

**Pooja R. Dadhania**  
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## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

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### **California Western School of Law, San Diego, CA**

*Professor of Law* (with tenure), August 2023–present

*Associate Professor of Law*, August 2020–July 2023

*Assistant Professor of Law*, July 2018–July 2020

- Courses: Civil Procedure I and II; Immigration Law; Asylum and Refugee Law; Clinical Externship Seminar
- Professor of the Year (2019), 1L Professor of the Year (2024)
- Research Award for Exceptional Scholarship (2020, 2022, 2023)
- Distinguished Teaching Scholar (2023)

### **Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C.**

*Clinical Teaching Fellow and Supervising Attorney*, July 2016–June 2018

- Taught and supervised students in a semester-long, ten-credit, in-house legal clinic (taught in both fall and spring semesters), representing asylum-seekers and torture survivors in removal proceedings before D.C.-area immigration courts.
- Co-taught and designed twice-weekly seminar classes focused on substantive immigration law, immigration court practice, and trial advocacy.
- Evaluated and provided regular feedback on students' legal writing and oral advocacy. Conducted weekly meetings with student case teams, utilizing clinical methodology to engage students in discussions of case strategy and various aspects of client representation.
- Shared responsibility for clinic management, including student selection, case selection, curriculum development, policy formulation, and other aspects of clinic management.
- Participated in a year-long "Elements of Clinical Pedagogy" course, taught by members of Georgetown's clinical faculty.
- Represented clinic clients in appeals before the Board of Immigration Appeals.

## **EDUCATION**

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**Georgetown University Law Center**, LL.M. (Advocacy), with distinction, 2018

**Columbia Law School**, J.D., 2011

Honors: James Kent Scholar (highest annual academic honor); Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar; Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu Fellow; Social Justice Honoree for pro bono work

Activities: COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW, Notes Editor  
Research Assistant and Teaching Fellow for Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger  
Foundation Moot Court Program, Student Editorial Board; Teaching Fellow;  
Student Judge  
Japanese Legal Studies Association, President

**University of Virginia**, B.A., with high distinction, 2006

Majors: Political and Social Thought (distinguished major program), Economics

Minor: Foreign Affairs

Thesis: *Killed in the Name of Honor: A Demographic and Sociolegal Analysis of Honor Killings in Jordan and Pakistan*

Honors: Echols Scholar; Raven Society (honor society for scholastic achievement and service); Dean's List (all semesters)

## **PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS**

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*A Reassessment of Representation and Case Outcomes at the Asylum Office* (with Hillary Mellinger) (working paper)

*Linguistic Abuse of Migrants* (working paper)

*More than Miscommunication: Rethinking Interpretation at the Asylum Office*, J. MIGRATION & HUMAN SECURITY (2025) (with Hillary Mellinger) (peer reviewed)

*State Responsibility for Forced Migration*, 64 B.C. L. REV. 745 (2023)

*Gender-Based Religious Persecution*, 107 MINN. L. REV. 1563 (2023)

- Excerpt reprinted in Karen Musalo et al., REFUGEE LAW AND POLICY: A COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL APPROACH (forthcoming 2025)

*Reimagining Sovereignty to Protect Migrants*, 47 YALE J. INT'L LAW ONLINE 71 (2022)

*Paper Terrorists: Independence Movements and the Terrorism Bar*, 108 CALIF. L. REV. 1733 (2020)

- Reviewed by Sam F. Halabi, *Clarifying the Legal Consequences of "Terrorism,"* JOTWELL (April 28, 2021), <https://intl.jotwell.com/clarifying-the-legal-consequences-of-terrorism/>

*Language Access and Due Process in Asylum Interviews*, 97 DENV. U. L. REV. 707 (2020) (invited symposium)

- Cited by American Civil Liberties Union in *Petition for Rulemaking: Interpreters for Affirmative Asylum Interviews* to U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Justice (Apr. 15, 2024)

*Deporting Undesirable Women*, 9 UC IRVINE L. REV. 53 (2018)

- Reprinted in Immigration Briefings, Thomson Reuters (May and June 2019)

*The Categorical Approach for Crimes Involving Moral Turpitude after Silva-Trevino*, 111 COLUM. L. REV. 313 (2011) (note)

- Cited by *State v. Tulley*, 428 P.3d 1005 (Utah 2018)
- Cited by *Lopez-Penaloza v. State*, 804 N.W.2d 537 (Iowa Ct. App. 2011)

Immigration Law Service (2d ed.), Thomson Reuters (with Shane Dizon)

## **JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS**

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**U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit**, Hon. Milan D. Smith, Jr.,  
El Segundo, CA, 2013–2014

**U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California**, Hon. Irma E. Gonzalez,  
San Diego, CA, 2012–2013

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

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**Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles**, Los Angeles, CA

*Equal Justice Works Fellow*, 2014–2016

- Represented survivors of gender-based and domestic violence in affirmative and defensive asylum cases. Representation included a detained Ghanaian client in removal proceedings who escaped forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and domestic violence; Bangladeshi clients fleeing gender-based violence, including severe domestic violence, forced marriage, and rape; and Chinese clients fleeing coercive family planning policies.
- Represented survivors of violence in a variety of immigration matters, including VAWA self-petitions, U visa applications, T visa applications, adjustment of status, and naturalization.
- Represented domestic violence survivors in restraining order hearings, a restraining order appeal, and other family law matters including dissolution of marriage, child custody and visitation, and support proceedings.
- Conducted outreach and trainings on forced marriage to non-profit organizations in Los Angeles. Prepared training and educational materials on forced marriage.

**Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP**, Washington, D.C.

*Associate*, 2011–2012; *Summer Associate*, Summer 2010

- Compiled evidence, engaged an expert witness, and prepared for trial for a Pakistani pro bono client seeking asylum on the basis of threats of honor-based violence.
- Prepared case strategy for and interviewed a pro bono client seeking asylum on the basis of the threat of forced marriage and sexual violence in El Salvador.
- Researched and drafted memoranda on various topics in antitrust law.
- Drafted deposition outlines, worked with economic experts, and helped manage discovery for the merger litigation related to AT&T's proposed acquisition of T-Mobile.
- Compiled evidence and interviewed witnesses for multi-national price-fixing cartel investigations.

**The Legal Aid Society, Immigration Law Unit**, New York, NY

*Extern and Volunteer*, Sept. 2010–Apr. 2011

- Assisted with the representation of clients in removal proceedings due to criminal convictions. Interviewed and prepared clients for hearings. Drafted direct examinations of witnesses for individual hearings. Conducted master calendar and individual hearings in immigration court.

- Drafted a habeas petition and an emergency motion to reopen removal proceedings, as well as portions of a brief discussing the application of the Fair Sentencing Act to the definition of an aggravated felony.
- Drafted applications for relief including adjustment of status, cancellation of removal, and waivers of criminal grounds of inadmissibility.

**United Nations, Office of Legal Affairs, General Legal Division, New York, NY**

*Extern, Spring 2010*

- Researched contracting, employment, procurement, intellectual property, tax, and arbitration issues in international and domestic law to provide legal advice to internal U.N. divisions.

**Matsuo & Kosugi, Tokyo, Japan**

*Summer Associate, Summer 2009*

- Assisted with the defense of an Israeli citizen charged in Japan with drug trafficking.
- Observed and participated in various Japanese legal practices and proceedings.

**Japan Exchange and Teaching Program, Kumamoto City, Japan**

*Assistant Language Teacher, 2006–2008*

- Taught English in Japanese public elementary and junior high schools.
- Prepared daily lessons, teaching materials, and yearly curriculums.

**SELECTED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, AND MEDIA**

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Presenter, “A Reassessment of Representation and Case Outcomes at the Asylum Office,” *Western Law Professors of Color and Conference of Asian Pacific American Law Faculty Joint Conference* (University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law, June 2025)

Invited Panelist, “The Importance of Language Support in Helping Victims of Human Rights Abuses Tell Their Stories,” *Casa Cornelia Law Center* (San Diego, CA, Oct. 2023)

Presenter, “Linguistic Abuse of Migrants,”

- “Inverting Immigration Exceptionalism,” *ClassCrits XIV* (Southwestern Law School, Feb. 2024)
- *Faculty Colloquium on Social Justice* (California Western School of Law, Sept. 2023)
- “Politics of Inclusion & Inequality,” *Western Law Professors of Color and Conference of Asian Pacific American Law Faculty Joint Conference* (LMU Loyola Law School, June 2023)
- *Emerging Immigration Scholars Conference* (George Washington Univ. Law School, June 2023)
- Session Chair, Language Access & Interpretation Challenges in the U.S. Immigration System, *Global Meeting on Law & Society* (Lisbon, Portugal, July 2022)
- *Latina & Latino Critical Legal Theory (LatCrit) Conference* (Sturm College of Law, University of Denver, Oct. 2021)

- Language and the Law in the Age of Migration, *International Language and Law Association Conference* (University of Alicante, Sept. 2021) (selected from an international call for papers)
- *Inaugural Workshop for Asian American and Pacific Islander Women in the Legal Academy* (Penn State Law, Western New England Univ. School of Law, Aug. 2021)
- *Faculty Workshop* (California Western School of Law, June 2021)

Presenter, “State Responsibility for Forced Migration,”

- *Osher Lifelong Learning Institute* (University of California San Diego, May 2023) (invited)
- *American Society of International Law Midyear Meeting* (University of Miami School of Law, Nov. 2022) (selected from an international call for papers)
- *Workshop for AAPI and MENA Women in the Legal Academy* (UC Davis School of Law, Sept. 2022)
- *Faculty Workshop* (California Western School of Law, Sept. 2022)
- *15th Pan-European Conference on International Relations, European International Studies Association* (Panteion University, Aug. 2022) (selected from an international call for papers)
- Latina & Latino Critical Legal Theory (LatCrit), *Margaret E. Montoya Writing & Wellness Retreat* (June 2022)
- *Immigration Law Teachers & Scholars Workshop* (LMU Loyola Law School, June 2022)
- *Southern California International Law Scholars Workshop* (UCLA School of Law, Apr. 2022) (selected from a regional call for papers)

Quoted, Sophie K. Rosa, *Sex Workers Are Being Detained at the US Border*, Novara Media (Mar. 14, 2023)

Invited Presenter, “Language Access as a Civil Right,” Immigration Working Group Meeting, *American Constitution Society State Attorneys General Project* (Mar. 2022)

Invited Panelist, “English Fluency and Access to Justice,” *South Asian Bar Association of San Diego* (San Diego, CA, Feb. 2022)

Panelist, “Handling Difficult Students, Handling Difficult Student Questions,” *California Western Faculty Teaching Excellence Discussion* (California Western School of Law, Jan. 2022)

Invited Presenter, “Dimensions of Torture Definitions,” *Survivors of Torture, International* (San Diego, CA, Oct. 2021)

Invited Presenter, “Expert Mental Health Testimony for Asylum Cases in Immigration Court,” *Survivors of Torture, International* (San Diego, CA, Sept. 2021)

Presenter, “Paper Terrorists: Independence Movements and the Terrorism Bar”

- *Faculty Colloquium* (University of San Diego School of Law, Sept. 2021)
- New Voices in Immigration Law, *Association of American Law Schools Annual Conference* (New Orleans, LA, Jan. 2019) (selected from a national call for papers)

- *Western Law Professors of Color and Conference of Asian Pacific American Law Faculty Joint Conference* (UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law, Oct. 2018)
- *Faculty Workshop* (California Western School of Law, Oct. 2018)
- *Immigration Law Scholars and Teachers Workshop* (Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law, May 2018)

Presenter, “Gender-Based Religious Persecution”

- *International Colloquium on Law and Religion, 7th Law and Religion Research Meeting, United Nations Academic Impact Program (UNAI), Brazilian Center of Studies in Law and Religion (CEDIRE)* (Federal University of Uberlandia, May 2021) (selected from an international call for papers)
- *Building Bridges between Secular and Religious Human Rights Communities, Association of American Law Schools Annual Conference* (Jan. 2021) (selected from a national call for papers)
- *Clinical Law Review Writers’ Workshop* (NYU School of Law, Oct. 2020)
- *Perspectives on Asylum and Refugee Law, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting* (May 2020)
- *Current Trends in Immigration Research and Activism, Southeastern Immigration Studies Association Conference* (College of Charleston, The Citadel, Feb. 2020)
- *Emerging Immigration Scholars Conference* (BYU Law, June 2019)

Quoted and Featured, Barbara Zaragoza, *Preparing for a Career in Immigration Law*, San Diego Lawyer Magazine (July/Aug. 2020)

Invited Guest Lecturer, “Seeking Protection from Gender-Based Violence Under U.S. Asylum Law,” *Osher Lifelong Learning Institute* (University of California San Diego, May 2020)

Presenter/Panelist, “Language Access and Due Process in Asylum Interviews”

- *Lives in Danger, Justice Denied: Historical and Current Perspectives on the Closing Space for Seeking Asylum in the United States, Immigration Law in Shifting Times, Denver Law Review Symposium* (Sturm College of Law, University of Denver, Feb. 2020) (invited)
- *Immigration Policy and Power, Latina & Latino Critical Legal Theory (LatCrit) Conference* (Georgia State University College of Law, Oct. 2019)
- *Faculty Workshop Series* (California Western School of Law, Sept. 2019)

Panelist, “Arc of Career for Immigration Law Teachers and Scholars,” *Emerging Immigration Scholars Conference* (BYU Law, June 2019)

Moderator, “Teaching and Learning Innovations in Immigration Law,” *Emerging Immigration Scholars Conference* (BYU Law, June 2019)

Co-Presenter, “The Harms of the ‘Millennial’ Label in an Era of Us vs. Them,” *Association of American Law Schools Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education* (San Francisco, CA, May 2019)

Moderator, “False Labeling and Racial Issues,” *Border Myths Symposium*, *California Western Law Review & International Law Journal* (California Western School of Law, Mar. 2019)

Panelist, The Current State of Immigration Law, *Immigration Law Society* (California Western School of Law, Sept. 2018)

Invited Panelist, Key Skills for a Legal Aid Fellow, *Legal Services Corporation Rural Summer Legal Fellow Corps Training* (Washington, D.C., May 2018)

Invited Panelist, Reflections and Advice on being a Legal Aid Attorney, *Legal Services Corporation Rural Summer Legal Fellow Corps Training* (Washington, D.C., May 2018)

Presenter, “Deporting Undesirable Women”

- *Fellows’ Collaborative Workshop* (Georgetown University Law Center, Nov. 2017)
- *Clinical Law Review Writers’ Workshop* (NYU School of Law, Sept. 2017)
- *Columbia Law School Moot Workshop* (Columbia Law School, Sept. 2017)
- *Emerging Immigration Scholars Conference* (Texas A&M University School of Law, May 2017)

Invited Panelist, Client Interviewing Skills

- *Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Training* (Washington, D.C., Nov. 2017)
- *Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Training* (Washington, D.C., Oct. 2016)

Facilitator, Domestic Violence Issue Area Breakout

- *Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Training* (Washington, D.C., Oct. 2017)
- *Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Training* (Washington, D.C., Oct. 2016)

Guest Lecturer, Forced Marriage, Refugees, and Restraining Orders, *Human Rights Program, Immigration Law Program, and Domestic Violence Project* (University of Virginia School of Law, Oct. 2017)

Panelist, Echols Evenings – Alumni Discussion Series, *Echols Scholars Program* (University of Virginia, Oct. 2017)

Guest Lecturer, Representing Immigrant Children: Opportunities, Challenges, and Outlook, *LL.M. Program in Civil Justice (D.C. Affordable Law Firm)* (Georgetown University Law Center, Oct. 2017)

Invited Participant, National Consultation on Forced Marriage: Policy Solutions & Serving Survivors, *Tahirih Justice Center Forced Marriage Initiative* (Washington, D.C., Oct. 2017)

Panelist, Public Interest 101 Career Discussion, *Office of Public Interest and Community Service* (Georgetown University Law Center, Oct. 2017)

Co-Presenter, Stories in 140 Characters: How Social Media and Electronic Communication Can Improve (Not Hinder) Students’ Storytelling, *Legal Writing Institute and Clinical Legal*

*Education Association Conference on Applied Legal Storytelling* (American University, Washington College of Law, July 2017)

Panelist, Key Skills for Successful Client Interviews, *Legal Services Corporation Rural Summer Legal Fellow Corps Training* (Washington, D.C., June 2017)

Panelist, Forced Marriage and Human Trafficking Intersection, *Freedom Network USA* (Arlington, VA, Apr. 2017)

Quoted, Teri Schultz, *Legal Activists Volunteer in Fight Against Trump Travel Ban*, Deutsche Welle (DW) (Feb. 5, 2017)

Invited Panelist, Beyond the Fellowship, *Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Training* (Washington, D.C., Oct. 2016)

Presenter, Addressing Forced Marriage in Our Community

- *Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles* (Los Angeles, CA, May 2016)
- *Center for the Pacific Asian Family* (Los Angeles, CA, Apr. 2016)
- *California Coalition Against Sexual Assault* (Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 2015)
- *South Asian Network* (Artesia, CA, Nov. 2015)
- *Supporting Families Workgroup, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles* (Long Beach, CA, Nov. 2015)
- *International Institute of Los Angeles* (Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 2015)
- *Legal Collaborative for Survivors* (Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 2015)
- *Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles* (Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 2015)

Presenter, Naturalization and Certificates of Citizenship CLE, *South Asian Network and South Asian Bar Association Citizenship Clinic* (Lawndale, CA, Feb. 2015)

## **INTERNAL SERVICE**

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Co-Director of Social Justice Area of Concentration (2023–present)

Appointments Committee (2021–2022; 2023)

Academic Affairs Committee (2022–2023)

Adjunct/Visitor Appointments (2022–2023)

Online Learning Task Force (2020–2022)

2021 ABA Site Visit Committee (2019–2021)

Curriculum/Library Committee (2019–2021)

Student Recognition Scholarship Committee (2020)



Faculty Development Committee (2018–2019)

Summer Skills Program for Incoming Students (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

Faculty Advisor to Student Organizations: Immigration Law Society (2021–present), South Asian Law Students Association (2024–present); Children’s Advocacy Law Society (2021–2022)

## **EXTERNAL SERVICE, MEMBERSHIPS, AND BAR ADMISSION**

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National Association of Women Judges, Mentoring Project for Afghan Judges, *Mentor* (2022–2023)

South Asian Bar Association of San Diego, Afghan Outreach Project, *Volunteer* (2022–2024)

National Language Access Advocates Network (N-LAAN), *Member* (2022–present)

Survivors of Torture International, *Board of Directors* (2019–2023)

American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), *Member* (2016–present)

- D.C. Chapter Pro Bono Committee, *Advisor* (2017–2018)

Equal Justice Works, *Alumni Application Reviewer* (2017–present)

Virginia Alumni Mentoring, *Mentor* (2016–present)

University of Virginia Asian and Asian Pacific American Alumni Network Mentorship Program, *Mentor* (2022–present)

Emerging Immigration Scholars Conference (BYU Law, June 2019), *Planning Committee Member*

Forced Marriage Working Group, *Member* (2015–2018)

South Asian Bar Association of Southern California, *Public Interest Foundation Board of Directors, Clinics Chair* (2014–2015)

Bar Admission: California (active)

## **PROFESSIONAL HONORS**

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1L Professor of the Year, California Western School of Law (voted by student body) (2024)

California Western School of Law Research Award for Exceptional Scholarship (2023)

California Western School of Law Distinguished Teaching Scholar (2023)

California Western School of Law Research Award for Exceptional Scholarship (2022)

California Western School of Law Research Award for Exceptional Scholarship (2020)

Professor of the Year, California Western School of Law (voted by student body) (2019)

Certificate of Congressional Recognition, U.S. Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (2015)

Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll, District of Columbia Courts (2012)