

# Roshell H. Amezcua

Loyola Law School, Los Angeles  
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## EDUCATION

### Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, CA

Juris Doctor, May 2014

- Activities:* La Raza De Loyola, Networking Chair (May 2012 – May 2014)  
Public Interest Law Foundation, Student Member (Fall 2011 – May 2014)
- Clinic:* Center for Juvenile Law and Policy, Certified Law Student (August 2012 – May 2014)

### University of California, Davis, Davis, CA

Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature, Women and Gender Studies Minor, August 2009

- Activities:* Study Abroad Program, Mexico City, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Fall 2009)  
Queer People of Color Convention, Organizer (Spring 2009)

### University of California, Merced, Merced, CA

Studied World Culture and History, September 2005 – June 2007

- Honors:* Dean's List (2005 – 2007)  
Creative Writing Journal prize for best creative non-fiction (2006)
- Activities:* Women's Caucus, Interclub Relations Officer (2005 – 2007)  
Women's Drama Troupe, Performer and Organizer (2005 – 2007)

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

### Loyola Law School, Center for Juvenile Law and Policy, Los Angeles, CA

Clinical Director and Associate Professor of Law (April 2024 – present)

*Courses Taught:* Juvenile Delinquency Law and Policy  
Advanced Criminal Litigation Skills

*Clinical Work:* Juvenile Justice Clinic

*Service Work:* 2023-2024 Equity and Inclusion Committee

- Direct a year-long, live-client clinic with two exam courses and clinical work
- Supervise students performing 208 to 350 hours of client service in trial court
- Supervise attorney staff and manage social workers
- Collaborate with education attorneys and clinical students in Youth Justice Education Clinic and Juvenile Innocence and Fair Sentencing Clinic
- Organize and conduct outreach to community organizations, schools, and client service providers
- Engage in strategic legislative advocacy for juvenile justice issues
- Root all advocacy, direction, and lessons in the praxis of adolescent development, race, ethnicity and power, trauma, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, abolition, and community investment

## BAR ADMISSION

New York State Bar, *Active*, July 2016

California State Bar, *Active*, July 2014

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### The Bronx Defenders Bronx, NY

*Supervising Attorney*

November 2020 to April 2023

- Manage tasks of onboarding classes of incoming law graduates pending admission to the New York State Bar, including supervising all appearances, collaborative training and preparation for all appearances,

case conferencing, client management, caseload management, time management, internal systems trainings and maintenance

- Provide ongoing constructive feedback on trial preparation and written work product
- Moot and practice for appearances as needed
- Support navigation of professional relationships with opposing counsel, Court staff, and internal office relationships
- Facilitate holistic representation by teaching how to identify appropriate referrals to and how to work collaboratively with civil advocates, social workers, parent advocates, and criminal and/or immigration attorneys for optimal client support
- Create safe and trusting relationships with supervisees for open questions, honest conversations, and the space to experiment, fail, succeed, and develop their own style and methods of litigating and supporting clients
- Meet weekly with supervisees to case conference and with the supervisory team and Director of the Family Defense Practice to discuss legal issues, how to support staff, and office-wide changes and policies

*Family Defense Attorney*

September 2016 - April 2023

- Provide holistic representation to parents in the Bronx Family Court in Article 10 Abuse and Neglect petitions
- Represent parents in visitation, custody, and family offense petitions
- Litigate termination of parental rights proceedings
- Collaborate on teams of social workers, parent advocates, and advocates from the civil, criminal, and immigration practices to address the particular needs of every client
- Author motions for appeal and present oral arguments at the Appellate Division, First Department regarding Article 10 petitions
- Supervise legal interns yearly by providing guidance on substantive legal research and writing, oral advocacy, holistic representation, and client interaction

*Family Defense and Immigration Counsel*

October 2019 – November 2020

- Created *Padilla-like* advising for Family Defense attorneys working with non-citizen parents in child regulation proceedings through research, trainings, and learning of client experiences through advocates
- Conducted trainings regarding *Padilla-like* advice to New York State and National Public Defender advocates regarding the legal and practical interactions between Immigration law and policy and Family Defense law and policy and representing non-citizen parents
- Developed office-wide trainings for incoming and current Bronx Defender Family Defense and Immigration attorneys regarding the interaction between Immigration law and policy and Family Defense law and policy and zealously representing non-citizen parents
- Provided Family Defense attorneys and Immigration advocates with informed legal consults, including case conferencing, attending appearances and co-counseling on the potential immigration consequences of child protection proceedings for noncitizen parents
- Created a toolkit of guides, motions, forms, and legal research for Family Defense attorneys within the Bronx Defenders to promote zealous advocacy and comprehensive advice for noncitizen parents in family court
- Advocated with outside agencies for the safest immigration outcomes within child protection proceedings for noncitizen parents
- Coordinated referrals between Family Defense attorneys and Immigration advocates to achieve timely and focused responses for noncitizen clients who are high-risk of immigration or child protective consequences
- Gathered data regarding Family Defense clients who are also non-citizens to share and advocate with stakeholders, court actors, outside agencies, and to inform our own practice
- Conducted ‘know your rights’ trainings for non-profit organizations who primarily service large immigrant communities about parents’ rights as it pertains to the Administration for Children’s Services and potential immigration consequences

*Mentor for Interns of Color*

June 2017 - April 2023

- Provide a safe space for interns of color to communicate the particular issues or barriers they experience due to their race, gender, and identity during their time at The Bronx Defenders-within the office, the courtroom, and in the legal field generally

*Summer Internship Breakout Leader* June 2020 – August 2020

- Trained a weekly group of seven interns in all litigation skills, including openings, closings, cross examination, direct examination, and theme and theory of a case
- Provided detailed and thoughtful feedback on a weekly basis to all interns in my group

*Summer Internship Cross Practice Team Leader* June 2020 – August 2020

- Oversaw an interdisciplinary team of legal and undergraduate interns, which met once a week to discuss any issues regarding interpersonal office relationships, office policies, holistic representation, client interaction, and support in managing a remote internship

*Training Team Hiring Committee* October 2017 – December 2017

- Interviewed candidates who are seeking full-time employment with The Bronx defenders as an entry-level staff attorney

**Rankin & Taylor**, New York, NY

*Legal Intern* September 2015 – August 2016

- Researched New York state statutes and case law focusing on police and government misconduct
- Wrote motions in response to opposition motions
- Analyzed health records to create a timeline of treatments and events in support of personal injury tort claims

**Orange County Public Defender's Office**, Santa Ana, CA

*Post Bar Law Clerk, Writs and Appeals Division* July 2014 – November 2014

- Analyzed trial transcripts with the goal of discovering appealable legal issues, such as lack of evidence or mistake of law, to submit for appellate court review
- Wrote habeas motions using analyzed legal transcripts, researched statutes and case law, submitted habeas motions for appellate review after receiving one-on-one feedback from supervising attorneys regarding arguments, legal strategy, and legal writing style

**Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office**, Los Angeles, CA

*Law Clerk* August 2013 – May 2014

*Inglewood Juvenile Court*

- Interviewed youth clients regarding probation progress to prepare supervising attorneys for probation review hearings • Conducted legal research of statutes and case law to support client cases
- Collaborated with social workers to identify services to meet client needs

*Mental Health Court*

- Interviewed clients with potential mental health issues to contest conservatorship
- Supported clients in navigating competency hearings by explaining the legal process and their rights

*Senate Bill 9 Juvenile Division*

- Researched legislative intent behind Senate Bill 9 allowing juveniles sentenced to life without parole to submit a request to the court for a new sentencing hearing
- Analyzed trial transcripts to find testimony and facts to support the request for the new sentencing hearing, based on the requirements outlined in Senate Bill 9
- Wrote affidavits incorporating interviews with clients' family members and other contacts submitted in support of resentencing hearing
- Argued in mock trials to assist the preparation of supervising attorney prior to resentencing hearings

**Center for Juvenile Law and Policy, Loyola Law School**, Los Angeles, CA

*Certified Law Student and Summer Associate (Summer 2013)* August 2012 – May 2014

- Represented indigent children and teens in juvenile delinquency courts, focusing mainly on criminal charges, under the supervision of an attorney, in all aspects of litigation, including initial intake interviews, drafting discovery motions, investigating and gathering evidence, monitoring post sentencing matters, litigating pre-trial motions, and preparing for trial
- Collaborated with social workers and education attorneys to provide holistic representation
- Maintained client documentation to ensure timely filings and appearances
- Communicated with clients and their families, including parents, informing them of their rights

## **Community Legal Services, Compton, CA**

*Legal Intern*

May 2012 – August 2012

- Provided one-on-one assistance to walk-in clients with divorce, paternity, name change, guardianship, child visitation, and evictions in Compton Court Self-Help Center
- Prepared temporary restraining orders in the Domestic Violence Center with individuals seeking to file

## **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

Presenter, *Pieces of the Puzzle - Exploring the Enmeshed Family Regulation and Immigration Systems, Reducing Harm within an Abolitionist Framework*, Virginia, April 2022

- ABA National Conference on Parent Representation

Guest Lecturer, *Race, Class, Power & Privilege in The Child Welfare System*, Columbia Law School, New York, 2020

- Discussed the tenants of family defense, including the legal standard listed in the law versus the ones used in court and policy issues surrounding the family regulation system

Guest Lecturer, *Family Defense and Immigration: Mitigating the Immigration Consequences for Clients*, Cardozo Law School, New York, 2020

Co-Presenter, *Resisting Surveillance, Reimagining Support: On the Criminalization of Motherhood, the Foster System, and Strategies for Movement Lawyering*, CUNY School of Law, New York, 2020

Presenter, *Noncitizens in Child Welfare Proceedings*, PLI 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Children's Law Institute, New York, July 2020

Presenter, *If, How, When: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice, 2019 NYC Summer Intern Training: Career Panel*, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), New York, June 2019

Presenter, *2019 Holistic Defense and Leadership Conference*, Maryland, June 2019

- National Legal Aid and Defender Association

Presenter, *The Intersection of Family Court and Immigration: Mitigating the Immigration Consequences for Clients Arguments and Techniques for a Successful Outcome*, New York, April 2019

- New York State Defenders Association

Panelist, *"The New Jane Crow" Fordham Law Panel*, Fordham Law School, 2018

## **COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT**

Co-chair, *Supporting Immigrant Children and Families Workgroup*, New York, October 2019 – November 2021

## **COMMUNITY ORGANIZING**

**The Bronx Defenders**, New York (April 2020 – July 2020) – Coordinated office-wide face mask collection and delivery to clients at the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Sylvia Rivera Law Project Organizing Committee for the Attorney and Advocates Awards**, New York (September 2015 – September 2016) – Member of an 8-person committee tasked with organizing awards ceremony honoring attorneys working on issues of prison justice

**The Audrey Lorde Project Safe Outside the System Collective (S.O.S)**, New York (November 2014 – September 2016) – Discussed community-based strategies to reduce hate and police violence, toward LGBTQ communities of color, receive security training to ensure safety of community members in public demonstration, provide court support for detained members

**Admission and Retention Chair of La Raza de Loyola, Los Angeles** (August 2013 – May 2014) – Created this position, organized first annual Latino Preview Day, led a group of 15 Latino law students, collaboratively authored the first welcome acceptance letter sent to newly accepted Latino students, strategized in the retention and admission of Latinx law students

**THINK Together**, Santa Ana, CA, Youth Coordinator (November 2009 – June 2011)-Organized an after-school tutoring program for students at Century High School in Santa Ana, recruited high school seniors to provide peer-to-peer tutoring, conducted a training program for student tutors to ensure effective pupil-led tutoring sessions. Created and led a class for low-income Latina/Hispanic teenage girls focused on building self-esteem, conflict resolution, and creating safe spaces for young women

## **LANGUAGES**

Spanish (Conversational)

## **INTERESTS**

- Hiring and retention of attorneys of color in the legal field
- Mentoring attorneys of color in the legal field
- Developing my own analysis on race and privilege generally and specifically within the legal field
- Bringing more attention to the violence inflicted on low-income black and brown families by the child regulation system, the criminal injustice system, and other systems of oppression
- Investing in communities of color as united families
- Divesting from historical systems of oppression