

Victim Advocacy and Immigration Expert Faculty Biographies Current as of 2022



Aparna Bhattacharyya - *Executive Director, Raksha*

Aparna has served as Executive Director of Raksha since 1998. She also worked as a Project coordinator/Employment Specialist for the Newcomers' Network's Refugee Family Violence Prevention Project (where she developed and implemented the License to Freedom Project). As a representative of Raksha, Aparna has served as founding Task Force member and Board Secretary for the International Women's House and a founding member of Tapestri, the Immigrant and Refugee organization that addresses domestic violence and human trafficking. She has served as a member of the Georgia Advisory Committee for the U.S Commission on Civil Rights, Board Vice President for Tapestri, Inc, an Advisory Board member for the National Network to End Violence against Immigrant Women and Advisory Board member for Georgia State's School of Social Work.



Cannon Han – *Senior Program Manager, Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence*

Cannon is a Senior Program Associate on the OVC Enhancing Access to Services: Training and Technical Assistance Project. He has over ten years of experience providing technical assistance and training to programs on: Title VI compliance and advocacy; language access; interpretation; and translation. Prior to re-joining API, he was the Title VI Administrator for Caltrain and the San Mateo Transit District. He also served as a Senior Court Services Analyst with the California Administrative Office of the Courts, Court Interpreter Program, and an attorney with the Mental Health Advocacy Project.



Sandra Henriquez – *Chief Executive Officer of the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA)*

Sandra has worked in the anti-violence against women's movement since 1985. She has more than two decades of experience working in social services, of which 16 years were in non-profit management. She is the former Associate Director for Intervention Programs at the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (now Peace Over Violence) and served on CALCASA's board of directors for more than a decade. Under her leadership since 2010, CALCASA has embarked on several efforts to create strategic partnerships with change influencers in order to create a cultural shift among industries

including sport, transportation and unions, and with systems on behalf of incarcerated victims of sexual violence, immigrants in detention, farmworkers, and janitorial workers in communities throughout California.



Wendy Lau-Ozawa – *Title VI Administrator, San Mateo Transit District*

Wendy is victim advocate with expertise on language access and serving immigrant and refugee survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes. In her current position, she creates and implements Title VI programs for SamTrans and Caltrain and led the initiative to develop an equity plan for the district. Prior to that, she worked at the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Domestic Violence where she implemented strategies to reduce barriers to public services for immigrant, underserved, limited English proficient (LEP), and low-income communities.



Norma Mendoza – *Multicultural Program Director, Cherokee Family Violence Center*

Norma Mendoza is the Multicultural Program Director of Cherokee Family Violence Center. Ms. Mendoza creates and implements supportive services for immigrant victims of domestic violence, stalking, and human trafficking, and oversees the Georgia Statewide Spanish Domestic Violence Hotline. Ms. Mendoza possesses the expertise to address and improve access to temporary protective orders, immigration reliefs for victims of crime, shelter, housing, health care, culturally and linguistically responsive services for victims. She has provided numerous local and national trainings about Intimate Partner Violence, promoting awareness and victim’s rights, language access to Limited English Proficient victims, culturally and linguistically responsive and appropriate services, and other topics related. Ms. Mendoza is a partially accredited representative by the Office of Legal Access Programs of the Department of Justice and is certified by the court to provide limited legal services to victims. Norma Mendoza graduated from Law School in Mexico and has a Master’s Degree in European Studies from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Ms. Mendoza has 12 years working with victims of crime and worked 13 years for the Mexican Government. She studied International Public and Private Law from the Juridical Committee of the Organization of American States in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She also studied at the International Law Seminar of the United Nations, 41^o Session held in Geneva, Switzerland (she was selected as one of the 24 participants from all the world), and studied at The International Law Academy.



Rocio Molina – *Deputy Director, National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project (NIWAP) at American University Washington College of Law, Washington D.C.*

Ms. Molina is the Deputy Director of the National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project. As an immigration attorney, she has served immigrant survivors seeking immigration relief for over ten years. At NIWAP she leads the Family Law for Immigrant Survivors Community of Practice and Law Enforcement Roundtables and training on Language Access and U Visa. She is a Former Attorney at the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence and a founding board member of the Community Immigration Law Center (CILC), a free walk-in clinic in Madison, Wisconsin. She is a member of the Wisconsin State Bar and graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School.



Sandy Monroy - *Project Manager and Site Administrator, ValorUS Pasadena*

Sandy Monroy is the Project Manager and Site Administrator for ValorUS in Pasadena. Sandy has over 15 years of experience working in the movement to end sexual and domestic violence. Sandy has served as the Director of Programs at a local Los Angeles-based rape crisis and domestic violence center. She has extensive experience in working with individuals from the Latinx community, with an emphasis on access to civil legal remedies. Sandy holds a Board of Immigration Appeals accreditation with the Department of Homeland Security. She currently provides Training and Technical Assistance to rape crisis centers and

agencies working to build capacity in the area of civil legal needs and immigration protections for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.



Nora Mosby – *Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence*

Nora Mosby has worked in the anti-violence movement in multiple capacities and currently works for the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence in Jefferson City. There, she facilitates Immigrant and Refugee Services Roundtable Meetings that bring immigrant service providers, advocates and attorneys together to discuss best practices for advocating with immigrant survivors of violence. She is

committed to a “margin-to-center” approach and see’s building these relationships as an essential part of reaching our shared vision of ending domestic and sexual violence in all communities.”



Leslye E. Orloff – *Director of the National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project (NIWAP) and Adjunct Professor at American University Washington College of Law*

Ms. Orloff is an Adjunct Professor and Director of the National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project (NIWAP) at American University Washington College of Law. 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 Protection for Immigrant Victims of Violence Against Women of the Violence Against Women Acts of 1994, 2000, 2005, and 2013, the Trafficking Victims Protection Acts of 2000 and 2008, legal services access for battered immigrants in 1997 and 2005 and welfare access for battered immigrants in 1996. She is a co-founder and co-chair of the National Network to End Violence Against immigrant Women (1992-2011).



Aisha Rahman – *Attorney at The Baig Firm*

Aisha launched her legal career at Legal Aid of East Tennessee, serving indigent survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in family law matters and remained there for two years. During her tenure at Legal Aid, Tennessee introduced an anti-Shariah bill and Aisha worked with various community organizations to educate the legislature on the xenophobic, illegal tenor of the bill. This advocacy led to Aisha being recruited to join KARAMAH’s team. For six years, Aisha served as KARAMAH’s Executive Director and Director of Family Law. During these years, Aisha conducted national trainings with lawyers, judges, and advocates on family law. Aisha joined the Baig Firm as Of Counsel in 2017. With nearly a decade of legal experience, Aisha is handling complex family law matters at TBF including divorce, custody, child support, Islamic marriage contracts, and other related matters.



Veronica Tobar Thronson – *Clinical Professor at Michigan State University College of Law*

Veronica is a Clinical Professor of Law & Director of the Law Clinic and the Immigration Law Clinic at MSU where she teaches Domestic Violence Law and Immigration and Nationality Law. Currently, she is a core faculty member of the Michigan State University Research Consortium on Gender-Based Violence and the MSU Center for Gender in Global Context, a board member of the State of Michigan Committee for Refugee Resettlement, and serves on the Access to Justice Initiative of the State Bar of Michigan.



Sujata Warriar – *Training and Technical Assistance Specialist, New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence*

Sujata Warriar, Ph.D., is the current Training and Technical Assistance Specialist and former director of the New York City Program of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. She trains and provides technical assistance on domestic violence to professionals in health care, law enforcement, criminal and civil justice, and human and social services. Dr. Warriar also provides assistance on legislative and policy issues involving battered immigrant women. Additionally, she provides training and delivers keynote addresses, both nationally and internationally, on the issues of cultural competency, relativism, domestic violence, and violence against women. Recently, Dr. Warriar worked with Chemonics International and the Egyptian government to help develop a national strategy to address violence against women in Egypt. She also was part of the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative to train lawyers to advocate for women's rights and to end violence against women in Bangladesh. Dr. Warriar continues to work in Manavi, a pioneering South Asian women's organization in New Jersey, and she serves on other boards and groups such as the Asian Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence and the National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women. Dr. Warriar is a faculty member for the National Judicial Institute of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. She has written and published numerous articles on violence against women in the international context, and has received many awards for her work including the Indian Chamber of Commerce Award for Women Achievers. She received her Ph.D. from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University.



Edna Yang – *Co-Executive Director, American Gateways*

Edna Yang is Co-Executive Director of American Gateways, formerly the Political Asylum Project of Austin (PAPA). She served as the agency's Interim Executive Director for American Gateways in 2012, Legal Director from 2006 – 2015, and as a Staff Attorney from 2002 – 2006. She began her work providing direct representation to immigrants seeking relief under the immigration provisions of Violence Against Women Act. She then expanded her practice to include asylum and removal defense, detention work, and family-based immigration representation. She also conducts training sessions for law enforcement officials and social service

providers throughout Central Texas and the United States about how to work with, and provide services to, immigrants in the community. Edna received her B.A. in Russian Language and Literature and Political Science from the University of Michigan, and her J.D. and a M.A. in International Studies from American University in Washington, DC.