

Representing Children and Families in Immigration Matters
Session Three: Interviewing Skills When Working with Children and Families
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Panelists

- Nicole Johnson, Legal Director, Safe Passage Project
 - Before Nicole Johnson joined Safe Passage Project as a Senior Staff Attorney in September 2018. Prior to coming to Safe Passage Project, she was a Senior Staff Attorney with the Immigration Intervention Project of Sanctuary for Families at the Bronx Family Justice Center, representing victims of gender-based violence in a variety of immigration matters including U Nonimmigrant visa Petitions and VAWA Self-Petitions before USCIS, Asylums applications both at the Asylum office and before the Immigration Court. Before joining Sanctuary for Families, she was an Associate attorney at Salmen Navarro Law. There she represented clients before the Immigration Court in a number of applications including Asylum, Cancellation of Removal, Provisional Waivers of Unlawful Presences, and other waivers of inadmissibility. Nicole was born and raised in Southern California. She received her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Mills College in Oakland, California. Her passion for travel and helping others led her to join the Peace Corps where she was a Youth Development Volunteer in Peru from 2006-2008. She returned from Peru with a dedication to international human rights and received her J.D from Rutgers School of Law-Newark in 2012. While in law school, Nicole was very committed to public interest work. She was a Kinoy-Stavis Public Interest Fellow, helping to lead the Rutgers Newark Community in Public Interest. She was also a Deborah T. Portiz Public Interest Law Fellow at Legal Services of New Jersey. She worked in the Constitutional Litigation Clinic and assisted in the organization of the newly formed Immigrants' Rights Clinic at Rutgers. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, baking, crafting, and traveling
- Alexandra Rizio, Managing Attorney, Training and Partnerships, Safe Passage Project
 - A graduate of Fordham Law School and Columbia College, Alexandra Rizio has a long history of advocating for the rights of immigrants. Alex joined Safe Passage Project as a staff attorney in 2015, and she later supervised the organization's New York City team. Alex now serves as Managing Attorney for Training and Partnerships at Safe Passage, where she develops litigation and technical assistance tools for attorneys and leads the organization's pro bono department, which works with over 550 volunteer lawyers throughout New York City and Long Island. Alex also led Safe Passage Project's representation of over 60 children forcibly separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border during the summer of 2018. Before Safe Passage, Alex was an Associate Immigration Attorney at the firm Masliah & Soloway (now the Masliah Firm), which focused on serving LGBTQ immigrants; prior to that, she coordinated a pro bono program at Start Small Think Big, an economic empowerment non-profit located in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx. At Fordham Law, Alex was a Stein Scholar in Public Interest and Ethics, a Crowley Scholar in International Human Rights, and a 2012 recipient of the Archibald R. Murray Public Service Award. During law school, Alex worked as an Ellenbogen Fellow at Her Justice (formerly inMotion), as an intern in the Family Law and Domestic Violence Unit of South Brooklyn Legal Services, and as an asylum intern at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. She was also a Leitner Fellow at MAP Foundation in Chiang Mai, Thailand; in that role, she researched labor violations and gender-based violence experienced by female Burmese migrant workers and analyzed Thailand's compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Alex enjoys cooking and (in the before times) traveling. During Covid, she has taken up embroidery and furniture refinishing. She might enjoy the tv show "Bluey" more than her 4-year-old.

Safe Passage Project website: <https://www.safepassageproject.org/>

Cultural Humility and Awareness

- Chicago Public Schools Identity Wheel and Equity Toolkit: <https://equity.cps.edu/tools/social-identity-wheel>

Interviewing Young People: Ethics

- ABA Model Rules, generally:
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/publications/model_rules_of_professional_conduct/model_rules_of_professional_conduct_table_of_contents/
- ABA Model Rule 1.14 (client with diminished capacity):
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/publications/model_rules_of_professional_conduct/rule_1_14_client_with_diminished_capacity/