



PennState Law



State-Wide Teach-In: Immigrants' Rights January 12, 2017

Presenter Biographies

Immigration Basics

Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia is the Samuel Weiss Faculty Scholar and Clinical Professor of Law at Penn State Law: University Park. She has worked in the immigration field for nearly twenty years. Wadhia's research focuses on the role of prosecutorial discretion in immigration law and the intersections of race, national security and immigration. Her work has been published by Columbia Journal of Race and Law; Harvard Latino Law Review; Georgetown Immigration Law Journal; Texas Law Review; and Howard Law Journal, among others. Her book, Beyond Deportation: The Role of Prosecutorial Discretion in Immigration Cases, was published by New York University Press in 2015 and was the first book on the subject. At Penn State Law, Wadhia teaches doctrinal courses in immigration, asylum and refugee law. She is also the founder/director of the Center for Immigrants' Rights Clinic. Prior to joining Penn State, Professor Wadhia was deputy director for legal affairs at the National Immigration Forum and also worked as an immigration attorney with Maggio Kattar, P.C., both in Washington, D.C. She is a 1999 graduate of Georgetown University Law Center.

Victor Romero is the Maureen B. Cavanaugh Distinguished Faculty Scholar, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, and Professor of Law at Penn State Law. An elected member of the American Law Institute (ALI), Professor Romero has written two books, co-edited a three-volume anthology, and published over thirty law review articles, book chapters, and essays on immigrant and minority rights. A former advisory board member of Penn State's Africana Research Center, Professor Romero previously served as president of both the South Central

Pennsylvania Chapter of the ACLU and the NAACP of the Greater Carlisle Area. He has also served as a visiting professor of law at Howard and Rutgers.

Who Is at Risk? Vulnerable Populations

Melissa W. Wright is Head of the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Penn State University, and is also a Professor in the Department of Geography. Her research explores social movements against state terror and militarization along the Mexico-US border and within Latin America.

Caitlin Barry is a community lawyer whose work focuses on migrant justice, gender selfdetermination and grassroots empowerment. Caitlin directs the Farmworker Legal Aid Clinic at the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, where she teaches the clinic seminar and supervises student advocates in immigration and employment matters for Pennsylvania farmworkers. She also collaborates with local community-based organizations on advocacy and outreach projects.

Anil Kalhan is an Associate Professor of Law at the Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law and Chair of the New York City Bar Association's International Human Rights Committee. He is currently a Visiting Scholar at the Center for the Study of Law and Society at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, where he was previously in residence in 2015. He also is an Affiliated Faculty Member at the University of Pennsylvania South Asia Center and a Faculty Advisory Board member for the Drexel University Center for Mobilities Research and Policy. Professor Kalhan is Chair-Elect of the Section on Immigration Law of the Association of American Law Schools and is a co-founder and former chair of AALS Section on Law and South Asian Studies. He has served on the executive committee of the AALS Section on Comparative Law and as a member of the New York City Bar Association's Immigration and Nationality Law Committee and International Law Committee. Before attending law school, he worked for Cable News Network, PBS's MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, and the New York City Department of Transportation.

Yvette Willson has been an Attorney practicing in Family Law, Immigration Law, and Criminal Law for over twenty years. She is the Director of the Centre County Women's Resource Center Civil Legal Representation Project. She oversees the entire Project, including supervising two Staff Attorneys and a Paralegal, handles a full caseload of her own cases, conducts community presentations, and serves on multiple task forces, boards, and committees. Her clients are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking. Previously, for nearly seven years, she was an Assistant District Attorney with the Centre County District Attorney's Office where she handled cases involving child sexual abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, juvenile court, and other crimes. Before that, she was a City Prosecutor in Kansas for several years and a Public Defender. She started off her legal career in Michigan as a Supervising Attorney with Legal Aid of Central Michigan where she handled Family Law and other cases. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania, is the President of the Wilkinson Campbell American Inn of Court for Centre County, is the CoChair for the Centre County Bar Association's Probono Committee, has presented on Protection Orders at the

Pennsylvania Bar Association Family Law Section's Annual Meeting, has presented on Relocation in Custody cases at the Domestic Violence Attorney Network's quarterly meetings, and is the Council President for St. John's United Church of Christ in Boalsburg.

Sarah Paoletti is a Practice Professor of Law and founding director of the Transnational Legal Clinic at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. The Transnational Legal Clinic represents individuals and organizational clients in seeking various forms of humanitarian-based immigration relief, and in a range of international human rights cases and projects, primarily in the area of migration and immigrant rights. Most recently, the clinic secured a victory on behalf of undocumented workers before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Paoletti's research focuses on the intersection of human rights, migration, and labor law, and she has presented on this theme before the United Nations and the Organization of American States. She also works closely with advocates seeking application of international human rights norms in the United States. Prior to entering into clinical teaching, Paoletti was a staff attorney with Friends of Farmworkers, Inc. – a statewide legal services attorney for agricultural, landscaping and food processing workers in PA. She clerked for the Honorable Judge Anthony J. Scirica in the US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and received her JD from American University Washington College of Law.

Jennifer Nagda is Policy Director for the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights, where her work focuses on developing a best interests of the child standard for unaccompanied immigrant children. Jennifer has worked at the Young Center since 2008 as a staff attorney and then as the associate director. She previously taught at the University of Chicago Law School's Immigrant Child Advocacy Clinic, and she is currently a lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania Law School's Interdisciplinary Child Advocacy Clinic where students represent youth in foster care, domestic relations and family court proceedings. Jennifer was an attorney at the Midwest Regional Office of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and clerked for the Honorable James B. Zagel of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Prior to law school, Jennifer was the Associate Director of what is now the CityBridge Foundation in Washington DC, and also worked for the Corporate Executive Board and Advisory Board companies. Jennifer received her J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School and her undergraduate degree from Duke University. She co-authored "Best Interests of the Child Standard: Bringing Common Sense to Immigration Decisions," which was published in *Pioneering Change: Innovative Ideas for Children and Families, Big Ideas, First Focus* (2015).

CLUSTER THREE: Community Response

Linda Rabben is an associate research professor of anthropology at the University of Maryland. She did field research in Brazil over a 25-year period and worked for Amnesty International, the Rainforest Foundation, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, and other NGOs on human rights, migration, environmental and international development issues. Since the late 1990s she has published eight books about human rights. Her new book, *Sanctuary and Asylum: A Social and Political History*, was published by University of Washington Press in September 2016. She attends Adelphi (MD) Friends Meeting.

Elizabeth Goreham was sworn in as Mayor of State College on January 4, 2010, the first woman elected to this position. She is currently serving her second term. Prior to becoming Mayor, Ms. Goreham first served twelve years on State College Borough Council, the last two years as Council President. Since taking office, Elizabeth Goreham has represented State College on various boards and committees including the Pennsylvania Municipal League; the Metropolitan Planning Organization; National League of Cities; State College Community Land Trust; COG Transportation Committee; Spring Creek Watershed Commission; Centre County Farmland Trust; and worked for a variety of environmental initiatives, including the Borough's Climate Protection Resolution. Most recently she was a member of the Pennsylvania State University/State College Borough Task Force on Community Policing and Communities of Color. Prior to moving to State College, Ms. Goreham lived in Houston, Texas, where she had a career in corporate communications and co-founded a small consulting firm, China Business Company, dedicated to joint venture development in the People's Republic of China.

Jesse L. Barlow is Professor of Computer Science and Engineering and Adjunct Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. He holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Northwestern University. He is the author of over sixty publications in technical journals and has served as a visiting professor at several universities, including New York University, the University of Manchester, and the City University of New York, among others. He is a member of the Penn State Faculty Senate and the Borough Council of State College, PA.

Evan Myers has been an active member of the State College community since moving here to attend Penn State – class of 1971. He has served on various governmental boards and commissions, including six years as Chair of the Planning Commission. Currently, he is completing his first three-year term on the State College Borough Council. Evan also serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of AccuWeather, the world's largest international weather/media company. He has been involved in progressive causes his entire life, beginning as a student when he participated in many campus activities such as international peace, the admission of minority students, and student and minority rights. He has continued to work toward these aims through organizations that support fair and equitable housing and LGBTQ rights. In his business role, he has seen, first hand, the positive role of immigration.

CLUSTER FOUR: Rights and Resources

Jennifer Lee is Assistant Clinical Professor of Law at Temple University, where she directs the Social Justice Lawyering Clinic at the Sheller Center for Social Justice. She works with law students to represent individuals and organizations on critical issues affecting low-income people in the region, with a particular focus on low-wage workers and immigrants. The clinic docket consists of employment cases at all stages of proceedings before state and federal courts and the representation of grassroots organizations, legal nonprofits, and other entities involved in policy and legislative reform efforts, media advocacy, and community education. Prior to joining the Temple faculty, Lee was a farm worker attorney in Colorado and North Carolina, where she represented farm workers in wage and hour, civil rights, human trafficking, and immigration cases. Lee's research focuses on immigrant workers in the U.S., including an examination of their legal rights, social mobilization, and participation in guest worker programs.

Judy Kim is a Pennsylvania native, born to Korean-immigrant parents in the suburbs of Philadelphia. She grew up speaking English and Korean simultaneously, later learning Spanish and then Chinese. Judy's enthusiasm for languages developed into a zeal for international travel. Judy graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2014, with her bachelor of arts in Spanish and a minor in Chinese. Despite having grown up in an immigrant family, Judy credits her volunteer service as the 2014-2015 Compass AmeriCorps member at the Latino Family Support Center as her first, true exposure to the current immigrant narrative in the U.S. Interested in learning about the policies and legal processes around U.S. immigration, Judy joined the Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC) staff as the PA is Ready! Coordinator in September 2015, and has taken the lead on developing and managing this unique statewide, administrative relief program.

Jaya Ramji-Nogales is the I. Herman Stern Professor of Law and the Co-Director of the Institute for International Law and Public Policy at Temple University's Beasley School of Law, where she teaches Refugee Law and Policy. Prof. Ramji-Nogales is the co-author, with Profs. Andrew I. Schoenholtz and Philip G. Schrag, of Refugee Roulette: Disparities in Asylum Adjudication and Proposals for Reform (NYU Press 2009), a ground-breaking empirical study of adjudication at all four levels of the US asylum system. She is also the author of Lives in the Balance: Asylum Adjudication by the Department of Homeland Security (NYU Press 2014), an in-depth quantitative and qualitative study of asylum adjudication before the Department of Homeland Security's Asylum Offices. Before entering academia, Prof. Ramji-Nogales worked in the field of refugee law for several years, including teaching in Georgetown's asylum clinic, creating a refugee law clinic at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, and supervising the asylum program at the international law firm of Debevoise & Plimpton.