

Shantel Vachani

JD/MSW

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Shantel Vachani is the Managing Attorney in the Los Angeles office with the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights, an organization dedicated to advocating for the best interests of unaccompanied immigrant children in immigration detention. Shantel has extensive professional experience providing holistic legal and social work advocacy to youth in the foster and juvenile justice systems. Prior to joining the Young Center, Shantel worked as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work in the Children, Youth and Families Department where she taught policy and clinical practice courses to aspiring social workers, including Social Work and the Law, Working with Transition Age Youth and Advocacy for Justice Impacted Youth. Shantel has also worked as an children's rights attorney in the Children's Rights Project at Public Counsel Law Center, where she provided holistic social work and legal advocacy for youth transitioning out of foster care. Following law school, Shantel was a Soros Fellow and Education Attorney at the Learning Rights Law Center where she developed and directed a multi-disciplinary project called the School-to-Prison-Pipeline Reversal Project, aimed at preventing youth with special needs from being pushed of the educational system and into the juvenile justice system as a results of disability-related behaviors. Shantel received her joint Law degree and Masters in Social Work (MSW) from UCLA School of Law and UCLA School of Social Welfare, respectively.