

## **J. ANNA CABOT**

3268 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114 · (978) 578-4654 · [anna.cabot@gmail.com](mailto:anna.cabot@gmail.com) · (she/her)

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### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **CENTER FOR GENDER AND REFUGEE STUDIES, San Francisco, CA**

*Senior Staff Attorney* (August 2018 – present)

Represent immigrants seeking asylum based on gender and gang issues in U.S. Courts of Appeal and the Board of Immigration Appeals, as well as in front of immigration courts, including the case of *Matter of A-B-* where Attorney General Sessions attempted to limit asylum for the victims of domestic violence and gang-based violence. Member of the litigation team for federal class action law suits challenging government policies, including *Grace, et al., v. Sessions* in United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Provide technical assistance to lawyers representing asylum seekers across the country. Manage the Bank Grant compliance and reporting. Direct *Matter of L-E-A-* response. Conduct trainings and webinars on various aspects of asylum law. Draft practice advisories. Train and supervise legal program associates, law clerks, and interns.

#### **UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL OF LAW, Hartford, CT**

*William Davis Clinical Teaching Fellow* (2014 – 2018)

- Taught and supervised students in the Asylum and Human Rights Clinic, a live-client, in-house clinic focusing on individual clients seeking asylum and similar forms of relief in the U.S. before administrative agencies and federal courts. Taught weekly seminar on substantive law and lawyering skills.
- Developed the Immigration Detention and DACA Clinic, a live-client, in-house clinic. Taught and supervised students with individual clients seeking DACA renewal and legal advice about other immigration relief, release from detention on bond, and assistance during the expedited removal process. Taught weekly seminar on substantive law and lawyering skills.
- Established an annual interdisciplinary spring break trip where law and social work students assisted asylum seekers detained in York County, PA. This trip was awarded the 2017 *Light of Liberty Award* from the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center for outstanding service to the community.
- Created an interdisciplinary training curriculum with psychiatry and psychology interns from the UConn Medical School on evaluating the mental health impacts of persecution and presenting mental health expert testimony in asylum proceedings.
- Maintained a joint program with UConn School of Social Work that provides a year-long placement in the Law School's Asylum and Human Rights Clinic for a social work student.
- Advised Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project, UConn Chapter. Supervised students doing independent writing projects. Served on faculty Pro Bono Committee.

#### **Istanbul Universitesi Hukuk Fakultesi, Istanbul, Turkey**

*Visiting Professor* (May 2016)

#### **Universita degli Studi di Brescia, Brescia, Italy**

*Visiting Professor* (April 2016)

#### **LAS AMERICAS IMMIGRANT ADVOCACY CENTER, El Paso, Texas**

*Managing Attorney* (2011 – 2014)

Represented detained and non-detained clients in immigration court and the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), with cases involving asylum, withholding of removal, Convention Against Torture, and cancellation of removal claims. Represented clients before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) who were seeking asylum and other humanitarian relief, citizenship, DACA, and family-based visas. Advocated for immigrants' rights through media appearances, press releases, coalition building, and negotiating with USCIS and DHS. Trained and supervised a staff of nine including attorneys, law clerks, paralegals and volunteers.

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### **ASYLUM ACCESS – REFUGEE SOLUTIONS, TANZANIA, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

*Legal Services Coordinator* (2010 – 2011)

Developed Asylum Access's legal aid operations in Tanzania, both technical protocols and legal service avenues. Implemented a rights survey of the urban refugee population in Dar es Salaam. Advocated with the U.N. High Commissioner on Refugees and the Ministry of Home Affairs in Tanzania both for individual clients and for enforcement of rights of urban refugees. Supervised the volunteer attorneys and managed and conducted their training. Organized and directed focus group discussions, community legal education seminars, and know-your-rights trainings for refugees.

### **NATIONAL PRISON PROJECT OF THE ACLU, Washington, DC**

*Litigation Fellow* (2009 – 2010)

Researched and drafted amicus brief for the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Composed testimony for a Senate Subcommittee hearing on the Prison Litigation Reform Act and Mental Health. Wrote briefs, motions and other pleadings and researched legal questions for a prison medical and mental health care case in the District of Nevada. Investigated prison conditions, managed discovery requests and materials, and participated in expert tours of prisons.

### **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW CLINIC, American University Washington College of Law**

*Student Attorney* (Academic year 2008 – 2009)

Wrote petitions, legal briefs and memoranda regarding violations of international and regional human rights law in cases before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and United Nations Special Rapporteur for Torture. Drafted applications for T and U visas for victims of human trafficking. Researched and wrote sections of an amicus brief on the liability of non-state actors for violations of international law for the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia.

**MAGGIO & KATTAR, P.C.** (boutique immigration law firm), Washington, DC, *Summer Law Clerk* (2008)

**WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, USA,** Washington, DC, *Intern* (2007)

**WAR AGAINST RAPE,** Karachi, Pakistan, *Intern* (2007)

**SOUTH ASIA HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION CENTRE (SAHRDC),** New Delhi, *Intern* (2006)

**JANANEETHI** (Human Rights and Legal Aid NGO), Thrissur, Kerala, India, *Intern* (2005 – 2006)

**PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS,** Cambridge, MA, *Asylum Network Intern* (2005)

**CULTURAL SURVIVAL,** Cambridge, MA, *Human Rights Intern* (2005)

## **AWARDS**

2017 *Light of Liberty Award* from the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center for outstanding service to the community

2018 American Immigration Lawyers Association Chapter Pro Bono Champion – Connecticut

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### EDUCATION

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW**, JD, *cum laude*, 2009

**Awards:** *Washington College of Law Public Interest/Public Service Scholarship*, August 2006 – May 2009 (merit-based full-tuition scholarship awarded for outstanding commitment to public interest work); *Pro Bono Excellence Award*, 2009 (graduating student who completed the greatest number of pro bono hours);

**Activities:** *Human Rights Brief* – Articles and Web Editor (2007 – 2008); *Research Assistant for the Chair of the United Nations Committee Against Torture*, Washington, DC and Geneva, Switzerland (Fall 2008); *Research Assistant*, Prof. Richard Wilson (August 2007 – May 2008); *Teaching Assistant*, International Law in U.S. Litigation (Spring 2008).

**FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP**, Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, India (2003 – 2004)

**AMHERST COLLEGE**, Bachelor of Arts in Physics, *magna cum laude* with distinction, 2003

### PUBLICATIONS

*Problems Faced by Mexican Asylum Seekers in the United States*, Journal on Migration and Human Security, Vol. 2, No. 1 (2014).

*No Place Called Home: A Report on Urban Refugees Living in Dar es Salaam*, Asylum Access Tanzania, November 2011, Dar es Salaam (created survey and managed data collection).

*In the Footsteps of Generals: Musharraf and Martial Law: An Interview with Professor Nadeem Azam of the University of Peshawar*, HUMAN RIGHTS BRIEF, Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Vol. 15, No. 2 (2008) (with Zeenat Iqbal).

### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

*New Developments in Asylum Law*, Immigration Seminar, University of California – Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, June 23, 2020.

*Best Practice and Recent Development in Children's Fear-of-Return Claims Webinar*, Vera LOPC, San Francisco, CA, May 15, 2020.

*New Developments in Asylum Law*, Immigration Seminar, University of California – Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, April 16, 2020.

*Asylum for Unaccompanied Children*, ABA Children's Immigration Law Academy, Houston, TX, February 28, 2020.

*Facing the Metaphorical Wall: Seeking Asylum in the Trump Era*, Amherst College Political Union, Amherst, MA, February 11, 2020.

*Matter of L-E-A- Practice Advisory Preview Webinar*, Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, San Francisco, CA, February 6, 2020.

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*Youth is No Excuse: Unaccompanied Children and the Asylum Transit Bar*, ABA Children's Immigration Legal Academy, National Training on Representation and Advocacy for Unaccompanied Immigrant Children, Houston, TX, December 12, 2019.

*Protecting LGBTQ Lives By Restoring the Rule of Law to the US Immigration System*, 2020 Lavender Law Conference, LGBT Bar, Philadelphia, PA, August 7, 2019.

*San Diego Defensive Asylum Bootcamp Training*, Immigrant Justice Project, San Diego, CA, June 11, 2019.

*Immigration Legal Remedies and Recent Legal and Policy Updates for Immigration Domestic Violence Survivors*, Working with Domestic Violence Immigrant Survivors: The Intersection of Basic Family Law, Immigration, Benefits, and housing issues in California 2019, Practising Law Institute, San Francisco, CA, April 24, 2019.

*Gang-based Asylum Claims: Issues and Updates*, San Francisco Immigration Legal Defense Collaborative Workshop Series, San Francisco, CA, January 24, 2019.

*Domestic Violence and Asylum Law*, Domestic Violence Law Seminar, University of California – Berkeley School of Law, Berkeley, CA, November 28, 2018.

*The Trump Administration's Executive Orders on Immigration*, Connecticut Bar Association Continuing Legal Education, New Britain, CT, February 27, 2018.

*Sending Students to Jail: Challenges and Best Practices for University Legal Clinics Working in Detention Centers*, Global Alliance for Justice Education 9th Worldwide Conference, Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Puebla, Mexico, December 8, 2017.

*Cross-Border Clinical Collaboration to Provide Legal Aid and Advocacy for Asylum Seekers*, Global Alliance for Justice Education 9th Worldwide Conference, Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Puebla, Mexico, December 7, 2017.

*Immigration Policy in the Current Administration*, American Association of University Women, Women's Empowerment Conference, University of Connecticut School of Law, October 13, 2017.

*Interdisciplinary Collaboration in University-based Clinics Representing Asylum-Seekers: Opportunities and Challenges for the Professional Training of Lawyers, Health Professionals and Social Workers*, XXXVth Congress on Law and Mental Health, Charles University, Prague, July 10, 2017.

*Executive Orders: The Good, the Bad, and the Constitution*, Connecticut Legal Conference 2017, Connecticut Bar Association, Hartford, CT, June 12, 2017.

*The Muslim Ban: An Examination of the Underlying Factual, Legal, Religious, Humanitarian, Policy, and Economic Considerations*, Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative, Glastonbury Riverfront Community Center, Glastonbury, CT, May 11, 2017.

*Immigration Issues during the Trump Administration*, Yale Undergraduate Legal Aid Association, Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 28, 2017.

*DREAMing in Today's America: The Real Impact of Immigration Reform*, University of Connecticut School of Law, Diversity Week Celebrations, Hartford, CT, March 28, 2017.

*Asylum, Human Trafficking and Religious Liberty: Non-existent Sexual Rights in the U.S.*, Faculty Workshop Paper Series, Western New England University School of Law, Springfield, MA, February 27, 2017.

*President Trump's Executive Orders on Immigration: A Conversation About the Law, Litigation and Policy*, University of Connecticut School of Law, Hartford, CT, February 20, 2017.

*MLK Day: Paths to Social Justice*, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington, CT, January 16, 2017.

*Welcome Home for All: West Hartford Community Dialog on Protecting Our Undocumented Residents*, Sanctuary of Universalist Church, West Hartford, CT, December 19, 2016.

*Immigration and Asylum Law*, University of Connecticut Undergraduate Honors Program, Storrs, CT, November 14, 2016.

*The Central American Refugee "Crisis"*, Istanbul Universitesi Hukuk Fakultesi, Istanbul, Turkey, May 4, 2016.

*Cross-Cultural Communication, Bias and Representing Refugees*, Istanbul Universitesi Hukuk Fakultesi, Istanbul, Turkey, May 3, 2016.

*Central American Refugees in the U.S. Asylum System*, Universita degli Studi di Brescia, Brescia, Italy, April 27, 2016.

*Cross-Cultural Communication, Bias and Representing Refugees*, Universita degli Studi di Brescia, Brescia, Italy, April 26, 2016.

*State Sovereignty versus Refugee Protection during a Crisis*, Panel Moderator, Connecticut Journal of International Law 2016 Symposium – The Global Refugee Crisis, University of Connecticut School of Law, Hartford, CT, April 15, 2016.

*U.S. Refugee Resettlement and Asylum Policies*, University of Connecticut, Hartford Undergraduate Campus, West Hartford, CT, March 22, 2016.

*Responding to the Syrian Refugee Crisis*, Center Church, Hartford, CT, November 5, 2015.

*Human Rights-Based Social Work Advocacy for the Rights of Migrant Children and Children in Mixed Status Families in the United States*, Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut School of Social Work, West Hartford, CT, September 18, 2015.

*Asylum and Immigration Detention in the U.S.*, University of Connecticut School of Social Work, West Hartford, CT, July 5, 2015.

*Refugee Displacement and Resettlement*, Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project Colloquium, Hartford, CT, April 14, 2015.

*Asylum Law, Human Rights Law, and the Critical Role of the Medical and Mental Health Professional*, Introduction to Forensic Documentation of Trauma: Evaluating Immigrant Survivors of Torture and Ill Treatment,

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Yale Center for Asylum Medicine and Physicians for Human Rights Training for Medical and Mental Health Evaluators, New Haven, CT, April 11, 2015.

*Best Practices for Effective Medical-Legal Affidavits*, Introduction to Forensic Documentation of Trauma: Evaluating Immigrant Survivors of Torture and Ill Treatment, Yale Center for Asylum Medicine and Physicians for Human Rights Training for Medical and Mental Health Evaluators, New Haven, CT, April 11, 2015.

*Matter of L.I.R.-L.: Mass Detention of Central American Families Seeking Refuge*, University of Connecticut School of Law, Hartford, CT, March 25, 2015.

*Immigration Detention and Incarceration in the U.S.*, University of Connecticut School of Social Work, West Hartford, CT, November 7, 2014.

*Humanitarian Forms of Immigration Relief*, Students for a Dream Rally, Storrs, CT, October 29, 2014.

*The Changing Face of the Torture Prohibition*, University of Connecticut School of Arts and Sciences, Storrs, CT, September 18, 2014.

*Access to Protection and Unaccompanied Minors*, Symposium on Creating a Robust and Secure U.S. Refugee Protection System, Center for Migration Studies, New York, NY, June 3, 2014.

*Refugee Law: Theory and Practice*, Qatar University School of Law, Doha, Qatar, December 16, 2010.

## SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES AND QUOTATIONS

Interviewed about family-based asylum claim and the Acting Attorney General's referral of *Matter of L-E-A-*, KCBS Radio, San Francisco, CA, February 1, 2019.

Quoted, Smith, Steve, *Syrian Refugees Speak about New Life in Connecticut*, Hartford Courant, May 25, 2017, available at <http://www.courant.com/community/glastonbury/hc-gr-glastonbury-syrian-refugees-0525-20170525-story.html>.

Interviewed, WGAL8, *Law students provide free legal assistance to immigrant detainees at York County Prison*, York, PA, March 17, 2017, available at [www.wgal.com/article/law-students-provide-free-legal-assistance-to-immigrant-detainees-at-york-county-prison/9149477](http://www.wgal.com/article/law-students-provide-free-legal-assistance-to-immigrant-detainees-at-york-county-prison/9149477).

Guest, *Where We Live*, WNPR, Connecticut Public Radio (Conversation about recent executive orders regarding immigration), Hartford, CT, February 3, 2017, available at <http://wnpr.org/post/becoming-tang-sauce-conversation-hip-hop-artist-john-manselle-young>.

Quoted, Knoll, Andalusia, *Student Who Escaped the Night 43 Classmates Disappeared in Mexico Seeks Asylum in the US*, Vice News, May 25, 2016, available at <https://news.vice.com/article/student-who-escaped-the-night-43-classmates-disappeared-in-mexico-seeks-asylum-in-the-us>.

Quoted, Spicer, Megan, *UConn Law Students Offer Hands-On Help to Immigrants Seeking Asylum*, The Connecticut Law Tribune, April 27, 2016, available at <http://www.ctlawtribune.com/id=1202756157317/UConn-Law-Students-Offer-HandsOn-Help-To-Immigrants-Seeking-Asylum>.



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Quoted, Campos, Sara and Joan Friedland, *Mexican and Central American Asylum and Credible Fear Claims: Background and Context*, American Immigration Council, Special Report, May 2014, available at [http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/asylum\\_and\\_credible\\_fear\\_claims\\_final.pdf](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/asylum_and_credible_fear_claims_final.pdf) (discussing the specific problems that Mexican and Central American asylum seekers encounter during the asylum process).

Quoted, Estévez, Ariadna, *The Politics of Death and Asylum Discourse: Constituting Migration Biopolitics from the Periphery*, *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political*, Vol. 39(2): 75-89, 2014 (discussing the difficulties faced by Mexican asylum seekers in the U.S.).

Quoted, Estévez, Ariadna, *The Biopolitics of Asylum Law in Texas: The Case of Mexicans Fleeing Drug Violence in Juárez Norteamérica*, *Revista Académica del CISAN-UNAM*, 2013, 8, ISSN 1870-3550 (discussing the difficulties faced by Mexican asylum seekers in the U.S.).

Quoted, El Paso Times, *Young immigrants get a break under new policy*, June 16, 2012 (discussing new Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program).

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND APPOINTMENTS**

American Immigration Lawyers' Association (AILA), Connecticut Branch, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Liaison (2015 – 2018)

Connecticut Working Group on Immigrant Children and Families, Executive Committee, Greater Hartford Legal Aid Society (2015 – 2018)

Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) Pro Bono Committee, EOIR Hartford (2015 – 2018)

Hartford Immigration Action Coalition, Anti-Fraud Policy Committee (2014 – 2015)

Center for Migration Studies Refugee Protection Project Working Group (2013 – 2014)

### **BAR ADMISSIONS**

New York State

### **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

French (working knowledge); Spanish (elementary, formerly proficient); Hindi (elementary)