

Jason A. Pedraza

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POSITION

University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, Denver, CO

Assistant Professor of the Practice Law, July 2025 – present

Courses: Lawyering Process I & II

Service: Admissions & Scholarships Committee

EDUCATION

New York University School of Law, New York, NY, J.D. 2019

Honors & Awards

- Root-Tilden-Kern Public Interest Scholarship: Filomen M. D'agostino Scholarship for Women's and Children's Rights (three-year, full-tuition scholarship)
- Skadden Fellowship, awarded November 2018 for two years of post-J.D. work at Education Law Center (NJ)
- Deborah T. Poritz Public Interest Legal Fellowship, awarded for summer 2018 work at Northeast New Jersey Legal Services, Housing Rights Unit
- Equal Justice America Fellowship, awarded for summer and fall 2017 work at Advocates for Children (NY)
- Kirkland & Ellis LLP, 1L Diversity Scholarship

Activities and Other Experience

- Research Assistant to NYU Law Dean Trevor Morrison, May 2017 – January 2018
- Consultant, Columbia Law School Center for Public Research and Leadership Clinic, January 2018 – May 2018
- Education Law and Policy Society
- Latinx Law Students Association

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY, M.A. 2016, Higher and Postsecondary Education

- Anne S. Pruitt-Logan Annual Fund Scholar in Higher Education
- School Law Institute Certificate

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, A.B. 2011, Political Science

- American Studies Certificate
- Senior Thesis: *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart: Restoring Sanity in America*

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Clinical: Lawyering Process, Education Advocacy, Child and Family Advocacy, Community Legal Services
- Doctrinal: Education Law, Constitutional Law, Mental Health and Disability Law, First Amendment, Torts

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Words of Caution from Colorado: Double Check Your Deadlines! (coauthor), LexisNexis Practical Guidance (November 2023), <https://www.hollandhart.com/words-of-caution-from-colorado-double-check-your-deadlines>

From Courthouse to Statehouse—and Back Again: The Role of Litigation in School Funding Reform (contributor), Education Law Center (February 2021), https://edlawcenter.org/assets/files/pdfs/School%20Funding/ELC_Report_Courthouse_to_Stateho.pdf

English Learners in New Jersey: Exposing Inequities and Expanding Opportunities in the Wake of the Pandemic (contributor), Education Law Center, NJ Consortium for Immigrant Children, and NJ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages/NJ Bilingual Educators (November 2021), <https://edlawcenter.org/assets/files/pdfs/publications/NJCIC%20NJTESOL%20ELC%20EL%20Report%2011.15%20FINAL%20FOR%20POSTING.pdf>

Lessons from New Jersey's Abbott Preschool: Building a National System of High-Quality Early Education (moderator), Education Law Center and the National Institute for Early Education Research (June 2021), <https://edlawcenter.org/as-president-biden-calls-for-universal-pre-k-experts-discuss-abbott-preschool-as-national-model/>

Children's Rights in New Jersey's State-Funded Preschool Program (English and Spanish guides and presentations), Education Law Center (January 2020), <https://edlawcenter.org/guide-to-new-jerseys-right-to-preschool-available-in-english-and-spanish/>

Know Your Rights: Housing and Tenants' Rights (English and Spanish presentation), Northeast New Jersey Legal Services (October 2018)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Holland & Hart LLP, Denver, CO

Associate, October 2022 – June 2025

Diverse practice focused on commercial, appellate, and healthcare litigation. Researched and drafted pleadings, motions, and briefs filed in state and federal courts. Prepared and examined witnesses for contested hearings. Provided pro bono legal assistance on education matters.

Colorado Department of Law, Denver, CO

Assistant Attorney General, Higher Education Unit, June 2022 – October 2022

Served as general counsel to public institutions of higher education. Provided legal and policy advice to clients. Litigated matters in administrative, state, and federal courts.

Justice William W. Hood, III, Colorado Supreme Court, Denver, CO

Appellate Law Clerk, August 2021 – June 2022

Conducted legal research, prepared memoranda, and drafted opinions.

Education Law Center, Newark, NJ

Staff Attorney-Skadden Fellow, August 2019 – August 2021

Represented low-income families in special education matters by drafting letters and complaints and mediating issues with school districts. Presented know-your-rights trainings in English and Spanish. Supported the legislative and policy work of the Public Funds Public Schools campaign by tracking and analyzing state and federal legislation. Contributed on a report about school funding reform and an award-winning report about English language learners.

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services, Paterson & Jersey City, NJ

Deborah T. Poritz Public Interest Legal Fellow, May 2018 – October 2018

Represented low-income clients facing eviction in English and Spanish. Drafted complaints, negotiated settlements, and argued in court. Researched and wrote legal memoranda.

Center for Public Research and Leadership, Columbia Law School, New York, NY

Consultant, New York State Education Department, January 2018 – May 2018

Designed and implemented training sessions based on an evolutionary learning model (e.g., identify the problem, examine the system, explore root causes, define a measurement framework, and develop strategies) for dozens of school districts to reduce student segregation and increase student integration across racial/ethnic, English language learner, special education, and socioeconomic groups.

Dean Trevor Morrison, New York University School of Law, New York, NY

Research Assistant, May 2017 – January 2018

Researched and collaborated to create historically situated and legally precise constitutional history teaching modules for New York City public high school students. Piloted a module alongside teachers in a partner school.

Advocates for Children, New York, NY

Education Advocacy Intern, May 2017 – December 2017

Represented low-income families in English and Spanish throughout all stages of representation, including individualized education program meetings, school placement visits, and hearings. Researched and wrote legal memoranda.

Kirkland & Ellis LLP, New York, NY

Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) Law Intern, May 2016 – July 2016

Drafted motions for a federal civil rights case. Translated Spanish language litigation documents. Prepared a parent for a hearing with the NYC Department of Education to secure special education services consistent with her child's individualized education program.

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY

Assistant Director, Advancement Services, January 2016 – May 2016

Collaborated with the director of records and information processing assistants to ensure prompt and accurate data entry, data integrity, and report execution. Coordinated with the finance team and other College offices to streamline operational processes for fundraising.

Intern, Office of Development & External Affairs, June 2015 – December 2015

Researched and compiled profiles on potential corporate and foundation donors. Streamlined and implemented new processes for tracking proposals and gifts. Examined and rectified records in the Raiser's Edge database.

Program Assistant, Say Yes to Education, December 2013 – April 2015

Planned and implemented student programs and services, including academic resources, enrichment activities, and major events for 385 disadvantaged high school students. Managed the organization's business operations including budgeting, purchasing, and contracting processes. Earned Certificate in College Access and Success Counseling.

Revolution Prep, New York, NY

Regional Operations Coordinator, July 2012 – November 2013

Coordinated over 250 college readiness programs with more than 150 public school, private school, and nonprofit partners from New York City to Virginia. Managed and staffed over 100 instructors. Analyzed and compiled socioeconomic and educational performance data.

Princeton Blairstown-Center, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

Urban Experiential Education Facilitator, August 2011 – June 2012

Taught a social and emotional skills curriculum to disadvantaged youth in Trenton and New York City schools. Planned and lead the Princeton Campus Expedition program, an early college exposure experience for over 200 secondary students.

BAR ADMISSIONS

State Courts: Colorado (2022) and New Jersey (2019)

Federal Courts: U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

CIVIC AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Education Law Center, Newark, NJ

Pro Bono Legal and Policy Researcher, October 2022 – Present

Havern School, Littleton, CO

Trustee, May 2023 – August 2025

Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, Denver, CO

Education Committee Co-chair, November 2023 – August 2025