

Jennifer Podkul
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WORK EXPERIENCE

Kids in Need of Defense, Washington, D.C. 5/16-present
Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy- Direct policy and advocacy for international organization providing legal representation to unaccompanied migrant children. Advocate for policies to advance the protection of migrant children. Provide analysis of pending legislation, government policy changes and federal regulations affecting migrants seeking international protection in the United States. Draft legislation and brief members of Congress and their staff on immigration policy issues. Liaise with high level agency officials with DOJ, HHS and DHS. Provide technical legal assistance to 13 field offices and international regional programs. Organized national conference for attorneys representing children. Regularly present and serve as keynote at national conferences and trainings on federal and state advocacy. Represent KIND with English and Spanish language media.

Women's Refugee Commission, Washington, D.C. 5/11-5/16
Senior Program Officer Migrant Rights and Justice- Conduct research both domestically and internationally on the treatment of vulnerable migrants, especially women and unaccompanied children. Publish reports and white papers with findings of my research and offering policy solutions to improve treatment of these populations. Partner with legal service organizations to provide technical assistance on complex legal matters and in cases of persons seeking humanitarian protection. Advocate with U.S. government and international bodies to ensure due process and adequate protection for migrants in compliance with international law. Liaise with high level administration officials on policy solutions to enhance efficiency and fairness in processing cases of those seeking humanitarian protection. Supervise attorneys, interns, law students and pro bono attorneys on client interview, drafting legal analysis of current and proposed legislation and regulations for use in policy briefs, and legal memos. Regularly speak with English and Spanish language media and at national and international conferences about issues affecting vulnerable migrants and international and domestic law.

Ayuda, Inc., Washington, DC 9/08-5-11
KIND Fellow- Provide legal consultation and representation of unaccompanied immigrant children on a wide variety of immigration law issues including SIJS, U and T visa applications and asylum. Provided weekly legal consultations on wide variety of immigration law matters. Collaborated regularly with U.S. Government Officials on implementation of regulations affecting unaccompanied immigrant children and victims of human trafficking. Presented at national conferences on issues affecting vulnerable migrants. Trained and mentored attorneys on complex immigration cases.

Asylum Access, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania 6/10-12/10
Volunteer Legal Advocate- Assisted local staff with starting new office and creating trainings for new attorneys. Advised local staff on international immigration and refugee laws. Conducted lawyering skills trainings for new staff on topics such as interview techniques and working with interpreters. Conducted interviews for survey of urban refugees and advised participants of the rights afforded to them under international law.

Ayuda, Inc., Washington, DC 9/06-9/08
Staff Attorney/Equal Justice Works Fellow- Created and managed a project serving child victims of human trafficking and other violent crimes. Provided direct legal representation in various immigration matters. Conducted outreach to community members, federal and local law enforcement and international embassies. Collaborated with U.S. Departments of Justice, Labor, Homeland Security, and State on trafficking cases. Special matter expert panelist at numerous national conferences on human trafficking.

Immigrant Justice Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center 8/05-10/05
Consultant- Traveled to rural Honduras to gather information about international recruiting tactics of forestry companies. Identified lead plaintiffs in class action and collective action lawsuits against U.S. companies.

Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery, AL 6/05-8/05
Law Clerk- Conducted outreach to migrant farmworkers and displaced U.S. Citizen workers in nine states in the South to provide “know your rights” trainings and secured participants in civil actions against employers who violate U.S. labor and trafficking laws. Conducted legal researching and writing.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Washington D.C. 8/04-12/04
Legal intern - Conducted legal research and writing on United Nations refugee policies in the United States and the Caribbean. Assisted UN Protection Officers with resettlement of refugees to third countries. Conducted intakes of detained asylum seekers.

Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, Florence, AZ 6/04-8/04
Legal Intern – Presented Legal Orientation to detained persons. Represented detained immigrants, and refugees in immigration court. Researched and wrote an asylum appellate brief. Researched a Convention Against Torture claim. Assisted staff attorneys with daily interviews and case management.

Women Empowered Against Violence (WEAVE) Inc., Washington, D.C. 8/01-7/03
Legal Pro Bono Coordinator - Conducted all intakes for potential clients in English and Spanish. Recruited and trained attorneys from law firms to represent victims of domestic violence in their legal cases. Coordinated legal information clinics with pro bono attorneys for *pro se* litigants.

Peace Corps Honduras, 2/99-4/01
Community Health Educator- Conducted assessment surveys in area villages to identify health care priorities and then trained and supervised community health workers in disease surveillance, treatment, and prevention.

EDUCATION

Washington College of Law, American University- Washington D.C. J.D. *cum laude* 2006

Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA, B.A., American Studies and Spanish 1998

Select Publications:

- “The Impact of Externalization of Migration Controls on the Rights of Asylum Seekers and other Migrants” *Journal on Migration and Human Security* 2016 (co-author)
- “Childhood, Migration, and Human Rights in Central and North America: Causes, Policies, Practices, and Challenges.” *Center for Gender and Refugee Studies UC Hastings* (contributing author)
- “Forced From Home: The Lost Boys and Girls from Central America” *Women’s Refugee Commission* October 2012. (co-author)
- “Domestic Violence in the United States and its Effect on U.S. Asylum Law” *Human Rights Brief Volume 12, Issue 2*
- “The Unconstitutional Effects of Anti-Immigrant Voter Initiatives on America’s Children” *Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Volume III, Issue 2.*
- “Gaining the Trust of Your Victim Witness: A Guide for Law Enforcement Working Human Trafficking Cases” *published by Humanatis, LLC* 2007

Bar Membership: Maryland since 2006

Fluent in oral and written Spanish