

17th Annual

**IMMIGRATION
LAW & POLICY
CONFERENCE**

September 21-22, 2020



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Speaker Twitter handles accompany their bios, which appear later in this program.

This conference is being recorded and will be posted online in several weeks. You will be able to find it at www.migrationpolicy.org/events, and also check out www.cliniclegal.org and www.law.georgetown.edu.

Cover image: John Hilliard

Agenda

September 21, 2020

2:00 pm ET Welcoming Remarks

Andrew Selee, President, Migration Policy Institute (MPI)

Anna Gallagher, Executive Director, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)

William M. Treanor, Dean and Executive Vice President, Georgetown Law

2:10 pm ET A Shift or Seismic Change? The State of Play for Immigration Policy and Politics

Immigration has occupied a more central role in U.S. policy and politics over the past several years than in any prior administration. The Trump White House has presided over a dramatic reshaping of virtually every corner of the U.S. immigration system. As a result, the United States appears on course to experience a marked—perhaps historic—decline in legal immigration. This is occurring against the backdrop of a national conversation on racial equity that features intersections with immigration politics and policies. As the general election nears, this conversation with nationally renowned political analysts will examine the role of immigration in today’s presidential politics, how the parties’ immigration stances have evolved, and whether the currents buffeting the immigration debate represent a short-term reality or suggest a longer cycle of change may be emerging. The discussion also will focus on what the extraordinary shift in immigration policy and politics during the past four years signals for the future of the country.

Moderator

Doris Meissner, Senior Fellow and Director, U.S. Immigration Policy Program, MPI

Speakers

Ronald Brownstein, Senior Editor, *The Atlantic*; Senior Political Analyst, CNN

Eduardo Porter, Economics Reporter, *The New York Times*; Author, *American Poison*

3:10 pm ET Break

Agenda

3:15 pm ET Policy in a Whirlwind: Building an Immigration System that Works for America

Building a fair, workable immigration system amid competing political, economic, and social priorities and interests may seem an almost unsurmountable challenge in today's highly polarized environment. While sweeping changes to immigration policy and enforcement have occurred at the executive level over the past two administrations, Congress has been on the sidelines, unable to fashion a workable consensus around a comprehensive immigration overhaul since the start of the new millennium. The result has been piecemeal policy rather than a long-term vision to address U.S. economic and social needs in a rapidly changing world. Is there a path forward? And if so, what should the approach be and what components are necessary? Moreover, in a time when there is a push for a re-examination of policies through a racially sensitive lens, what should be considered by those who are crafting policies, examining data, and advocating for reform? In this conversation, speakers will explore what an effective, flexible system that advances both American interests and American values looks like, and whether and how such goals can be achieved.

Moderator

Muzaffar Chishti, Senior Fellow and Director, MPI's office at NYU School of Law

Speakers

Laura Collins, Director, Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative, George W. Bush Institute

Marielena Hincapié, Executive Director, National Immigration Law Center

Peter L. Markowitz, Professor of Law, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

Roberto Suro, Professor of Journalism and Public Policy, USC Annenberg

4:30 pm ET Breakout Discussions

5:00 pm ET Event Closes

Agenda

September 22, 2020

2:00 pm ET The Two Pandemics: How COVID-19 and Systemic Racism Affect Immigrants and Their Families

COVID-19 has had catastrophic effects for society, with disproportionate impacts on immigrant and minority communities in terms of illness, access to health care, and limited eligibility for safety-net benefits. Some of the hardest-hit communities are Latino and immigrant ones, which have reported a higher number of cases and deaths. The effects have also been particularly acute for Black communities, which have long confronted pervasive racism. Using the coronavirus pandemic to achieve long-held aims, the Trump administration has advanced more than five dozen immigration-related actions, including a public-health order that permits the expulsion of migrants arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border and bans on certain permanent and temporary worker categories. The administration and Congress also approved legislative packages that exclude millions of immigrants and their U.S.-citizen family members from pandemic relief payments. This panel will discuss the effects of these measures on immigrants, many of whom have been on the frontlines of the pandemic response. Among the issues: how a changed public-charge definition has chilled many from accessing much-needed health services; continuing detention and deportation practices amid the public-health crisis; and the status of the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness program, the first immigration legalization program passed into law in a decade.

Moderator

Anna Gallagher, Executive Director, CLINIC

Speakers

Amaha Kassa, Founder and Executive Director, African Communities Together

Leighton Ku, Professor of Health Policy and Management and Director of the Center for Health Policy Research, George Washington University

Haeyoung Yoon, Senior Policy Director, National Domestic Workers Alliance; Senior Policy Advisor, Care in Action

3:15 pm ET Break

Agenda

3:20 pm ET Protection in Disarray: The Dismantling of the U.S. Asylum System

The Trump administration has walled off the asylum system at the U.S.-Mexico border, using a series of interlocking policies that range from narrowing the qualifying criteria for protection to a ban on asylum for those who have transited through another country to reach the U.S. border, implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols (more commonly known as Remain in Mexico), establishment of extreme forms of expedited removal, and signing of asylum cooperation agreements with countries in Central America. Since March, under a pandemic-related emergency health order, the United States has expelled tens of thousands of asylum seekers at the border, including unaccompanied children. In June, the Department of Homeland Security and the Justice Department proposed a new regulation to secure the dismantling of the asylum system and tie up any future administration that tries to repeal any final rule's restrictions. Speakers during this discussion will examine the dramatic narrowing of the U.S. asylum system, the further challenges to humanitarian protection introduced by the COVID-19 response, how these actions have particularly affected Latino and Black asylum seekers, and what the future of asylum in the United States looks like.

Moderator

Andrew I. Schoenholtz, Co-Director, Center for Applied Legal Studies; Director, Human Rights Institute; Professor from Practice, Georgetown Law

Speakers

Paulina Olvera Cáñez, Founder and Executive Director, Espacio Migrante

Jaya Ramji-Nogales, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the I. Herman Stern Research Professor, Beasley School of Law, Temple University

Douglas Stephens, former Asylum Officer, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Supervisory Attorney, Center for Immigration Legal and Support Services, Catholic Charities San Francisco

4:35 pm ET Breakout Discussion

5:00 pm ET Event Closes

About the Speakers

Session 1: A Shift or Seismic Change?

SESSION MODERATOR



Doris Meissner

Senior Fellow and Director, U.S. Immigration Policy Program, MPI

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Doris Meissner, former Commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), is a Senior Fellow at MPI, where she directs the Institute's U.S. immigration policy work. Her work and expertise include the role of immigration in America's future; administering the nation's immigration laws, systems, and government agencies; immigration and politics; immigration enforcement and border control; cooperation with other countries; and national security.

From 1993 to 2000, she served in the Clinton administration as Commissioner of the INS, then a bureau in the Justice Department. Her accomplishments included reforming the nation's asylum system; creating new strategies for managing U.S. borders; improving naturalization and other services for immigrants; shaping new responses to migration and humanitarian emergencies; strengthening cooperation and joint initiatives with Mexico, Canada, and other countries; and managing growth that doubled the agency's personnel and tripled its budget.

She first joined the Justice Department in 1973 as a White House Fellow and Special Assistant to the Attorney General and, after serving in various senior positions, became Acting Commissioner of the INS in 1981. In 1986, she joined the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace as a Senior Associate, where she created the Immigration Policy Project, which evolved into MPI in 2001.

SPEAKERS



Ronald Brownstein

Senior Editor, *The Atlantic*
Senior Political Analyst, CNN

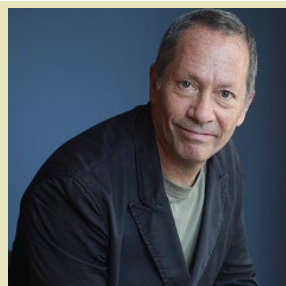
[@RonBrownstein](#)

Ronald Brownstein is a Senior Editor for *The Atlantic* and a Senior Political Analyst at CNN. From 2007 through 2015, he served as Political Director and then Editorial Director for Strategic Partnerships at Atlantic Media Company, where he coordinated political coverage and multimedia projects for its publications, including *The Atlantic*, *National Journal*, and Quartz. In that role, he created and supervised the Next America project, exploring how growing diversity was changing American life.

From 1990 through 2007, he served as National Political Correspondent and Columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*. For seven months in 1998, he served as Chief Political Correspondent and Columnist for *U.S. News and World Report*. In addition to his work as an Analyst for CNN since 2011, Brownstein served as a Political Commentator for ABC during the 2012 election cycle. From 1998 through 2005, he served as an on-air Political Analyst for CNN.

Brownstein has twice been named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, receiving that recognition for his coverage of the 1996 and 2004 presidential campaigns. He is also the recipient of several journalism awards, including the Excellence in Media award from the National Council on Public Polls (2005); the Journalist of the Year award from the Los Angeles Press Club (2005); and the American Political Science Association's Carey McWilliams Award (2007), its highest award for lifetime journalistic achievement.

Brownstein is the author or editor of six books, including most recently *The Second Civil War: How Extreme Partisanship Has Paralyzed Washington and Polarized America* (Penguin, 2007).



Eduardo Porter

Economics Reporter, *The New York Times*
Author, *American Poison*

[@portereduardo](#)

Eduardo Porter was born in Phoenix and grew up in the United States, Mexico, and Belgium. He is an Economics Reporter for *The New York Times*, where he was a member of the editorial board from 2007 to 2012 and the Economic Scene columnist from 2012 to 2018.

He began his career in journalism as a Financial Reporter in Mexico City. Before landing in the United States 22 years ago, he reported from Mexico City, Tokyo, London, and São Paulo. He is the author of *The Price of Everything* (Portfolio, 2011), an exploration of the cost-benefit analyses that underpin human behaviors and institutions, and of *American Poison* (Knopf, 2020), which explores how racial animus has warped the American social contract.

About the Speakers

Session 2: Policy in a Whirlwind

SESSION MODERATOR



Muzaffar Chishti

Senior Fellow and Director, MPI's office at NYU School of Law

[@MigrationPolicy](#)

Muzaffar Chishti, a lawyer, is an MPI Senior Fellow and Director of the MPI office at New York University School of Law. His work focuses on U.S. immigration policy at the federal, state, and local levels; the intersection of labor and immigration law; immigration enforcement; civil liberties; and immigrant integration.

Prior to joining MPI, Chishti was Director of the Immigration Project of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial & Textile Employees (UNITE). Chishti serves on the boards of the New York Immigration Coalition and the Asian American Federation. He has served as Chairman of the Boards of Directors of the National Immigration Forum and the National Immigration Law Center, as a member of the American Bar Association's Coordinating Committee on Immigration.

Chishti has testified extensively on immigration policy issues before Congress and is frequently quoted in the media. In 1992, as part of a U.S. team, he assisted the Russian Parliament in drafting its legislation on forced migrants and refugees. He is a 1994 recipient of the New York State Governor's Award for Outstanding Asian Americans and a 1995 recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Chishti was educated at St. Stephen's College, Delhi; the University of Delhi; Cornell Law School; and the Columbia School of International Affairs.

SPEAKERS



Laura Collins

Director, Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative, George W. Bush Institute

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Laura Collins serves as Director of the Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative at the George W. Bush Institute. Collins previously served as the Director of Immigration Policy at the American Action Forum. She has experience in politics, working as a Senior Research Analyst at the Republican National Committee for the 2012 election cycle and in the Texas House of Representatives for the 82nd Legislature. A former practicing attorney, Collins earned a JD from The University of Texas School of Law and a BBA from the University of Oklahoma.



Marielena Hincapié

Executive Director, National Immigration Law Center

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Marielena Hincapié is Executive Director of the National Immigration Law Center (NILC) and the NILC Immigrant Justice Fund. Hincapié has more than two decades of experience in the movement for immigrant justice and has litigated key cases in defense of immigrant workers, including establishing precedent making it illegal for employers to retaliate against unauthorized workers who exercise their workplace rights, and other key cases at the intersection of immigration and labor law.

Recognized as a seasoned strategist and bridge-builder, Hincapié has led national policy campaigns such as the creation and successful implementation of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Under Hincapié's leadership, NILC has been at the legal forefront of the fight to stop the Trump administration's attempt to rescind DACA, successfully representing DACA recipients and Make the Road New York in a U.S. Supreme Court case in which the court found that the administration's rescission of DACA was "arbitrary and capricious." Hincapié was appointed Co-Chair of the Biden–Sanders Unity Taskforce on Immigration. As an immigrant from Colombia, Hincapié brings her lived experience and bilingual/bicultural perspective to her work in the social justice movement.



Peter L. Markowitz

Professor of Law, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

[@MarkowitzPeter](#) [@CardozoLaw](#)

Peter L. Markowitz is a Professor of Law at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and is the founding faculty member and Co-Director of the Kathryn O. Greenberg Immigration Justice Clinic, which focuses on the intersection of immigration and criminal law and on immigration enforcement issues. The clinic and Markowitz have played a central role in many critical innovations in the field of immigration law, including creating the nation's first public defender system for detained immigrants (the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project); developing the concept of detainer discretion (sanctuary laws); developing the first national immigration fellowship program (the Immigrant Justice Corps); and initiating the nation's first full-service, in-house immigration unit located in a public defender's office (at The Bronx Defenders).

Markowitz's scholarship focuses on immigration and constitutional law. He has published widely in leading law journals and in the popular press. Prior to coming to Cardozo, Markowitz taught at both New York University and Hofstra Schools of Law. He received his JD from New York University School of Law. Following graduation, Markowitz clerked for the Honorable Frederic Block, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York. Prior to entering academia, he was a Soros Justice Fellow at The Bronx Defenders.



Roberto Suro

Professor of Journalism and Public Policy, USC Annenberg

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Roberto Suro holds a joint appointment as a Professor in the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism and the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California (USC). Prior to joining the USC faculty in 2007, he was Director of the Pew Hispanic Center, which he founded in 2001, and part of the management team that launched the Pew Research Center in 2004.

As Associate Director of the Sol Price Center for Social Innovation, Suro leads the Southern California Symposium, an executive education program that brings together social actors from a variety of fields to consider long-term challenges facing the region. He is also Director of the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, an interdisciplinary university research center exploring the challenges and opportunities of demographic diversity in the 21st-century global city.

Suro's journalistic career began in 1974 at the City News Bureau of Chicago as a Police Reporter, and after tours at the *Chicago Sun Times* and the *Chicago Tribune*, he joined *TIME Magazine*. In 1985, he started at *The New York Times* with postings as Bureau Chief in Rome and Houston. After a year as an Alicia Patterson Fellow, Suro was hired at *The Washington Post* as a Staff Writer on the national desk, eventually serving as Deputy National Editor.

Suro's latest book is *Writing Immigration: Scholars and Journalists in Dialogue* (University of California Press, 2011), co-edited with Marcelo Suárez-Orozco and Vivian Louie.

About the Speakers

Session 3: The Two Pandemics

SESSION MODERATOR



Anna Gallagher

Executive Director, CLINIC

[@cliniclegal](#) [@clinicexec](#)

Anna Marie Gallagher has practiced immigration and refugee law for more than three decades, working in the United States, Central America, and Europe. Her experience includes private practice, advocacy, and several years in academia.

Immediately before joining CLINIC in February 2019 as Executive Director, Gallagher was a shareholder and head of the litigation practice area for Maggio, Kattar, Nahajzer + Alexander. Previously, she worked as a consultant in Europe to organizations with a focus on policy planning and analysis, training, and research on refugee and migration issues. She was a member of the Extended International Team of the Jesuit Refugee Service's International Office and of the Policy Team of the Jesuit Refugee Service Europe. Gallagher was a Co-Founder and former President of the board of directors of the International Coalition on the Detention of Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Migrants. She also helped found the Center for Human Rights Legal Action (Centro para la Acción Legal en Derechos Humanos), an international nonprofit advocating for the rights of internally displaced persons and returned refugees in Guatemala. Upon her return to the United States, Gallagher was Deputy Director of the Legal Action Center for the American Immigration Law Foundation.

Gallagher received her JD from the Antioch School of Law, her master's in advocacy from Georgetown University Law Center, and her bachelor's from Temple University. Born in Philadelphia, she is the daughter of Irish immigrants.

SPEAKERS



Amaha Kassa

Founder and Executive Director, African Communities Together

[@aikassa](#) [@AfricansUS](#)

Amaha Imanuel Kassa is the Founder and Executive Director of African Communities Together (ACT), a mutual aid, organizing, and civil rights organization for African immigrants. ACT's mission is to empower African immigrants to integrate socially, get ahead economically, and engage civically.

Kassa was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and immigrated to the United States as a child. He trained as a labor and community organizer, organizing groups as diverse as poultry workers in Alabama and public-sector workers in Silicon Valley. For nine years, Kassa directed the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy, an economic justice organization in Oakland, California, where he first conceived the idea of building a grassroots organizing network for African immigrants.

Kassa is an attorney who received his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's of public policy from Harvard Kennedy School. In 2012, he was recognized by Open Society Foundations and Echoing Green as a Black Male Achievement Fellow.



Leighton Ku

Professor of Health Policy and Management and Director of the Center for Health Policy Research, George Washington University

[@Gwpublichealth](#)

Leighton Ku, PhD, MPH, is a Professor of Health Policy and Management and Director of the Center for Health Policy Research at George Washington University in Washington, DC. Dr. Ku's primary area of expertise is improving health-care access for disadvantaged populations in the United States, including immigrants. He has conducted research on topics such as Medicaid, health reform, and safety-net health care.

In the past couple of years, Dr. Ku has authored declarations as a public-health expert in a variety of federal lawsuits, including on topics such as the public-charge regulation, DACA, and presidential proclamations concerning immigrants and their access to health care. He has authored about 100 peer-reviewed journal articles, as well as hundreds of blog posts and policy briefs. Prior to coming to George Washington University, he served on the staff of the Urban Institute and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. He helped found and continues to serve as a member of the executive board for the District of Columbia's health insurance exchange, DC Health Link.



Haeyoung Yoon

Senior Policy Director, National Domestic Workers Alliance
Senior Policy Advisor, Care in Action

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Haeyoung Yoon is Senior Director of Policy at the National Domestic Workers Alliance. Over the course of her career, Yoon has worked on low-wage and immigrant workers' rights issues. Prior to the National Domestic Workers Alliance, she was Distinguished Taconic Fellow at Community Change, where she led a project to develop the organization's immigration vision and agenda for the 21st century.

Previously, at the National Employment Law Project, Yoon was the Director of Strategic Partnerships and a Deputy Program Director. She co-directed a program area that combines policy design, campaign support, advocacy, research, and strategic communication to expand economic opportunity and security

for working people. She also led a first-of-its-kind initiative in California that brought together worker organizations and the Labor Commissioner's office to develop community-driven strategies to enforce workplace standards.

Yoon also has extensive litigation experience. At the Urban Justice Center, she represented low-wage and immigrant workers in service industries, including domestic work, restaurant, and construction, in wage and hour litigation. She was one of the lead counsel in *Iqbal v. Ashcroft*, a civil rights case on behalf of two immigrant men who were wrongfully detained and subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment and discrimination in a detention center in the aftermath of 9/11. She was awarded a Trial Lawyer of the Year Finalist by Public Justice in 2006 for the case. Yoon has also taught at the New York University School of Law and Brooklyn Law School.

About the Speakers

Session 4: Protection in Disarray

SESSION MODERATOR



Andrew I. Schoenholtz

Co-Director, Center for Applied Legal Studies; Director, Human Rights Institute; and Professor from Practice, Georgetown Law

[@GeorgetownLaw](#)

Andrew I. Schoenholtz is a Professor from Practice at Georgetown Law, where he co-directs the Center for Applied Legal Studies, the asylum clinic. He also directs the Human Rights Institute and the Certificate in Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies. He has taught courses on refugee law and policy, refugees and humanitarian emergencies, and immigration law and policy, as well as a practicum on the rights of detained immigrants. Prior to teaching at Georgetown, Schoenholtz served as Deputy Director of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform. He also practiced immigration, asylum, and international law with the Washington, DC, law firm of Covington & Burling. He has conducted fact-finding missions in Haiti, Cuba, Ecuador, Germany, Croatia, Bosnia, Malawi, and Zambia to study the root causes of forced migration, refugee protection, long-term solutions to mass migration emergencies, and humanitarian relief operations.

Schoenholtz researches and writes regularly on refugee law and policy. His publications include: *The Promise and Challenge of Humanitarian Protection in the United States: Making Temporary Protected Status Work as a Safe Haven* (forthcoming); *The New Refugees and the Old Treaty: Persecutors and Persecuted in the Twenty-First Century*; *Lives in the Balance: Asylum Adjudication by the Department of Homeland Security* (co-author); *Rejecting Refugees: Homeland Security's Administration of the One-Year Bar to Asylum* (co-author); and *Refugee Roulette: Disparities in Asylum Adjudication* (co-author).

Dr. Schoenholtz holds a JD from Harvard Law School and a PhD from Brown University.

SPEAKERS



Paulina Olvera Cádiz

Founder and Executive Director, Espacio Migrante

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Paulina Olvera Cádiz is the Founder and Executive Director of Espacio Migrante, a binational community organization based in Tijuana, which works with migrant communities to provide access to education, human rights, comprehensive care, and raise awareness about migrants' realities.

She founded Espacio Migrante in 2012, with the POETA project, the creation of a computer center in a Tijuana shelter, and computer literacy classes for migrants. Subsequently, the organization played an important role in supporting Haitians as they arrived in Tijuana in 2016 and 2017. She is also Co-Founder of the Strategic Humanitarian Aid Committee of Tijuana. Currently, she directs Espacio Migrante's shelter for asylum-seeking families, as well as the cultural and community center where migrants living in Tijuana can participate in community activities, educational programs, cultural events, and health and legal services.

She holds a degree in international relations from the Autonomous University of Baja California and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Latin American studies at the University of California, San Diego. She is working as a Graduate Student Researcher in the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, as part of the study "Children of Mexican Parents Deported from the United States: Policy, Administrative Process, and Family Experiences." Paulina has been awarded UCSD's Interdisciplinary Collaboratories Fellowship and is working on the research project "Educational Continuity for Migrant Students at the U.S.-Mexican Border."



Jaya Ramji-Nogales

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the I. Herman Stern Research Professor, Beasley School of Law, Temple University

[@TempleLaw](#)

Jaya Ramji-Nogales is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the I. Herman Stern Research Professor at Temple University's Beasley School of Law, where she teaches civil procedure, evidence, and refugee law and policy. She is the co-author, with Georgetown Law Professors Andrew I. Schoenholtz and Philip G. Schrag, of *Refugee Roulette: Disparities in Asylum Adjudication and Proposals for Reform* and of *Lives in the Balance: Asylum Adjudication by the Department of Homeland Security*.

Her work seeks to generate conversations around the concept of global migration law, including a symposium in the *American Journal of International Law Unbound*. Ramji-Nogales' current works examine refugee law under the Trump administration: the first, a comparative look at nationality bans in Israel and the United States, with co-author Tally Kritzman-Amir; the second, an analysis of changes to the asylum system under the Trump administration, with her Georgetown co-authors; and the third, an evaluation of refugee rhetoric in the United States since the *Refugee Act of 1980*.

Her recent publications uncover the role of international law in constructing migration emergencies and critique human rights law as insufficiently attentive to the interests of unauthorized migrants. Ramji-Nogales has also authored articles on the situation of forced migrants under international criminal law and international humanitarian law, as well as on regional migration law in Southeast Asia.



Douglas Stephens

Former Asylum Officer, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Supervisory Attorney, Center for Immigration Legal and Support
Services, Catholic Charities San Francisco

[@CatholicCSF](#)

Douglas Stephens is an attorney admitted to practice in California. He is a Supervisory Attorney at the Center for Immigration Legal and Support Services at Catholic Charities San Francisco, where he manages the removal defense team.

Previously, Stephens served as an Asylum Officer in the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) San Francisco Asylum Office. There, over the course of two years, he was responsible for and adjudicated approximately 220 affirmative asylum cases. He also conducted nearly 200 credible or reasonable fear interviews of asylum applicants. Stephens resigned in protest over the Migrant Protection Protocols after receiving no response from the Trump administration to formal legal and ethical concerns he raised regarding the policy. His objections and subsequent actions received significant attention: Stephens testified before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations; submitted written testimony before the House Committee on Homeland Security; and his objections were featured in a Senate report published by the Office of Senator Jeff Merkley.

Prior to his service at USCIS, Stephens served as an Attorney Advisor for two years in the U.S. Immigration Court in San Francisco. Earlier, he served in the Peace Corps in Paraguay. Stephens attended Emory University School of Law, graduating with a JD and a cross-disciplinary certificate in human rights. Stephens also holds a BA in international affairs and peace and conflict studies from the University of Colorado.

About Migration Policy Institute

The Migration Policy Institute is an independent, nonpartisan think tank that seeks to improve immigration and integration policies through authoritative research and analysis, opportunities for learning and dialogue, and the development of new ideas to address complex policy questions. MPI has offices in Washington, DC, and New York, and the Migration Policy Institute Europe is based in Brussels. MPI provides analysis, development, and evaluation of migration and refugee policies at local, national, and international levels. It aims to meet the demand for pragmatic and thoughtful responses to the challenges and opportunities that large-scale migration, whether voluntary or forced, presents to communities and institutions in an increasingly integrated world.

MPI is guided by the philosophy that international migration needs active and intelligent management. When such policies are in place and are responsibly administered, they bring benefits to immigrants and their families, communities of origin and destination, and sending and receiving countries.

For more on MPI, visit www.migrationpolicy.org.

About Georgetown Law

Georgetown University Law Center is a global leader in legal education based in the heart of the U.S. capital. As the nation's largest law school, Georgetown Law offers students an unmatched breadth and depth of academic opportunities, taught by a world-class faculty of celebrated theorists and leading legal practitioners. Second to none in experiential education, the Law Center's numerous clinics are deeply woven into the Washington, DC, landscape. More than 20 centers and institutes forge cutting-edge research and policy resources across fields including health, the environment, human rights, technology, national security, and international economics. Georgetown Law equips students to succeed in a rapidly evolving legal environment and to make a profound difference in the world, guided by the school's motto, "Law is but the means, justice is the end."

For more on Georgetown Law, visit www.law.georgetown.edu.

About CLINIC

Grounded in Catholic Social Teaching, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. is the largest network of community-based nonprofit immigration legal programs, with 380 affiliates in 47 states and the District of Columbia. CLINIC's principal services include legal and management training for its affiliates, advocacy for humane immigration policies, representing foreign-born religious workers, and leading several national projects to promote the dignity and protect the rights of immigrants. CLINIC also provides some pro bono representation to detained immigrants and offers public education materials on immigrants' rights and Catholic teaching on migration.

Members of CLINIC's network employ about 2,300 attorneys and government-accredited legal experts who serve the most vulnerable immigrants without regard for age, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or any other distinguishing characteristics. Through the legal help of the network, hundreds of thousands of immigrants gain hope. Families are reunited. Communities gain new members, seeking to become integrated as U.S. citizens.

For more on CLINIC's work, visit www.cliniclegal.org.