

IMMIGRATION POLICY IN THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Day 1, Session 1: Lessons from The Infiltrators

Sejal Zota – Moderator

Sejal Zota is the Legal Director and co-founder of Just Futures Law, a transformational lawyering project that works to support the immigrant rights and racial justice movements in partnership with grassroots organizations. With twenty years of experience in the area of immigrant rights, Sejal has litigated and argued several high-impact decisions on behalf of individuals and amicus curiae in both federal and state courts. At Just Futures Law, Sejal engages in litigation and advocacy to defend the First Amendment rights of immigrant activists, combat technology-based policing deployed against immigrant communities, and challenge local police collusion with ICE.

Most recently, Sejal was the Legal Director of the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, where she spearheaded creative legal strategies in the areas of immigration enforcement, crimmigration, removal defense, and civil rights. Prior to that, Sejal worked at the UNC School of Government, where she authored *Immigration Consequences of a Criminal Conviction in North Carolina*. She has also served as an instructor in the NYU Immigrant Rights Clinic, as a public defender with the Bronx Defenders, and as a Kirkland and Ellis fellow at the Immigrant Defense Project. She graduated from NYU School of Law and Duke University.

Luis Nolasco – Panelist

Luis Nolasco is a senior community engagement and policy advocate at the ACLU of Southern California, working from the Inland Empire office. He graduated with a B.A. in psychology from California State University, San Bernardino and was one of the co-founders of the Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective. He currently sits on the board of the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice (ICIJ). His work is focused on the intersections between the criminal justice system and immigration systems. He began his work on these issues with Shut Down the Broward Transitional Center (BTC) in Boca Raton, Florida in 2012. Since then he has been active in the fight to dismantle the collaboration between local law enforcement and immigration authorities, and the fight against mass incarceration in the Inland Valleys. Luis was a leading force in the effort to eliminate 287-G agreements locally and played a key role in organizing the statewide campaign for SB54, the California Values Act.

Claudio Rojas – Panelist

Twenty-one years ago, Claudio Rojas and his family travelled from Argentina to the United States on a tourist visa. Mr. Rojas was offered a job in Florida and he and his family spent years trying to adjust their immigration status. After more than a decade living, working, and raising his children in the United States, Mr. Rojas ended up in a detention center in 2012, facing deportation.

Working with a group of DREAM activists who infiltrated the detention center, Mr. Rojas built a campaign demanding that detainees be freed, launched a hunger strike, earned national media attention, and moved 26 members of Congress to sign a letter demanding an investigation. Claudio received temporary work authorization, applied for a visa, and checked in with ICE under both Obama and Trump.

Weeks after a documentary film, titled *The Infiltrators*, that Mr. Rojas was featured in premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2019, he was suddenly deported. ICE falsely accused him of having committed crimes, although it was clear that the true motivation was to punish him for speaking out.

Alina Das – Panelist

Alina Das is a Professor of Clinical Law and Supervising Attorney at New York University (NYU) School of Law. Alina is Co-Director of the Immigrant Rights Clinic, a leading institution in local and national struggles for immigrant rights. She and her students represent immigrants and community organizations in litigation at the agency, federal court, and Supreme Court level, and in immigrant rights campaigns at the local, state, and national level. In addition to her teaching, Alina engages in scholarship on deportation and detention issues, particularly at the intersection of immigration and criminal law. Alina also serves as faculty director of the NYU Latinx Rights Scholars Program. Prior to joining the Law School, Alina was an attorney and a Soros Justice Fellow with the Immigrant Defense Project, where she engaged in strategic advocacy and litigation to address the immigration penalties associated with drug convictions and participation in alternatives to incarceration. Prior to her work at the Immigrant Defense Project, Alina clerked for Hon. Kermit V. Lipez of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Alina is a graduate of Harvard University (A.B. in Government), NYU Wagner School of Public Service (M.P.A.), and NYU School of Law (J.D.). Alina is a recipient of the LexisNexis Matthew Bender Daniel Levy Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Immigration Law, the NYU Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Faculty Award, and the NYU Center for Multicultural Education & Programs Nia Faculty Award.

Day 1, Session 2: Immigrants' Rights Litigation in the Biden Administration: A Conversation with Cecilia Wang

Ingrid Eagly – Moderator

Ingrid Eagly is a Professor of Law at the UCLA School of Law, where she teaches and writes about immigration and criminal law. Prior to joining the faculty at UCLA Law in 2008, Eagly served as a trial attorney for the Federal Public Defender in Los Angeles and a Soros Criminal Justice Fellow at the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles. Earlier in her career, she clerked for the Honorable David H. Coar in the Northern District of Illinois and was a Skadden Fellow at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago. She earned her A.B. in public policy from Princeton University and her J.D. from Harvard Law School. Eagly's publications appear or are forthcoming in the Stanford Law Review, the University of Pennsylvania Law Review, the California Law Review, and the Yale Law Journal, among others. In 2017, she received UCLA's Distinguished Teaching Award.

Cecilia Wang – Panelist

Cecilia Wang is deputy legal director at the national ACLU and directs the Center for Democracy, which encompasses the ACLU's work on immigrants' rights, voting rights, national security, human rights, and speech, privacy and technology.

She is a past director of the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project and a nationally recognized expert on issues at the intersection of immigration and criminal law, including state anti-immigrant laws, racial profiling and other unlawful police practices relating to immigration enforcement. She has taught immigration law courses as an adjunct lecturer in law at Stanford and the University of California at Berkeley.

Cecilia has been an ACLU lawyer since 2004, after beginning her career with the ACLU as a fellow in 1997-98 and then working as an attorney with the federal public defender's office for the Southern District of New York and at the San Francisco law firm of Keeker & Van Nest, LLP. While in private practice, Cecilia was appointed to the federal Criminal Justice Act indigent defense panel for the Northern District of California.

Cecilia is a 1995 graduate of the Yale Law School, where she was an articles editor for The Yale Law Journal. She served as a law clerk to retired Justice Harry A. Blackmun of the Supreme Court of the United States, working in the chambers of Justice Stephen G. Breyer, and to Judge William A. Norris of the U.S. Court of Appeals of the Ninth Circuit. She graduated from U.C. Berkeley in 1992 with an A.B. in English (with highest honors) and Biology.

Day 1, Session 3: Should Immigration Detention Be Abolished?

Nina Rabin – Moderator

Nina Rabin is Director of the Immigrant Family Legal Clinic at UCLA School of Law. In the legal clinic, Prof. Rabin works in partnership with community organizations and local institutions to best serve the multi-faceted needs of mixed status and recently arrived immigrant families. At the same time, she has undertaken policy research and advocacy to study and document the impact of immigration enforcement on women and families. She has authored articles and reports on the consequences of immigration enforcement for children in immigrant families, working conditions of immigrant women workers, immigrants' parental rights, and the treatment of women fleeing gender-based violence in immigration detention. She has spoken extensively on immigration policy issues in a variety of venues, including academic conferences, community forums, and a Congressional briefing.

Professor Rabin has also participated in trainings on immigration for attorneys and community leaders. Prior to her time at UCLA, Rabin spent over a decade on the clinical faculty at the University of Arizona, practiced in a civil rights law firm in California, and clerked for the Honorable Dorothy W. Nelson on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Margo Schlanger – Panelist

Margo Schlanger is the Wade H. and Dores M. McCree Collegiate Professor of Law at the University of Michigan, where she teaches constitutional law, torts, and classes related to civil rights and law enforcement/immigration. She has written dozens of scholarly articles and is a frequent commentator on civil rights topics. She is the lead author of a leading casebook, *Incarceration and the Law*, <http://incarcerationlaw.com>.

Professor Schlanger does substantial work in prison and immigration reform. She was the reporter for the American Bar Association's revision of Standards on Treatment of Prisoners. And she is class counsel in *Hamama v. Adducci*, a national lawsuit that successfully opposed deportation and detention for hundreds of Iraqis the Trump Administration sought to deport. She has served as an expert and/or a monitor in prison and immigration detention cases. In 2010 and 2011, she was the presidentially appointed Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, where she oversaw civil rights investigations of detention conditions and assisted in the development of detention policies relating to reducing sexual abuse and solitary confinement. She also served on DHS's Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers, which recommended abolishing family detention.

Professor Schlanger earned her J.D. from Yale in 1993 and clerked for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg from 1993 to 1995.

Ny Nourn – Panelist

Ny Nourn is a Community Advocate for the Immigrant Rights program at Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus. Her work involves interacting with organizations, lawmakers, and communities to help advance and implement legislation, inform affected community members, and represent Advancing Justice – ALC in coalition spaces.

Ny is a trained substance abuse counselor and is currently pursuing a degree in Sociology at San Francisco State University. She serves as a volunteer with the Survived and Punished Coalition and as a Council Member for Asian Prisoner Support Committee, supporting the release of incarcerated domestic violence and sexual assault survivors and immigrants facing deportation.

MeethSoni – Panelist

Meeth (Munmeeth) Soni is the Director of Litigation and Advocacy at Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef). At ImmDef, Meeth established the Litigation and Advocacy Program to respond to the systematic attacks on immigrant rights occurring throughout the immigration courts and through the immigration enforcement machineries.

Munmeeth has significant expertise on the intersection of immigration law, criminal law, disability law, and constitutional law, and is expert on immigration litigation and legal advocacy strategy for cases in immigration courts, both at the initial and appellate level, as well as federal court strategies for immigrant detainees. Meeth represented Petitioner in the Ninth Circuit published decisions *Avendano-Hernandez v. Lynch* and *Bringas-Rodriguez v. Sessions*. Prior to joining ImmDef in May 2016, Meeth spent seven years as an attorney in the immigration unit at the Public Law Center (PLC) in Santa Ana, CA, where she started as an AmeriCorps Equal Justice Works fellow, and in 2011 was awarded an Equal Justice Works fellowship to establish an asylum and deportation defense practice.

She has served as an adjunct professor at both University School of California, Irvine School of Law and the Western State College of Law. Meeth is the recipient of several awards including the 2019 Erwin Chemerinsky Defender of the Constitution Award, the 2019 South Asian Bar Association 2019 Public Interest Award, the 2016 California Lawyer Attorney of the Year Award and the 2012 inaugural M. Katherine B. Darmer Outstanding Community Service Award by the Orange County Lavender Bar Association in recognition of her advocacy on behalf of LGBTQ immigrants.