

VIVIAN T WONG

EDUCATION

UCLA School of Law – Los Angeles, CA

J.D., David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy and Critical Race Studies Specializations, May 2017

Journals: UCLA Law Review, *Staff Editor* (2015-16), *Diversity & Outreach Editor* (2016-17)

Clinic: Youth and Justice Clinic, *Clinical Law Student* (2016), *Clinical Teaching Assistant* (2017)

Honors: First-Year Lawyering Skills Course, *Writing Advisor* (2015-16)

2015 Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship Finalist

2016 Beverly Hills Bar Foundation Scholarship Recipient

Stanford University – Stanford, CA

B.A., International Relations and French, June 2012

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Youth Justice Education Clinic, Loyola Law School's Center for Juvenile Law and Policy

Los Angeles, CA

Director and Visiting Associate Clinical Professor

July 2025-Present

Interim Director and Adjunct Professor

April 2024 – July 2025

Supervising Attorney and Adjunct Professor

September 2021 – April 2024

Staff Attorney and Adjunct Professor

August 2020 – September 2021

Staff Attorney

August 2019 – August 2020

- Representing 150+ clients in the juvenile legal and/or dependency systems in school discipline and/or special education proceedings and supporting their diversion and/or termination of their probation case. Collaborating with in-house and outside defense counsel and social workers, minor's counsel, and regional center providers.
- Supervising 6+ classes of clinical law students in client representation, including filing administrative complaints (due process, Office of Civil Rights, and California Department of Education) and negotiations with opposing counsel. Providing mentorship to law students in postgraduate fellowship process and job search.
- Growing our policy practice by supporting policy initiatives that benefit system-involved young people, such as increasing oversight of education in detention facilities; decarceration of all young people; and ending probation supervision for young people and creating a new county department focused on youth development. Co-sponsored YJEC's first bill, SB 274, which resulted in eliminating willful defiance suspensions for all youth.
- Developed curriculum for two new courses: Education Advocacy and Litigation and Education Policy Practicum.
- Created and continue to oversee internal case management systems, and policies and procedures, to ensure a smooth and growing civil legal services operation.
- Created education advocacy workgroups and coalitions with local community partners (community organizers, legal service providers, and policy organizations) during the pandemic to support robust individualized distance learning for students with disabilities.

Learning Rights Law Center

Los Angeles, CA

Skadden Law Fellow

September 2017 – August 2019

- Developed a new program to provide intensive, trauma-informed special education legal services for 20+ system-involved youth, with an emphasis on increasing mental health access. Collaborated with defense attorneys, social workers, and regional center service providers. Legal services included IEP advocacy, school enrollment, representation at school discipline proceedings, filing administrative due process and state law complaints, and providing reports to the juvenile court regarding the status of education case.
- Diverted 10+ clients from the juvenile legal system by obtaining more appropriate educational program, placement, and services and/or advocating for the rescission of improper expulsion recommendations. For example, I diverted a 14-year-old Black student with severe social emotional needs from going to Department of Juvenile Justice by advocating for a more therapeutic residential placement funded by the school district.
- Obtained overall 40+ independent evaluations and 1,000+ hours of compensatory educational services for clients to be used after school at home or in juvenile hall/camp or adult county jail. For example, I helped an 18-year-old Latino student with an intellectual disability obtain 200 hours of compensatory education that he can use while detained in adult county jail. Moreover, I filed a motion requesting that, for the first time, the Office of Administrative Hearings send a mediator to the county jail so my client could have his voice heard.
- Conducted various trainings and presentations to defense attorneys, social workers, law students, and school districts at local and national conferences including Partnership LA (2018) and COPAA (2019).
- Honored with 2019 U. Serve LA's Recent Alumni Award based on fellowship work.

UCLA Youth & Justice Clinic

Clinical Teaching Assistant

Clinical Law Student

Los Angeles, CA

January 2017 – May 2017

January 2016 – May 2016

- Compared best practice restorative justice models in Oakland, SF, & LA to advise Partnership for LA Schools.
- Represented system-involved youth with learning needs and advocated on his behalf to retrieve partial credits.
- Advised clinical law students regarding their education advocacy for system-involved youth, with the supervision of an attorney from the Alliance for Children's Rights.
- Developed an education advocacy resource guide for future clinical students.

The Alliance for Children's Rights

Legal Extern

Los Angeles, CA

August 2016 – December 2016

- Provided special education legal services for system-involved youth through a partnership with Inglewood Court.
- Drafted a Uniform Compliance Procedure complaint on behalf of a system-involved youth who was unable to enroll in appropriate courses that would put him on track for graduation.

East Bay Community Law Center

Summer Law Clerk

Berkeley, CA

May 2016 – August 2016

- Represented 14 system-involved youth in special education, school discipline, and delinquency proceedings.
- Wrote a demand letter advocating on behalf of a system-involved youth with unaddressed mental health needs who was facing expulsion. After several phone calls with the district's general counsel, I managed to convince the district to cease the expulsion proceedings and to properly assess the youth's mental health needs at no cost to the family. Client also received 100 hours of private tutoring to compensate for lost reading instruction.
- Filed a motion for informal probation highlighting the system-involved youth's strengths, supportive community, and her potential to learn from this experience. The motion included pictures of the youth and her family. The motion was the product of several in-depth interviews with the youth and her family, extensive legal research, and time spent gathering several letters of support on the client's behalf.
- Conducted intake and brief services, which included advising families of their special education rights, referring clients to other issue areas covered by other EBCLC clinics (e.g. housing, immigration, public benefits), and equipping families with accessible self-help materials.
- Designed and presented interactive trainings for system-involved youth participating in Youth Employment Program and Youth Radio, two youth organizations in Oakland. Trainings included juvenile record sealing, school discipline, and effective self-advocacy strategies.

Public Counsel

Summer Law Clerk

Los Angeles, CA

January 2016 – May 2016

- Assisted in litigation preparation and strategy for *Peter P. v. Compton Unified School District* and produced a memo on state-by-state treatment of right to literacy for *Gary B. v. Snyder*.

National Center for Youth Law

Summer Law Clerk

Oakland, CA

June 2015 – August 2015

- Conducted legal research and wrote memoranda on variety of issues, including issues regarding school-to-prison pipeline, Texas truancy laws, expelled students' right to education, and implicit bias.

Young Minds Advocacy Project

Policy Intern

San Francisco, CA

March 2014 – June 2014

- Advocated for equal access to appropriate mental health care and community-based services for youth.
- Contributed to blog, addressing topics of community-based services and trauma-informed care.

Athletic Scholars Advancement Program

Program Associate

San Francisco, CA

August 2012 – June 2014

- Provided one-on-one mentorship to over 300 first-generation, low-income students.
- Reviewed personal statements and college/scholarship applications for 100 seniors each year.
- Coordinated 165 students' trips to summer programs on various college campuses.
- Created and institutionalized a laptop donation program with Stanford for college-bound ASAP students in need.

Common Sense Media

Special Projects Fellow

San Francisco, CA
August 2012 – September 2013

- Facilitated the implementation of K-12 digital literacy and citizenship programs in regional sites.
- Created, oversaw, and institutionalized the certification process for Common Sense Schools and Educators that tracked educators' use of Common Sense learning materials through customer feedback.
- Tailored existing K-12 digital literacy and citizenship curriculum to meet evolving student needs and trends.

TRAININGS AND PRESENTATIONS

Protect Our Democracy: Department of Education and Department of Labor, with Chelsea Helena and Raquel Derfler, for Cancel the Contract-Antelope Valley, California, February 2025.

Know Your Education Rights, with Stacy Nunez and Cindy Galvan, for Homeboy Industries and Homeboy Youth Reentry Center, California, January and February 2025.

Special Education and Legal Ethics, with Devon Rios and Roberta Savage, for Practising Law Institute's California Special Education Law for MCLE, California, October 2024.

Criminalization of Students of Color and With Disabilities, for National Center for Youth Law's Summer Seminar Series, California, July 2021, July 2022, July 2023, and July 2024.

Experiences & Outcomes of Youth in Foster Care, with Dr. Charity Chandler-Cole, Franco Vega, Nina Linh, Dave Stein, for Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Los Angeles Fireside Chat, California, May 2024.

Disability and Racial Justice Conversation with Vivian Wong, for Professor Fanna Gamal's Critical Race Theory Class at UCLA School of Law, California, April 2024.

Education Equity: The Failure to Provide Meaningful Education to Incarcerated Youth, with Dr. Inmaculada Ma García-Sánchez, Keisha Nwezi, and Yasmine Imani-McMorrin, for Children's Defense Fund's Child Watch Event, September 2023.

Holistic Education Advocacy for Students and Families, with Cindy Galvan, for Professor Ayako Miyashita's Education and the Law Class at UCLA School of Social Work, October 2020 and April 2023.

Replenish Your Advocacy Toolbox to Serve Our Most Vulnerable Youth, with Mayra Lira and Megan Stanton-Trehan, for Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates' 25th Annual Conference for MCLE, California, March 2023.

Criminalization of Students of Color and With Disabilities, for Professor Jyoti Nanda's GGU Law Youth & Justice Seminar, March 2021.

Holistic Advocacy for Students with Disabilities in the Juvenile Injustice System During COVID-19: Practical Strategies, with Oscar Lopez, for Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates' 23rd Annual Conference for MCLE, California, March 2021.

Changing the Narrative Through Education Advocacy in Defense Practice and Serving Crossover Youth During Covid-19 and Beyond, for Center for Juvenile Law and Policy's Everychild Symposium for MCLE, California, March 2021.

Critical Community Lawyering in Law School Clinics, with Fanna Gamal and Oscar Lopez, for the American Association of Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education, California, May 2020.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ORGANIZING

Education Justice Coalition, Los Angeles, CA (March 2020 – Present) – Co-founded and co-facilitate coalition of youth advocacy organizations and individuals with expertise in education law and youth development to hold Los Angeles County leaders accountable for education for detained youth.

The Gault Center, Washington, D.C. (June 2024 – Present) – Plan trainings and guest speakers for youth defense and advocacy network based on developing youth justice trends as an advisory board member for the Western Region.

Youth Justice Navigator, Los Angeles, CA (April 2021 – Present) – Serving as an advisory board member to offer practitioner insight in the development of an educational tool to facilitate participatory defense.

Alliance for Girls, Los Angeles, CA (March 2018 – August 2019) – Developed new network of organizations dedicated to serving girls of color across Los Angeles.

New Leaders Council, Los Angeles, CA (January 2019 – June 2019) – Collaborate with young professionals from various sectors to increase civic engagement and to create a more progressive Los Angeles.

Equal Justice Works, Washington, D.C. (November 2015 – November 2018) – Served as a board member to offer student insight on the organization's strategic plan, including financial budget and fundraising.

Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, San Jose, CA (October 2011 – May 2014) – Served as a board member to assist in planning community events such as the Annual West Coast Disability Pride Parade and advocate for community needs.

Power to ACT: Abilities Coming Together, Stanford, CA (April 2010 – July 2012) – Co-founded a community-building organization that provides safe spaces for students with visible and hidden disabilities (which constituted 7.6%+ of undergraduate population). Strategically sought and developed relationships with peers, administrators, CILs, and local nonprofits. Designed and implemented inaugural mentorship program for 30 students to stimulate community strength.

LANGUAGES

Competence in French; oral competence in Cantonese; beginner in Spanish and American Sign Language.