

EDUCATION

YALE LAW SCHOOL, New Haven, CT, J.D., Class of 2008

LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE, Portland, OR, B.A. in International Affairs, *summa cum laude*, Class of 2002

WORK EXPERIENCE

EQUALLY AMERICAN, Washington, D.C.

President and Founder

February 2013 – Present

- Founded and direct Equally American, which seeks to end the second-class status of the 4 million Americans living in U.S. territories – 98% of whom are racial or ethnic minorities.
- Developed and litigated [*Fitisemanu v. United States*](#) and [*Tuaua v. United States*](#), two landmark cases seeking recognition of birthright citizenship in U.S. territories and challenging the continuing validity of the *Insular Cases*, a series of controversial, *Plessy*-era Supreme Court decisions. Also developed and litigated [*Reeves v. United States*](#) and [*Segovia v. United States*](#), two equal protection challenges seeking to expand voting rights in U.S. territories.
- Organized five amicus briefs and prepared counsel for oral argument before the Supreme Court in [*Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico v. Aurelius Investment LLC*](#), calling on the Court to overrule the *Insular Cases*.

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL, New York, NY

Lecturer in Law

Spring Semester 2021

- Co-teaching [*Constitutional History of American Empire*](#) with Prof. Christina Duffy Ponsa-Kraus, which combines an historical review of the legal history of U.S. territories with real-world advocacy opportunities.

LOEB & LOEB LLP, Washington, D.C.

Associate, Co-Chair D.C. Pro Bono Committee

January 2019 – December 2020

- Counsel public charities, social welfare organizations, private foundations, and other non-profit organizations on a wide array of federal and state corporate governance and tax issues.

YALE LAW SCHOOL, New Haven, CT

Visiting Lecturer in Law

Spring Semester 2020

- Taught [*Law of Territories*](#), an innovative seminar on the legal and political development of U.S. territories that combines classroom learning with student projects focused on advancing equality and civil rights in these areas.

TRISTER, ROSS, SCHADLER & GOLD PLLC, Washington, D.C.

Associate

April 2014 – Jan. 2018

- Advised public charities, social welfare organizations, private foundations, unions, political organizations, and other non-profit organizations on a range of federal and state political law, corporate governance, and tax issues.

CONSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY CENTER, Washington, D.C.

Litigation and Policy Counsel; Supreme Court Fellow

Sept. 2010 – Feb. 2013

- Co-authored amicus briefs before the Supreme Court and lower courts, including in *Arizona Free Enterprise Club v. Bennett* (public financing) and *Shelby County v. Holder* (VRA), among other cases.
- Staffed Supreme Court Review Project, identifying opportunities for amicus participation at the *certiorari* stage.

ALASKA SUPREME COURT, Anchorage, AK

Law Clerk for Justice Morgan Christen (confirmed to Ninth Circuit in Dec. 2011)

Sept. 2009 – Sept. 2010

- Assisted Justice Christen in preparing for argument and drafting opinions; wrote bench memos for the full Court.

DAVID ROSEN & ASSOCIATES, New Haven, CT

Thomas Emerson Fellow

Dec. 2008 – Aug. 2009

- Drafted merits brief before the Connecticut Supreme Court in *Santoro v. Woodbridge* arguing that the common law right of loss of consortium should be extended to same-sex spouses.
- Sat as second chair in a personal injury jury trial and a wrongful death jury trial.
- Helped develop civil rights claim against the East Haven Police Dept. for harassment against Latino community.

PENNSYLVANIA CAMPAIGN FOR CHANGE, Philadelphia, PA

Deputy Voter Protection Coordinator

Aug. – Nov. 2008

- Served as Obama campaign liaison to the Philadelphia Board of Elections and PA Department of State, addressing legal issues relating to the use of emergency paper ballots, electronic voting machines, voter registration, and more.
- Organized and managed a team of several hundred volunteer attorneys for voter protection efforts in Philadelphia.

JEROME N. FRANK LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION, Yale Law School, New Haven, CT

Student Co-Director, Education Adequacy Project

Sept. 2006 – May 2008

- Argued *CCJEF v. Rell*, a landmark case establishing a state constitutional right to adequate education, before the Connecticut Supreme Court. Led strategy and coordination of six amicus briefs. Assisted with public advocacy.
- Served as corporate counsel to Connecticut Coalition for Justice and Education Funding (CCJEF), whose diverse coalition of members include municipalities, boards of education, unions, parents, and others.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, Washington, D.C.

Law Clerk, Full Committee, Chairman John Conyers

July – Aug. 2007

- Focused on voting rights, gov't accountability, and separation of powers issues, Constitution Sub-Committee.

ARNOLD & PORTER, LLP, Washington, D.C.

Summer Associate

May – July 2007

UNDERWOOD-AGUON GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN, Hagåtña, Guam

Political and Legal Advisor

Aug. 2006 – May 2007

- Drafted briefs in an expedited election challenge before the Guam Supreme Court and subsequent cert. petition.

THE BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE AT NYU LAW SCHOOL, New York, NY

Legal Intern, Democracy Program

May – Aug. 2006

- Wrote memoranda and advocacy materials addressing voting rights and separation of powers issues.

OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN MADELEINE BORDALLO (GUAM), Washington, D.C.

Press Secretary

Sept. 2003 – July 2005

- Developed and implemented media strategy for television, radio, and print media. Staffed civil rights issues.

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

District of Columbia; California (inactive); Michigan (pending); U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia; U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit; U.S. Supreme Court

PUBLICATIONS

- [*After Aurelius: What Future for the Insular Cases?*](#) 130 YALE L.J.F. 284 (2020) (with Adriel Cepeda-Derieux).
- [*Citizenship in U.S. Territories: Constitutional Right or Congressional Privilege?*](#), CENTRO: JOURNAL OF THE CENTER FOR PUERTO RICAN STUDIES, Vol. XXIX, Number 1, Spring 2017.
- [*Equally American: A Voting Rights Amendment for U.S. Territories and the District of Columbia*](#), STETSON LAW REVIEW, VOL. 46 (2017).

SELECTED OP-EDS AND BLOG POSTS

- [*The Supreme Court Just Passed Up a Chance to Overrule Appallingly Racist Precedents*](#), Slate.com, June 1, 2020 (with Kyla Eastling and Danny Li)
- [*The Constitution, COVID-19, and Growing Healthcare Disparities in U.S. Territories*](#), Expert Forum, ACSlaw.org, April 28, 2020 (with Rosa Hayes and Mary Charlotte Carroll)
- [*Trump's Threat to Restrict Birthright Citizenship Has \(Troubling\) Precedent*](#), Take Care Blog, Nov. 13, 2018 (with Sam Erman)
- [*Why The Insular Cases Must Become the Next Plessy*](#), Harvard Law Review Blog, March 28, 2018
- [*Guam, America's Forgotten Front Line*](#), New York Times, August 14, 2017 (with Rodney Cruz)
- [*Citizenship is a Birthright in U.S. Territories*](#), CNN.com, February 19, 2014
- [*Americans in Territories Have Earned Right to Pick President*](#), Orlando Sentinel, March 18, 2014
- [*A Dream Deferred: "Separate and Unequal" in U.S. Territories*](#), ACSblog, August 23, 2013
- [*Race and the Right to Vote*](#), ThomasPaine.com, August 24, 2006 (with Erika Wood)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, [*The Insular Cases In Light of Aurelius*](#), Yale Law School (November 2020)
- Guest Lecture, [*Equally American: Civil Rights in U.S. Territories*](#), Yale Law School (April 2019)
- Guest Lecture, [*Voting Rights in the Territories*](#), Harvard Law School (February 2019)
- Panelist, [*Segovia v. United States: Territorial Rights \(And Wrongs\)*](#), 2018 Virgin Islands Bar Association Midyear Meeting, St. Croix, USVI (May 2018)
- Panelist, [*Voting Rights in U.S. Territories*](#), 2016 National Conference of State Legislatures Capitol Forum, Washington, DC (December 2016)
- Panelist, [*Constitutional Rights in U.S. Territories*](#), 2016 Lavender Law Conference, Washington, DC (August 2016)
- Presenter, [*Emerging Issues of Political Status in the Territorial and Insular Jurisdictions of the United States*](#), Stetson University School of Law, Gulfport, FL (March 2016)
- Presenter, [*One-Hundred Years of the Jones Act and Puerto Rican U.S. Citizenship*](#), Hunter College Center for Puerto Rican Studies, New York, NY (October 2015)
- Guest Lecture, [*A Dream Deferred: Constitutional Rights in the Caribbean and the Pacific*](#), University of Puerto Rico Institute of Caribbean Studies, University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras (UPR-RP) (September 2013)
- Guest Lecture, [*Equal Rights for Guam: Tuaua v. United States and the Possible Reconsideration of the Insular Cases by the Supreme Court*](#), Guam Bar Association, Hagåtña, GU (May 2013)
- Guest Lecture, [*The Constitutional Relationship Between U.S. Territories and the Federal Government*](#), Northern Mariana Islands Bar Association, Saipan, NMI (May 2013)
- Guest Lecture, [*Citizenship and the Fourteenth Amendment*](#), American Samoa Bar Association (March 2012)

CONGRESSIONAL ADVOCACY

- Witness, “[Voting Rights and Election Administration in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Other Territories](#),” Committee on House Administration, Subcommittee on Elections, July 28, 2020
- [Letter in Support of H.Res. 641, Rejecting Insular Cases](#), June 3, 2020
- [Letter in Support of Insular Area Medicaid Parity Act, H.R. 6495](#), May 4, 2020
- [Statement on Section 19 of S.1237, The American Samoa Citizenship Plebiscite Act](#), Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, July 11, 2013 (with Charles Ala’ilima)

SELECTED EARNED MEDIA

Video

- [U.S. Territories](#), HBO’s Last Week Tonight With John Oliver, March 8, 2015 (critiquing the *Insular Cases* and continued disenfranchisement in U.S. territories)
- [U.S. Denies Veterans Voting Rights](#), Short Film by CrowdJustice, February 7, 2017
- [American Citizens in U.S. Territories Should Have Full Voting Rights](#), Sen. Elizabeth Warren, April 7, 2016, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
- [Part-Time Americans](#), Short Film by the Stateless Voices Project, February 7, 2015

Radio/Podcasts

- [The Lack of Voting Rights in Puerto Rico and Other U.S. Territories](#), America The Voiceless, October 16, 2020
- [Blocked From The Ballot: Meet Pamela Colon, Who Lives In A U.S. Territory](#), WAMU’s 1a, March 17, 2020
- [Americanish](#), WYNC’s Radiolab, April 19, 2019
- [American Samoans Sue For Birthright Citizenship](#), WNYC’s The Takeaway, April 9, 2018.

Print/Online

- [Ex-Hawaii Residents in Territories Seek Presidential Voting](#), AP, Jennifer Sinco Kelleher, October 9, 2020
- [The Left and Right’s Blind Spot in Systemic Racism: The US Colonies](#), TheGrio.com, Cong. Stacey Plaskett, June 24, 2020
- [American Samoans Should Be Granted U.S. Citizenship, Judge Rules](#), New York Times, Michael Levenson, December 13, 2019
- [Federal Judge Rules American Samoans Are U.S. Citizens by Birth. Finally.](#), Slate.com, Mark Joseph Stern, December 12, 2019
- [Roberts, Urged to Overrule Race-Based ‘Insular Cases,’ Questioned Relevance](#), The National Law Journal, Marcia Coyle, October 15, 2019
- [A New Tool In A Century-Old Fight For Voting Rights](#), The Atlantic, Vann R. Newkirk II, February 27, 2017
- [The Legal Residue of Empire](#), The Atlantic, Garrett Epps, June 16, 2016
- [High Court Veterans Make Argument For Birthright Citizenship](#), National Law Journal, Marcia Coyle, May 31, 2016
- [People Of American Samoa Are Not Fully American](#), Bloomberg View, Noah Feldman, March 13, 2016