

Faculty Biographies

Leslye Orloff is an Adjunct Professor and Director of the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP) at American University Washington College of Law. NIWAP advocates for laws, policies and practices that enhance legal options for immigrant women and immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. Ms. Orloff's 34-year career includes working collaboratively with experts across the country to develop and implement immigration relief, public benefits access and family law protections for immigrant women, children and survivors. She was involved in drafting the immigration protection in the Violence Against Women Acts (VAWA) 1994, 2000, 2005, and 2013, the Trafficking Victims Protections Acts of 2000 and 2008, legal services access for battered immigrants in 1997 and 2005 and welfare access for battered immigrants in 1996. Ms. Orloff is a family law expert with years of litigation experience representing immigrant victims in custody, protection order and divorce actions. She has published numerous law and social science journal articles, curricula, and training materials for attorneys, law enforcement, judges and other professionals on protections for immigrant victims under family, immigration, public benefits and language access laws and serves as faculty training judges, law enforcement officers, attorneys and advocates on the legal rights immigrant victims. She was recently appointed to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers where she Chairs the subcommittee on Health, Mental Health and Trauma.

Veronica Thronson is a Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Immigration Law Clinic at the Michigan State University College of Law. The Immigration Law Clinic provides opportunities for students to experience the practice of law through direct client representation in a well supervised and academically rigorous program with a broad and diverse docket of cases before administrative agencies, Immigration Court, state courts, and appellate courts. Clients include unaccompanied minors in removal proceedings, victims of domestic violence, family based immigration petitioners, asylum seekers, and naturalization applicants. Students engage in policy research, resource development, community outreach and systemic advocacy on issues related to immigration. Thronson routinely conducts trainings for attorneys and judges, and was appointed to the faculty of The National Judicial College in 2012. In 2015 she became expert faculty with the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project at American University Washington College of Law, Family Law Attorneys Community of Practice.

From 2002 to 2010, Thronson was the Directing Attorney of the Domestic Violence Project at the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada where she practiced in the areas of family and immigration law. She also taught Community Property as an adjunct professor at the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV. Previously, Thronson served as the Director of Training and Legal Services at the New York Immigration Coalition, a non-profit umbrella advocacy organization for over 200 groups in New York that work with immigrants, refugees, and asylees. At the Coalition, Thronson developed community outreach materials and programs, and conducted training for advocates and attorneys on immigration and benefits laws and their impact on immigrant communities. She also appeared bi-weekly on an internationally broadcast program of Univision providing information on current immigration law, benefits law and immigrant-related topics and was a regular commentator for other local and national newspapers and radio programs on these topics.

Thronson has served on numerous boards and task forces. Currently, she is a core faculty member of the Michigan State University Research Consortium on Gender-Based Violence, a board member of the Michigan Committee for Refugee Resettlement and co-chair of the Domestic Violence Committee of the State Bar of Michigan. In addition, she is a Domestic Violence Screening Mediation Trainer approved by the Office of Dispute Resolution at the Michigan State Court Administrative Office.

In 2006, the Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force honored Thronson with its S.T.A.R. award, created to honor an individual for stellar work on behalf of victims. In 2009, Thronson received the Louis Wiener Service Award, given to an advocate who has made substantial contributions in representing victims. In 2014, Thronson received the Michigan State University Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Award and in 2015, the Immigration Law Clinic received the Michigan State University Excellence in Diversity Award. Thronson is a graduate of the City University of New York School of Law and is admitted to the practice of law in the states of New Jersey, New York, Nevada and Michigan.

David Thronson is Associate Dean for Experiential Education and Professor of Law at the Michigan State University College of Law, where he is co-founder of the Immigration Law Clinic and also served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. His research and writing seeks to develop frameworks and critical perspectives for analyzing the intersection of family and immigration, with a particular focus on children.

Thronson graduated from the University of Kansas with degrees in mathematics and education, then taught in Nepal as a Peace Corps volunteer. He completed a masters degree at Teachers



College, Columbia University and served several years as a teacher and assistant principal in the New York City Public Schools.

In 1994, Thronson earned his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School where he served as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Harvard Human Rights Journal. After clerking for the Honorable A. Wallace Tashima in California, Thronson returned to New York City as a Skadden Fellow at The Door's Legal Services Center, providing direct legal services to at-risk young people primarily in the areas of immigration, housing, public benefits and family law. He then served as the Gibbons Fellow in Public Interest and Constitutional Law at the law firm of Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger and Vecchione where he litigated cases involving a wide range of issues including the scope of federal habeas jurisdiction to review immigration matters, the application of the Convention Against Torture, the constitutional adequacy of educational opportunities provided to urban children in New Jersey, and discrimination in New Jersey State Police hiring practices.

From 1999 to 2002, Thronson taught in the Lawyering Program of New York University School of Law and served as an adjunct professor at Seton Hall University School of Law and Hofstra University School of Law where he taught immigration law, public international law and international human rights. Thronson subsequently served as Professor and Associate Dean for Clinical Studies at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. He was named UNLV Professor of the Year in 2003.

Thronson has served on numerous boards of directors, including those of the National Youth Leadership Council and International Social Service - USA. He currently serves on the national Interagency Working Group on Unaccompanied Children and his past governmental appointments include service on the Nevada Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission, the Nevada Law Foundation, and the Nevada's Governor's Commission for National and Community Service. In 2006, he received the Friend of Working Families Award from the Nevada State AFL-CIO and in 2011 the Education Law Center honored him, along with other past Gibbons Fellows, with the Moreheuser Humanitarian Award. In January 2014 he was elected to membership in the American Law Institute and selected as a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.