

TANIA N. VALDEZ

BAR ADMISSIONS

State of Colorado (November 2018)

State of California (December 2011)

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law

J.D., May 2011

Honors: Third-Year Distinction (Top 25%); Jurisprudence Award (International Law); LatCrit Student Scholar Program Award; Brayton Purcell Fellow (East Bay Community Law Center); Advocacy Award (for best brief/oral argument in first-year written & oral advocacy class).

Activities: Research Assistant (Prof. Bertrall Ross & Prof. Saira Mohamed); Articles Editor, Book Review Solicitor/Editor, *Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law & Justice*; Associate Editor, *Berkeley La Raza Law Journal*; Co-Chair, La Raza Law Students Association; Co-Founder & Co-Chair, Women of Color Collective (WOCC); Student Representative, Faculty Hiring Committee; Delegate, UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly; Member, Critical Race Scholars Society.

Colorado State University

Dec. 2007

B.A., *magna cum laude*, Sociology, Spanish (minor), Women's Studies & Chicana/o Studies (certificates)

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa; Harriet Patsy Boyer Award (Women's Studies); Jack & June Richardson Honors Program Award; Distinguished Alumni Award (awarded to one member of graduating class for Student Leadership).

Honors Thesis: "Experiences of Women of Color Faculty at Colorado State University"

Activities: Site Leader, Alternative Spring Break on violence against women (Ciudad Juárez, Mexico); Peer Mentor, Key Service Community and University Honors Program; Co-Founder, INCITE!

Women of Color Against Violence (Fort Collins, CO Chapter); Violist, CSU Orchestras. *Study*

Abroad: La Fundación Ortega y Gasset (Spain), Summer 2006.

VOLUNTEER AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Justice Sonia Sotomayor Inn of Court, Member, October 2017 – Present

Law School Si Se Puede, four-year mentor for aspiring lawyer, August 2017 – Present

Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, Member, August 2017 – Present

Colorado Women's Bar Association, Member, May 2017 – Present

EXPERIENCE

Killmer, Lane & Newman, LLP, Denver, CO

Aug. 2018 – Present

Associate Attorney

Represent clients in civil rights, employment discrimination, and pro bono criminal defense cases in federal and state courts. Perform all duties associated with litigation from initial consultations through trial.

United States District Court for the District of Colorado, Denver, CO

Oct. 2016 – Aug. 2018

Law Clerk to Magistrate Judge Kristen L. Mix

Conducted legal research and drafted orders and recommendations on dispositive and non-dispositive motions.

Issues included pro se prisoner constitutional claims, class action certification, insurance, contracts, writs of habeas corpus, state law claims, and discovery. Other duties included case management and supervising interns.

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, San Francisco, CA

May 2015 – Oct. 2016

Staff Attorney, Immigration

Reviewed agency records and parties' briefs for counseled and pro se petitions, analyzed issues, and conducted legal research to prepare draft dispositions on immigration petitions for review. Appeared before monthly threejudge panels to orally submit recommended dispositions. Majority of cases involved criminal law issues.

East Bay Community Law Center (Immigration Practice), Berkeley, CA

Acting Director, Immigration Practice

Jan. 2014 – May 2014

Staff Attorney & Clinical Instructor

Aug. 2011 – May 2015

Legal Intern

May 2009 – May 2010

Provided direct legal services to low-income, primarily Spanish-speaking clients about comprehensive issues related to immigration. Assisted clients with: removal defense in immigration court often involving collateral consequences of criminal convictions, U visas, asylum, withholding of removal and CAT claims, DACA, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, adjustment of status, naturalization, and BIA appeals. Trained and supervised law students and pro bono attorneys.

Accountability Counsel, San Francisco, CA

Spring 2011

Legal Intern

Conducted legal research regarding environmental and human rights violations by private corporations against communities in Peru, Mexico, and Papua New Guinea. Assisted with policy initiative providing expert advice to advocate for creation and reform of non-judicial grievance mechanisms for affected communities.

Indian Law Resource Center, Washington, D.C.

Fall 2010

Legal Intern, UCDC Full-Time Externship Program

Conducted international and foreign legal research and drafted memoranda related to Center's work in Guatemala, Chile, and Peru within the Inter-American Human Rights System. Represented the Center at meetings with nongovernmental organizations, government agencies, and international agencies regarding climate change, environmental justice, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, El Paso, TX

Summer 2010

Legal Intern

Assisted low-income clients in a variety of cases. Conducted extensive discovery review in tort claim. Negotiated with landlords on behalf of tenants in eviction suits. Interviewed victims of human trafficking and domestic violence for immigration relief. Conducted investigations and prepared discovery responses in family law case. Drafted legal memoranda for civil rights and environmental justice litigation.

California Asylum Representation Clinic, Berkeley, CA

Aug. 2008 – May 2010

Student Legal Representative

Successfully represented Salvadoran domestic violence survivor in a gender-based asylum claim and an indigenous Guatemalan survivor of genocide in a race-based asylum claim.

Fischer & Fischer, LLP, Fort Collins, CO

May 2007 – Nov. 2007

Legal Intern/Courier

File clerk, secretary, and courier for small criminal defense, personal injury, and real estate law firm.

Crossroads Safehouse, Fort Collins, CO

Sept. 2006 – April 2008

Domestic Abuse Response Team Volunteer & Part-Time Staff Advocate

Reported to scenes of domestic violence incidents during 12-hour on-call shifts to provide emergency counseling for victims. Staffed shelter on weekends and evenings to counsel residents and ensure safety.

Office of Women's Programs & Studies, Fort Collins, CO

Aug. 2005 – May 2008 *Student Staff*

Represented office at campus events, organized and advertised weekly speakers, and answered phones.

Co-Instructor, Introduction to Women's Studies

Spring 2008

Co-taught Introduction to Women's Studies course with Program Director.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- AIDS and the Law Treatise, Immigration Law Chapter, Contributor (2012, 2013, 2014)

- LatCrit XV Annual Conference, Student Scholar Award Presentation, “Dispossession & Migration: Effects of NAFTA on Indigenous Women in Rural Mexico” (October 2010)
- Various panel presentations regarding Alternative Spring Break trip to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico focused on topic of violence against women (April-September 2007)
- CSU, Women's Studies Colloquium, “Latina Immigrants and Domestic Violence” (Feb. 2007)

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Proficient in Spanish. Interests include yoga and playing viola.