

Michelle Mendez, joined began directing the Defending Vulnerable Populations section, after she oversaw CLINIC's role in the CARA Pro Bono Project in Dilley, Texas, which focuses on providing legal assistance to detained asylum-seeking mothers and children. Prior to joining CLINIC, she served as senior managing attorney in the Immigration Legal Services Program at Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Washington, where she began as an Equal Justice Works Fellow sponsored by DLA Piper. Mendez has taught the Immigration Litigation Clinic at Catholic University Columbus School of Law, served as a Visiting Clinical Lecturer in Law at Yale Law School, and assisted the Immigrant Rights Clinic at the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Mendez was awarded the 2015 American Immigration Lawyers Association's Joseph Minsky Young Lawyer Award, recognized as one of the "Very Important Professionals Successful by 40" by Maryland's Daily Record in 2014, chosen as one of 25 "Women to Watch in 2017" by The Baltimore Sun, awarded the 2018 Rising Star Award by the Maryland Francis King Carey Law School for her exemplary contributions of service and leadership, and chosen as a 2018 National Law Journal Immigration Trailblazer. The National Institute for Trial Advocacy has selected Mendez for its faculty and appointed her program director for its immigration public programs. Mendez received her law degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and her bachelor's degree from the University of Richmond. She also holds a certificate in nonprofit management from Georgetown University and a professional certificate in peace and conflict resolution through the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. She is a native Spanish speaker, originally from Medellín, Colombia, and also speaks French.

Lily S. Axelrod is a Spanish-speaking attorney at the Memphis office of Siskind Susser where her practice focuses on complex removal defense, crimmigration, and family-based immigration. After graduating with honors from Harvard Law School, she practiced removal and criminal defense at Masferrer and Associates in Boston. Ms. Axelrod serves as the liaison to the Memphis Immigration Court for the Mid-South Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers' Association.

Here's a link to my [longer bio](#).

William Gill served as the Director of Legal Writing and Assessment at Lincoln Memorial University Law School from 2017 until 2020, when he took on the role of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. He teaches courses in immigration law, legal writing, bar-exam preparation, and state constitutional law. He also works as a volunteer immigration attorney with Catholic Charities of East Tennessee and collaborates with non-profits throughout Tennessee on cases involving family-based and humanitarian immigration law.

Karla McKanders directs the Immigration Practice Clinic and teaches Refugee and Immigration Law. Before joining Vanderbilt's law faculty, Professor McKanders was a tenured associate professor of Law at University of Tennessee College of Law. During

the 2016 – 2017 academic year, she was a Visiting Associate Professor of Law at Howard University School of Law, where she directed the Civil Rights Clinic. Before she joined the law faculty at the University of Tennessee, she was a clinical teaching fellow at Villanova University School of Law in the Clinic for Asylum Refugee and Emigrant Services. Professor McKanders was a law clerk for Judge Damon J. Keith with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit after earning her law degree at Duke University and undergraduate degree at Spelman College. She has been cited as an authority on immigration and refugee law by such media outlets as Reuters, ABC News and Al-Jazeera.

Andrew Rankin earned a Bachelor of Arts degree (summa cum laude) in May 2009 and a Juris Doctor (summa cum laude) in May 2018, both from The University of Memphis. In law school, Mr. Rankin graduated number 1 in his class and earned 13 highest-grade awards. Mr. Rankin was licensed to practice law in Tennessee on November 8, 2018.

For 10 years, Mr. Rankin worked for a private immigration law firm where he focused primarily on complex cases in the family, removal, humanitarian, and naturalization arenas.

Mr. Rankin runs his own immigration practice in Memphis, Tennessee. Additionally, he is the Vice Liaison to the Memphis Immigration Court and the Parole-in-Place contact for the Memphis USCIS office.

Charles Pazar was born in the Bronx, New York. He grew up in suburban New Jersey, and attended Boston University where he graduated magna cum laude with Distinction in Political Science in 1974. He graduated from Rutgers University School of Law-Newark, in 1977. After clerking in the Superior Court of New Jersey, he and his wife Janice moved to the Washington, DC area.

He has taught Immigration Law at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law since 2009. The students at the University of Memphis invited him to be their commencement speaker in 2017. He previously taught Immigration Law and Appellate Advocacy at the University of Mississippi School of Law. He is admitted to the New Jersey, Virginia and District of Columbia bars and had served in several Department of Justice divisions before being appointed as the first Immigration Judge in Memphis in 1998.

Judge Pazar has spoken at CLE presentations of the Federal Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, and the Memphis Bar Association. He has also written articles for various publications on Immigration Law and Procedure, and served as a judge on a number of Moot Court competitions.

Judge Pazar is married to Dr. Janice Pond Pazar, who serves as a psychologist at the West Clinic. They have two children, Sarah and Elizabeth. He is active in his church and his hobbies include genealogy, photography, traveling around Europe looking for the graves of ancestors, and reading murder mysteries.

Chay Sengkhoumany is the Lead Immigration Attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Middle TN and the Cumberland. At Legal Aid Society, Chay directs the Survivors Immigration Legal (SIL) Project and provides immigration legal services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Before returning to Legal Aid Society in May 2019, she was in private practice out of Murfreesboro. Practicing law since 2003, Chay handles a variety of immigration matters but has extensive experience in humanitarian immigration relief, such as VAWA, T visas and U visas. Prior to going into private practice, Chay worked in the non-profit sector for ten years. She directed the Middle Tennessee Medical-Legal Partnership (MTMLP) at Legal Aid Society for about seven years. Through the MTMLP, Chay handled general civil legal matters for the patients of the medical clinics and provided training and education to the medical staff and students. Before joining Legal Aid Society in 2007, Chay worked as a staff attorney for the Immigrant Legal Clinic of the Tennessee Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence, where she represented immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking or stalking. Chay frequently presents and writes on immigration law, specifically issues related to victims of abuse or crime.

Chay is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and has presented at several regional and national AILA conferences. She is also a member of the American Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, State Bar of Georgia, Nashville Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, Middle Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women, and the Lawyers' Association for Women, Marion Griffin Chapter. She is a 2009 graduate of the Tennessee Bar Association's Leadership Law Program. She was honored by AILA as the 2014 First Quarter Pro Bono Hero for the Southeast Region. Chay earned her Bachelor's degree in Journalism, cum laude, in three years from Middle Tennessee State University and received her law degree in 2003 from Georgia State University College of Law. In 2010, Mercer University Press published her book on the history of the Lawyers Club of Atlanta. Chay is licensed to practice law in Tennessee and is an inactive member in good standing in Georgia.

Professor Arléne Amarante joined the LMU Law faculty in 2019. She is a first generation American from the pueblo of San José de la Boca, Tepehuanes, Durango, Mexico, where she spent much of her childhood. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and completed her legal studies at the Shepard Broad Law Center at Nova Southeastern University. Prior to joining the LMU faculty, she served as an instructor, a clinical supervisor, the executive director of a nonprofit law firm, and a legal aid attorney.

Professor Amarante's legal career began in 2012 at the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she represented indigent victims of crime in their immigration proceedings. Quickly recognizing that her passion was in immigration law, she formed the Immigrant Justice Initiative, a nonprofit law firm dedicated to providing education and legal representation for immigrants. Through the Immigrant Justice Initiative, Professor Amarante helped dozens of families navigate our complicated immigration system.

In 2014, Professor Amarante began her academic career at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she designed and taught a sociology course entitled Race and the Law and taught a section of a women's studies course called Race, Class, and Gender. While at UNLV, she also supervised law students in the law school's immigration clinic, representing asylum seekers in their claims before the immigration court and the immigration service. When she moved to East Tennessee, Professor Amarante continued her interest in academia by serving as an adjunct instructor for a course entitled Asylum and Refugee Law at the University of Tennessee College of Law.

Professor Amarante has received a number of national awards, including the American Immigration Lawyers Association's Pro Bono Champion award in 2016 and Pro Bono Hero "Artesia First Responders" award in 2014, and she is a frequent contributor to various media outlets, including National Public Radio, the Las Vegas Review Journal, the Las Vegas Sun, and Telemundo.

She is currently working on her Master of Science in Social Justice and Community Action at the University of Edinburgh. In her free time, she pretends to be working on a novel and plays with her silly dogs, Manu and Kiko.