

KIRA ROMERO-CRAFT

EDUCATION

Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida October 2002
Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, *Magna Cum Laude*

Florida State University College of Law, Tallahassee, Florida April 2006
Doctor of Jurisprudence

WORK EXPERIENCE

LatinoJustice, PRLDEF 03/2017 to current
Managing Attorney

- Provide direct representation to clients with civil rights claims, including immigrant and voting rights, employment law and criminal justice reform.
- Handle all aspects of litigation from drafting complaint through trials.
- Develop litigation and provide legal and strategic advice to agency investigations and negotiations.
- Work with stakeholders to advance Trust Act ordinance legislation and organize services and response to immigrant community.
- Educate the public via media including, radio, television and print interviews.
- Supervise legal interns, fellows, services coordinator and organizer and provide professional development guidance.
- Educate policymakers and legislators at City, State and Federal level on issues related to the mission of the organization.
- Organize coalition members regarding immigrant rights, voting rights and criminal justice reform issues.
- Assist in grant writing, project proposals and program development.

De Beaubien, Knight, Simmons, Mantzaris and Neal, 07/2015 to 10/2016
Associate Attorney

- Provided consultations regarding a wide range of legal matters.
- Consulted with individuals concerning immigration status and represented clients with applications for immigration-based relief under business, family and humanitarian claims.

Children's Legal Project, Americans for Immigrant Justice 10/2014-06/2015
(formerly known as the Florida Immigrant Advocacy center) Miami, Florida
Supervising Attorney & Project Director

- Directed a community partnership providing immigration legal assistance and advocacy as well as mental health counseling, independent living skills and trauma resolution to unaccompanied immigrant children in Miami-Dade County, Florida;
- Built and maintained effective relationships with the media, public and private social service organizations on behalf of the Partnership;
- Assisted in grant writing, contract management and program development involving several funding sources, including government grants totaling over \$2 million dollars;
- Responsible for the coordination of services to unaccompanied immigrant children for the South Florida region;
- Managed Children's Legal Project, a 25-member team of attorneys and paralegals dedicated to providing services to unaccompanied immigrant children and youth. Directly supervise attorneys and paralegals in their intake, screening and handling of legal cases;

- Trained and recruited pro bono attorneys and volunteers secure representation for immigrant children before the Immigration Court, Juvenile Court and Family Court;
- Built relationships with government officials and community organizations such as the Florida Department of Children and Families, Guardian ad Litem Program, the Juvenile Courts, mental health counseling providers, legal services organizations, and universities to secure the provision of legal, mental health, and general welfare services to vulnerable children;
- Advocated at the local and national level with government officials and subcontractors for improved conditions for immigrants – focusing particularly on the unique needs of minors, including medical concerns, mental health needs, access to legal representation and services;
- Collaborated with state representatives in the development and implementation of policies regarding the treatment of undocumented children in our legal system.

Siemens Corporation, Orlando, Florida

09/2013 to 09/2014

Immigration Specialist

- Managed foreign national employees' visa and immigration matters by collecting documents, reviewing and coordinating services with immigration law firm
- Provided visa assessments to hiring personnel reviewing foreign national job applicants
- Advised business and human resource management teams on timelines, case work and planning for visa and immigrant petitions/applications on behalf of foreign national employees
- Reviewed and approved monthly client billing
- Collected and entered employment authorization data into Peoplesoft database and managing reports

Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association

09/2006 to 09/2011

Staff Attorney (former Equal Justice Works Fellow)

- Provided legal representation for clients in dependency court, immigration court and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- Created partnerships with agencies to address systemic problems facing undocumented children and families.
- Provided trainings for staff attorneys and case managers.
- Planned and organized Citizenship day by collaborating with other private and public interest legal service providers to provide free consultations to over 120 applicants with over 60 volunteer staff and pro bono attorneys.
- Increased number of applicants to Citizenship day pro bono and volunteer events by 300% via marketing on local print, television and radio ads with no marketing budget.

Rollins College Hamilton Holt School, Winter Park, Florida

10/1999 to 07/2002

Administrative Assistant

- Planned and organized new student orientation for over 100 students.
- Created and implemented strategies to promote student activities, registration and other on-going programs for the College.
- Supervised work study students and important department projects.
- Processed registrations, transcript requests and resolved payment and scheduling issues for students.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Panelist, *Election Protection in 2018 and Gearing up for the 2020 Redistricting Cycle*, September 2018 ACLU Lawyers Conference, Delray Beach, Florida

Panelist, *Above and Beyond Section 203: Voluntary Assistance and Other Proactive Measures*, July 2018 Language Access for Voters Summit, Washington, DC

Panelist, *Criminal Justice Reform and the Puerto Rican Community*, April 2017, Puerto Rico Days, Tallahassee, Florida

Panelist, *Crimmigration*, LatinoJustice PRLDEF 3rd Annual Criminal Justice Convening, April 2017, Orlando, Florida

Co-presenter, *Unaccompanied Minors: The Challenge and Characteristics of an Emerging Refugee Population*, February 2015 Refugee Services Consultation, Jacksonville, Florida.

Co-presenter, *Taller de Fortalecimiento de la capacidad Consular (Workshop to Strengthen Consular Services)*, March 2015, Department of the Chancellor in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Co-presenter, *Representing Unaccompanied Minors*, American Immigration Lawyers Association, Central Florida Chapter, September 2014.

Co-presenter, *Representing Part of a Whole: Immigrant Youth in Dependency*, 2010 Dependency Summit, Orlando, Florida.

Facilitator, *Addressing Immigration Needs of Dependent Youth*, 2009 Dependency Summit, Orlando, Florida.

Co-presenter, *Representing Undocumented Children, One Part of the Whole*, 2008 National Association of Counsel for Children Annual Conference, Savannah, Georgia.

Co-presenter, *Fundamentals of SIJ Cases*, 2007, the 2nd Annual Conference on Unaccompanied Immigrant Children, Miami, Florida.

Presenter/Trainer, *Naturalization—Citizenship Day Training*, 2009 & 2010, Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association Lunchtime Training, Orlando, Florida.

Presenter/Trainer, *Haitian Temporary Protection*, 2010, Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association Lunchtime Training, Orlando, Florida.

Facilitator, *The Immigration Consequences of Criminal Activity*, 2010, Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association Lunchtime Training, Orlando, Florida.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

- Co-chair of the Advocacy Committee of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Central Florida Chapter since 2014
- Regional Leader for the Friends of the National American Latino Museum

