Student Collective Executive Coordinator, School Executive Board Member

### **University of California, Irvine – Irvine, CA**

*Bachelor of Arts in Social Ecology, cum laude, June 2008*

- Teaching Assistant - *Eyewitness Testimony*; Regents' Scholar (Full Tuition), Phi Beta Kappa, Campuswide and School Honors Programs
- Thesis: "The Effects of Change Blindness on Eyewitness Identification" – Presented at Stanford Univ., UCLA, and UC Irvine

(Non-Degree Programs)

### **Boston College Irish Institute**

*Governance and Rule of Law Follow-On Speaker Program, May 2015*

- U.S. State Department exchange program to Ireland and Northern Ireland focused on juvenile justice and youth empowerment

### **University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland - Lausanne, Switzerland**

*Summer University in Social Work, Summer 2011*

- Comparative international and intergenerational issues in social work practice

## TEACHING AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE

### **Boston College School of Social Work – Chestnut Hill, MA**

September 2016 – Present

*Adjunct Faculty*

- Instructor for *Basic Skills in Macro Practice* (social change theories; interventions with organizations and communities)
- Team mentor for *Social Policy Lab: Policy Formation in Practice*

*Field Education*

- Field Instructor (Intern Supervisor) for final-year MSW students

*Continuing Education*

- Instructor for *Policy, Legal, and Systemic Considerations for Practice with Immigrants and Refugees in the U.S.* (March 8, 2018)

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE****City of Boston, Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement – Boston, MA  
(previously Mayor's Office of New Bostonians)***Policy and Communications Advisor*

November 2014 – Present

*Community and Policy Affairs Advocacy Coordinator*

August 2013 – November 2014

- Advise mayoral staff on implications of federal, state, and local legislation and policy relating to immigrants
- Advise Mayor's Press Office in shaping messaging and execute department's communications strategy
- Coordinate the Immigration Legal Advice Clinic with volunteer lawyers twice per month
- Collaborate with city departments and community organizations to develop programs, policies, and messaging to promote immigrant rights and integration
- Serve individual constituents with inquiries related to the immigration system, city services, and integration
- Previously: Coordinated language access citywide; conducted outreach at community events

**Boston College Immigration & Asylum Project – Newton, MA***Student Attorney*

January 2013 – May 2013

**Greater Boston Legal Services – Boston, MA***Law Student Intern, Asian Outreach Unit*

September 2012 – December 2012

**Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus – San Francisco, CA***Summer Law Clerk, Employment Unit*

May 2012 – August 2012

**Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA) – Boston, MA***Policy Intern*

May 2011 – May 2012

**National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts – Woburn, MA***Policy Aide*

September 2009 – May 2010

**Nhan Hoa Comprehensive Health Care Clinic – Garden Grove, CA***Personal Service Coordinator, Mental Health Department*

September 2008 – July 2009

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Church – San Antonio, TX***Director of Social Services, Jesuit Volunteer*

August 2007 – August 2008

**SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

*Coalition Building & Cities' Coordinated Advocacy Efforts on Immigration*, Panelist, National Immigrant Integration Conference, Phoenix, AZ, Dec. 10, 2017.

*DACA Rescission, Travel Ban, Sanctuary Cities, and Other Hot Topics in Immigration Law*, Panelist, American Constitution Society, Immigration Law Group, Latin American Law Students' Association, Boston College Law School, Newton, MA, Sept. 27, 2017.

*Global Mayors' Summit on Migration Policy and Practice*, Breakout Session Facilitator, Concordia Annual Summit, New York, NY, Sept. 19, 2017.

*Young Alumni Panel*, Panelist, Public Interest Law Retreat, Boston College Law School, Newton, MA, Sept. 12, 2017, Sept. 14, 2014, Sept. 29, 2013.

*Language Access Convening*, Panelist, Massachusetts Asian and Pacific Islanders Civic Action Network, Boston, MA, May 31, 2017.

*Immigration Forum with Senator Darcena Forry*, Panelist, Viet-AID, Boston, MA, May 10, 2017.

*Law, Leadership, and Social Justice* (course), Guest Speaker, Boston College Law School, Newton, MA, Apr. 4, 2017.

*Organizing for Progressive Solutions*, Keynote Speaker, Roosevelt Institute Boston, Boston, MA Mar. 31, 2017.

*Beyond Borders: Immigration in History, the Media, and Our Communities* (course), Guest Speaker, Emerson College, Boston, MA, Sept. 27, 2016.

*Boston: A City for Immigrants*, Speaker, New Bostonians: The Latest Chapter in Boston's Immigration Story professional development course for K-12 educators, Malden, MA, Aug. 26, 2016.

*Immigrant Representation & Resources in Cambridge*, Written and Oral Testimony, City Council Joint Committee Meeting, Cambridge, MA, May 12, 2016.

*Institutionalizing Welcoming: From Creation to Sustainability*, Co-Facilitator and Speaker, Welcoming Convening, Atlanta, GA, Apr. 20, 2016.

*White House Regional Convening on New Americans - Boston*, Conference Lead Planner, Boston, MA, Apr. 14, 2016.

*State Policy* (course), Guest Speaker, Boston University School of Social Work, Boston, MA, Apr. 12, 2016.

*Careers in Immigration Law*, Panelist, Immigration Law Group, Boston College Law School, Newton, MA, Mar. 30, 2016.

*Immigrant and Refugee Issues in the United States* (course), Guest Speaker, Boston College School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill, MA, Feb. 18, 2016.

*Health, Water, and Shelter: Using the Built Environment for Social Change* (Winter Session Program), Breakout Session Presenter, Adams House/FDR Foundation Global Citizenship Workshop, Harvard College, Cambridge, MA, Jan. 23, 2016.

*Executive Actions on Immigration*, Panelist, Immigration Law Group, Latin American Law Students' Association, Boston College Law School, Newton, MA, Nov. 19, 2015.

*Special Immigrant Juvenile Status*, Panelist, Children's Rights Group, Immigration Law Group, Latin American Law Students' Association, Boston College Law School, Newton, MA, Apr. 6, 2015.

### **SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES**

*Commissioner's Corner*, Guest Interviewee re: Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement, Boston City TV, Boston, MA, Nov. 14, 2017.

*Boston Neighborhood Network News*, Guest Interviewee re: Greater Boston Immigrant Defense Fund, BNN, Boston, MA, Sept. 14, 2017.

*Boston Neighborhood Network News*, Guest Interviewee re: City of Boston resources for residents concerned about increased immigration enforcement, BNN, Boston, MA, Mar. 2, 2017.

*Seniors Count*, Guest Interviewee re: Mayor's Office of New Bostonians, BNN, Boston, MA, Oct. 15, 2015.

*Boston Neighborhood Network News*, Guest Interviewee re: Boston Letter of Agreement to promote naturalization between City of Boston and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, BNN, Boston, MA, Jun. 16, 2015.

*VATV* (Vietnamese and English), Guest Interviewee re: "Mayor's Office of New Bostonians," BNN, Boston, MA, Apr. 23, 2014.

*VATV* (Vietnamese and English), Guest Interviewee re: "New Bostonians," BNN, Boston, MA, Nov. 20, 2013.

### **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

*Patchwork of Promises: A Critical Analysis of Immigration Policies for Unaccompanied Undocumented Children in the United States* (with Robert G. Hasson III, Thomas M. Crea, and Ruth McRoy).

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES**

National Lawyers Guild - Member

National Association of Social Workers - Member

previously on Legislative Advocacy Committee

Institute for Asian American Studies at UMass Boston - Community Advisory Board Member

Justice Bridge (UMass School of Law) - Advisory Board Member

Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts - Member

**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

**Vietnamese** (first language): fluent in speaking, reading, and writing

**Spanish**: conversational speaking, basic reading, and basic writing

**REFERENCES**

**Kathleen McInnis-Dittrich**

Associate Professor  
Chair, Older Adults & Families  
Boston College School of Social Work  
617-552-0779  
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**Evangeline Sarda**

Associate Clinical Professor of Law  
Boston College Law School  
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**Joe McLaughlin**

Assistant Director, Field Education  
Boston College School of Social Work  
617-552-0831  
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**Celina Barrios-Millner**

Immigrant Integration Fellow  
City of Boston - Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement  
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## **RESEARCH AGENDA STATEMENT**

My research agenda focuses on the role of social work perspectives and interventions to solve problems faced by clients needing legal services in three ways: 1) the integration of social work perspectives and interventions into legal aid settings, 2) the development of community social service programs to address the needs of vulnerable individuals holistically, and 3) considerations for serving people who experience more than one vulnerability.

While there has been some scholarship on the intersection of the practices of law and social work, including ethical considerations within clinical settings at several law schools, there remain many opportunities to develop a robust body of work that students, practitioners, academics, policymakers, and funders can use to frame their thinking on the topic. Notably, there seems to be a continuing lack of understanding between practitioners from the two fields about the extent to which the training of practitioners in the other field can be beneficial to developing solutions for individual clients, communities, and client populations. For example, lawyers interested in “rebellious” or “movement” lawyering approaches may assume that social workers are solely trained to provide mental health counseling or to navigate a incoherent web of social welfare services, when in reality, professional social work is rooted in community organizing and policy advocacy. Dispelling misconceptions about both professions paves a path to develop best practices for using social work interventions to address historically under-addressed issues facing legal aid clients. Furthermore, social work perspectives can be used to design interventions that promote long-term client empowerment in addition being effective in the short-term.

Social service programs frequently address multiple issues faced by individuals in the community. Holistic programs are often oriented through the lens of health care, as evidenced by the community health center movement addressing social determinants of health by offering farmers’ markets and swimming pools. When legal services are incorporated, it is often through an external partner providing occasional office hours for short-term legal advice and one-time “know-your-rights” presentations. However, there are several promising instances of incorporating legal interventions into these comprehensive programs. Developing scalable best practices for social service programs to integrate legal services into their portfolio of services can build valuable additional resilience for vulnerable populations.

Individuals needing legal aid are frequently experiencing multiple vulnerabilities. At times, various aspects of an individual’s life further complicate their legal problems and vice versa. Examples of common overlapping client vulnerabilities include: workforce development for children aging out of foster care, discrimination against LGBTQ immigrants, parenting supports for adults with disabilities, issues faced by elderly immigrants, rights of children of detainees, disproportionately adverse effects faced by communities of color during urban renewal, and environmental justice for public housing residents. Building sets of intervention approaches (in formats such as practice manuals) that still provide space for flexibility and nuance could be powerful tools for legal aid practitioners and other social service providers.