

CILA-NILA Webinar: “Litigation for Unaccompanied Children: Updates and Foundational Cases”

October 17, 2023, 2pm-3:30pm CT

Speaker Biographies

Trina Realmuto, Executive Director

With over twenty years of experience in immigration, damages, and transparency litigation in federal courts, Trina has litigated and argued several precedent decisions on behalf of individuals, classes, and amicus curiae, written numerous practice advisories, and is a frequent presenter on immigration issues. Most recently, Trina was a Directing Attorney of Litigation at the American Immigration Council. Prior to that, she served as the Litigation Director of the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild and as a consulting attorney to the Council. In addition, she has worked abroad representing noncitizens applying for visas at U.S. embassies and consulates. Trina began her career as an associate attorney at Van Der Hout LLC, a San Francisco-based immigration firm where she specialized in federal court litigation and deportation defense. In 2015, Trina was awarded the Jack Wasserman Memorial Award for Excellence in Litigation by the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Mary Kenney, Deputy Director

For twenty-five years, Mary has worked to protect the rights of noncitizens, combat abusive conduct by immigration agents, and overturn unlawful policies of the immigration agencies. From 2003 to 2020, Mary was with the American Immigration Council, most recently as Directing Attorney of Litigation, where she engaged in impact litigation and authored numerous practice advisories. Prior to joining the Council, Mary was the Executive Director of a statewide immigrant and refugee rights litigation project in Texas. In that role, she oversaw impact litigation, including several class actions, and advocacy efforts. She also worked as a legal services attorney in West Virginia. In 2014, Mary was awarded the Carol King Award by the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild for her impact litigation work. In 2021, the American Immigration Lawyers Association awarded Mary the Jack Wasserman Memorial Award for Excellence in Litigation.

Chris Rickerd, Special Projects Advisor

Chris is a border and immigration-policy consultant based in Brownsville, Texas. He was senior policy counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union's National Political Advocacy Department, responsible for administrative and legislative advocacy on border and immigration issues from 2012 to 2019. Prior to joining the ACLU, he spent seven years at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco as a law clerk and staff attorney and then worked for the Miami law firm of Kurzban Kurzban Tetzeli and Pratt.

Aidan Langston, NYU Public Interest Fellow

Aidan is a legal fellow contributing to NILA's impact, transparency, and individual litigation, with an emphasis on litigation regarding final removal orders. He is a 2023 graduate of New York University School of Law. During law school, Aidan volunteered to assist pro se asylum applicants and worked as a student advocate in NYU's Immigrant Rights Clinic, representing immigrant clients and participating in campaigns to advance the rights of noncitizens. He also completed internships in deportation defense, working primarily with clients in ICE detention, at the American Friends Service Committee and at Brooklyn Defender Services.

Find more information about the speakers here: <https://immigrationlitigation.org/our-staff/>.