

Citlalli Ochoa

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

American University Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.

July 2022 – Present

Practitioner-in-Residence

Acting Director

Fall 2023

Teach and supervise students in the International Human Rights Law Clinic (IHRLC), an in-house clinic that provides students the opportunity to represent individuals alleging violations of human right norms before international human rights bodies and domestic courts and administrative agencies. The IHRLC docket includes representation of non-governmental organizational clients in policy advocacy projects addressing transnational and international issues. Specific examples of the opportunities created for IHRLC students include: litigating before the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; litigating before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR); representing asylum seekers in immigration court and administrative proceedings; and, collaborating with grassroots movements working to abolish the death penalty in Ohio in connection with individual-client advocacy before the IACHR. As Acting Director during the Fall 2023 semester, responsibilities included case and project selection and refining the seminar curriculum to complement the AY 2023-2024 docket.

Teach course on International Human Rights Law Courts & Monitoring Bodies (Spring 2024, scheduled to teach Spring 2025). Serve as Chair of the Clinical Program's Language Access Committee, focusing on improving language access for clients with limited English proficiency. Serve as faculty mentor for Public Interest/Public Service (PIPS) Scholars and on the faculty Public Interest Committee. Serve as Co-Chair of the national Bringing Human Rights Home Network Inter-American Working Group.

Summer Law Program in The Hague, International Legal Approaches to Terrorism

Summer 2023

Faculty Co-Director

Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, CA

Fall 2021

Adjunct Professor. Designed and taught the Workers' Rights Clinic. Supervised students working on cases affecting low-wage workers in Los Angeles County.

Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, CA

July 2020 – May 2022

Employment Law Staff Attorney. Provided holistic, community-based legal services to low-income workers. Represented clients in litigation and administrative hearings, and oversaw unemployment benefits and wage theft community clinics. Supervised and trained volunteer attorneys, legal assistants, law clerks, and non-attorney volunteers. Engaged in high-impact advocacy and litigation involving systemic issues affecting workers.

International Justice Resource Center, San Francisco, CA

September 2016 – July 2020

Staff Attorney. Researched and drafted reports and analysis to advance the progressive interpretation of human rights law, ensure the transparent and independent functioning of human rights oversight bodies, and facilitate civil society engagement in human rights advocacy and litigation. Directed and managed the work of law fellows. Prepared *amicus curiae* briefs, expert affidavits, and third-party intervener briefs in litigation before domestic and international legal mechanisms. Drafted and edited guides, manuals, and other content for publication. Developed and implemented training programs on international human rights standards.

Independent Monitor, San Francisco, CA

June 2017 – July 2020

Monitored the compliance of a settlement agreement between a legal aid organization and a private business in San Francisco, CA related to wage and hour and sexual harassment matters. Met with employees, received complaints, and provided legal services in connection with the settlement agreement. Developed and conducted trainings that addressed sexual harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and wage and hour laws.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Washington D.C.

August 2015 – December 2015

Law Clerk to the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. Studied and analyzed case files to prepare cases and reports to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Monitored freedom of expression in the hemisphere and drafted sections of the 2016 Annual Report on Freedom of Expression. Drafted sections of thematic reports and studies related to media pluralism and concentration, as well as access to information.

Democracy Council, Washington D.C.

May 2015 – December 2015

Consultant. Cooperated with Democracy Council and the U.S. Department of State to provide legal education on human rights issues to individuals in a closed country. Researched and analyzed jurisprudence from United Nations treaty and charter bodies to create presentations to train individual human rights advocates on substantive, procedural, and remedial components of international human rights law.

Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center, San Francisco, CA

May 2015 – August 2015

Law Clerk (California Employment Lawyers Association Fellow). Represented workers in proceedings before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Department of Fair Employment and Housing. Researched legal issues pertaining to job discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Drafted litigation documents, including complaints. Wrote legal memoranda on topics including Title VII and Title IX.

Employment Justice Center, Washington D.C.

May 2014 – August 2014

Law Clerk (Peggy Browning Fellow). Conducted intake interviews. Researched and analyzed legal issues pertaining to employment law in support of the Employment Justice Center's litigation docket. Wrote office memoranda for supervising attorneys on claims alleging unpaid wages and discriminatory practices in the workplace.

EDUCATION

University of California, Irvine School of Law Juris Doctor

May 2016

Honors: Dean's Merit Scholar; Wiley W. Manuel Pro Bono Services Certificate; Faculty Award (Highest Performance in a Course), International Human and Humanitarian Rights Law

Activities: *UC Irvine Law Review*, Lead Article Editor & Notes Editor; *UC Irvine Journal of International, Transnational, and Comparative Law*, Executive Board Member; Student Attorney in the International Human Rights Clinic & International Justice Clinic; Research Assistant for Chancellor's Professor of Law Carrie Menkel-Meadow

University of California, Santa Barbara BA in Political Science, *Honors (cum laude equivalent)*

March 2013

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa; Dean's Honors; Jasmine Jahanshahi Scholarship Award

AY Abroad: Autonomous University of Barcelona, Full-immersion Program August 2011 – May 2012

PUBLICATIONS

Bridging Movement Lawyering & International Human Rights Advocacy, 66 Boston College Law Review __ (forthcoming Jan. 2025).

Building a Culture of Scholarship with New Clinical Teachers by Writing About Social Justice Lawyering, Social Justice and an International Human Rights Framework, 31 Am. U. J. Gender, Soc. Pol'y & L. 311 (2023) (co-authored).

"Revolutionary Dreamers": *A Public Interest Call to Action at U.C. Irvine School of Law's Decennial*, 10 U.C. Irvine L. Rev. 319 (2020) (co-authored).

Cancelled, Postponed, Virtual: COVID-19's Impact on Human Rights Oversight, Open Global Rights (2020) (co-authored).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

Facilitator, *International Human Rights Working Group*, Association of American Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education (St. Louis, MO), May 2024.

Panelist, *Clients, Partnerships and Collaboration*, International Human Rights Clinicians Conference, Harvard Law School (Cambridge, MA), April 2024.

Co-Presenter, *It Takes a Village: Instilling a Sense of Student Ownership over Clinic Cases & Projects*, Association of American Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education (San Francisco, CA), May 2023.

Co-Presenter, *Clinics in Regional and Global Human Rights Ecosystems*, International Human Rights Clinicians Conference, University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA), March 2023.

Co-Presenter, *Doing Collaborative Scholarship: How Ten Clinicians Built, and Wrote About, a Pedagogy of Social Justice Lawyering*, Mid-Atlantic Regional Clinical Conference, George Washington University Law School (Washington, D.C.), February 2023.

Panelist, “*Where We’re Going*”: *Perspectives from AUWCL Practitioners-in-Residence (PIRs)*, Looking Back, Moving Forward, American University Washington College of Law Clinical Program 50th Anniversary Symposium (Washington, D.C.), October 2022.

Presenter, *Representing the Pro Bono Client: Advocacy Skills for Administrative Hearings*, Practicing Law Institute (Los Angeles, CA), September 2021.

Moderator, *The Human Right to Housing: Reflections on a Movement and a Framework*, International Justice Resource Center (San Francisco, CA), June 2020.

Moderator, *Migrants’ Rights: Under Attack & Under Review*, International Justice Resource Center (San Francisco, CA), October 2018.

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Spanish, Native Speaker.

French and Urdu student, Beginner.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International Justice Resource Center, Board Member, *Co-Chair*.

American Branch International Law Association, Teaching International Law Committee Member and International Human Rights Committee Member.

American Immigration Lawyers’ Association (AILA), Member.

BAR MEMBERSHIP

State Bar of California, December 2016