



Pro Bono Representation of Youth in Immigration Court: An Overview of Agency Policy & Practical Guidance

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Speaker Bios

Maxwell Dietz, *Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami Staff Attorney*

Maxwell Dietz is a Staff Attorney at Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami (CCLS). He has been working in immigration law since 2022. The focus of his work is on advocating for unaccompanied children in state court and administrative proceedings. Maxwell graduated from Florida State University College of Law. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Psychology and English from Florida State University in 2019, graduating *summa cum laude*. Outside of work, Maxwell is on the Board of Directors of Disability Independence Group, a nonprofit organization that advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities. As a person with Autism, Maxwell believes in examining intersectionalities to improve the lives of marginalized communities.

Laura Egan, *CILA Managing Attorney for Pro Bono & Communications*

Laura Egan is the Managing Attorney for Pro Bono & Communications with the ABA's Children's Immigration Law Academy (CILA). She graduated from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law in Washington, DC in 2011. She obtained a certificate in Comparative and International Law and participated in the International Business and Trade program in Krakow, Poland and interned in a Human Rights clinic while in Krakow. Laura became passionate about immigration law during law school when she participated in her school's Columbus Community Legal Services Families and the Law Clinic and worked with refugees and asylees while interning with International Rescue Committee's immigration program. Laura started her legal career as a disability attorney with Russell & Hill in Everett, Washington representing hundreds of clients in administrative hearings in Washington, Oregon, and California. Prior to joining CILA, Laura worked in removal defense for Carney and Marchi, an immigration law and criminal defense law firm in Seattle, Washington, where she managed the non-detained docket.

Amelia Friedman, *CILA Staff Attorney for Pro Bono & Communications*

Amelia Friedman is a Staff Attorney with the ABA's Children Immigration Law Academy. Her interest in immigration law began with the immigration clinic at the University of Texas School of Law. Since graduating in 2013, she has worked as a litigator in private and public practice on a wide variety of matters. She also clerked for the Honorable Nancy F. Atlas (ret.) of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. Her public interest work includes a fellowship with the Texas Title Project assisting homeowners to obtain disaster recovery relief, as well as

working on civil rights matters as a Find Justice Fellow with Mehri & Skalet in Washington, D.C. In private practice, she was an associate at Proskauer Rose in Los Angeles and Skadden Arps in Houston. She maintained a robust pro bono practice and worked on asylum and SIJS cases. An avid traveler, she received her undergraduate degree from the University of Auckland in New Zealand. She is a member of the Texas, California, and D.C. Bars.

Alexandra Rizio, *Safe Passage Project Managing Attorney, Policy and Partnerships*

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 400 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, and she continues to lead the organization's ongoing litigation strategy in relation to the separation policy.

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 served as the Ellenbogen Fellow at HerJustice (formerly inMotion), as a Revson Fellow 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. Prior to law school, Alex worked for the UN's International Labor Organisation in Bangkok and for the International Center for Transitional Justice in New York. Alex has volunteered for the Refugee and Immigrant Fund in Queens and as a soccer coach for a team of immigrant girls through South Bronx United.



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