Dree K. Collopy

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Professional Experience and Academic Appointments

American University Washington College of Law

Practitioner In Residence, Immigrant Justice Clinic **December 2025 – Present**
Director, Defending the AU Dream Initiative **March 2025 – Present**
Adjunct Professor **January 2020 – March 2025**

- *Immigrant Justice Clinic* – Co-teach the Immigrant Justice Clinic, a course which enables students to develop core lawyering skills, such as interviewing, counseling, negotiation, and trial advocacy, while cultivating complementary skills in the areas of policy and legislative advocacy, community organizing, and working with the media. Conduct seminar classes. Guide case rounds and case strategy meetings. Supervise students in their representation of immigrant clients before U.S. government agencies. Advise students in developing and leading community outreach, education, and pro bono legal services opportunities, and in advancing policy and media advocacy strategies. Provide pro bono legal services to undergraduate and graduate students at American University and other institutions of higher education in the DC metropolitan area who require immigration-related representation.

- *Asylum and Refugee Law* – Teach law students in Asylum and Refugee Law, a course which traces the history and development of asylum and refugee law globally and in the United States; explores the legal requirements and procedures to secure protection; and considers the political and humanitarian factors that motivate asylum law and policy. Develop syllabus and select course materials. Draft assessment criteria and evaluate students. Conduct seminar classes and guide student discussion. Utilize experiential teaching methods, including group exercises, simulations based on actual case files, and direct exposure to asylees and their advocates to deepen students' understanding of the U.S. protection regime, the unique barriers faced by asylum-seekers, and attorneys' role in securing access to justice for vulnerable populations.

City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law

Adjunct Professor **August 2025 – Present**

- *Asylum and Refugee Law* (online) – Teach law students in Asylum and Refugee Law, a course which traces the history and development of asylum and refugee law globally and in the United States; explores the legal requirements and procedures to secure protection; and considers the political and humanitarian factors that motivate asylum law and policy. Develop syllabus and select course materials. Draft assessment criteria and evaluate students. Conduct seminar classes and guide student discussion. Utilize experiential teaching methods, including group exercises, simulations based on actual case files, and direct exposure to asylees and their advocates to deepen students' understanding of the U.S. protection regime, the unique barriers faced by asylum-seekers, and attorneys' role in securing access to justice for vulnerable populations.

Grossman Young & Hammond, Bethesda, MD **January 2025 – Present**

Of Counsel

- *Practicing Lawyer and Consultant* – Represent individuals and families fleeing persecution and torture in complex asylum, withholding of removal, and Convention Against Torture cases before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), and U.S. courts of appeals. Secure critical immigration relief through direct representation, appellate advocacy, and strategic litigation. Provide training and technical

assistance on U.S. asylum law and evolving policy to nonprofit organizations, immigrant advocacy groups, and private law firms' pro bono programs. Develop and deliver CLEs, legal toolkits, and policy briefs to strengthen representation for those seeking asylum and other humanitarian relief and to promote best practices in trauma-informed, culturally competent legal services. Serve as trusted advisor to immigration practitioners nationwide, offering case strategy consultations and legal updates in response to rapid changes in asylum and immigration policy. Conduct community outreach and Know Your Rights presentations, fostering access to justice within immigrant communities. Engage with local and national media to educate the public on immigration law and policy developments, providing expert commentary and elevating the voices and experiences of impacted individuals.

Benach Collopy LLP, Washington, DC **June 2012 – January 2025**
Managing Partner

- *Practicing Lawyer* – Defended and represented noncitizens in asylum matters, removal proceedings, federal court litigation, Violence Against Women Act and U visa petitions, waivers of inadmissibility, family- and employment-based visa petitions, and complex adjustment of status and naturalization applications. Practiced before the U.S. immigration agencies, U.S. district courts, and U.S. courts of appeals. Developed thorough and creative legal strategies. Engaged in zealous and ethical advocacy. Provided compassionate and client-centered legal services. Independently managed an asylum-focused caseload of 150-200 cases. Conducted consultations and retained clients.

- *Administrator and Supervisor* – Oversaw the operations of a boutique immigration law firm. Developed and managed the firm's standard operating procedures. Designed and implemented case management systems. Trained and managed a staff of attorneys, paralegals, legal assistants, and interns. Mentored, supervised, and reviewed work of attorneys, paralegals, legal assistants, and interns. Formulated and monitored the firm's budget and finances. Administered the firm's benefits programs, human resources, and payroll. Devised and applied marketing and business development strategies. Planned and implemented community outreach initiatives. Served as point of contact for all third-party vendors.

The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law **August 2012 – May 2016**
Adjunct Professor

- *Founding Director of the Immigration Litigation Clinic* – Developed and implemented the Immigration Litigation Clinic, a live-client clinic in which students represented indigent, noncitizen clients in seeking asylum defensively before the U.S. Immigration Courts. Prepared course curriculum and teaching materials. Taught and supervised clinic students in their casework, seminar classes, case rounds, case team meetings, and guided reflection. Utilized experiential, student-focused teaching methods to improve students' substantive and procedural knowledge of U.S. immigration and asylum law; problem solving and critical thinking; legal writing and research skills; trial advocacy skills; legal practice skills; professionalism, ethics, and integrity; and dedication to serving vulnerable, underrepresented populations.

- *Law and Public Policy Program* – Taught third-year law students in the Public Policy Practicum, the capstone course of the Law and Public Policy Program, an experiential, student-focused program designed to expose admitted students to the public policy-making process. Supervised students in developing their own public policy proposals and engaging in hands-on advocacy for their implementation.

Maggio + Kattar, PC, Washington, DC **August 2006 – May 2012**
Senior Attorney, Attorney, Legal Intern

- Represented clients in removal proceedings, federal litigation, asylum matters, motions to reopen, detention and bond issues, waivers of inadmissibility, U visas, Violence Against Women Act self-petitions, consular processing, complex adjustment of status and naturalization matters, family- and employment-based petitions.
- Independently managed a caseload of approximately 125 cases.
- Conducted consultations and retained clients.
- Supervised and reviewed work of associate attorneys, paralegals, and legal interns.
- Briefed, argued, and won Petition for Review before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, *Crespo v. Holder*, 631 F.3d 130 (4th Cir. 2011), a precedent decision.

Ayuda, Inc., Washington, DC **Summer 2006**
Immigration Intern

- Provided direct legal services to low-income clients, including: asylum, family-based petitions, Violence Against Women Act self-petitions, NACARA relief, Temporary Protected Status, adjustment of status, and naturalization.

Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review **August 2005 – May 2006**
Headquarters Immigration Court, Falls Church, VA
Judicial Intern

- Drafted immigration judge decisions.
- Discussed the merits of legal arguments with immigration judges.
- Researched eligibility for relief from removal.
- Reviewed and analyzed documentary evidence and testimony presented before the court.
- Observed individual and master calendar hearings.

Department of Justice, Civil Division **Summer 2005**
Office of Immigration Litigation, Washington, DC
Legal Intern

- Drafted appellate briefs and motions in response to asylum, withholding of removal, Convention Against Torture, cancellation of removal, and voluntary departure claims.
- Reviewed and analyzed records of proceedings before the U.S. Immigration Courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals.
- Participated in mock oral arguments for attorneys preparing for oral argument before the U.S. Courts of Appeals.

The Honorable Tom Harkin, United States Senate, Washington, DC **Summer 2005**
Legal Intern

- Prepared briefing materials and briefed the Senator and his staff.
- Researched legislative issues and public policy proposals.
- Corresponded with constituents regarding their concerns.

The Synergos Institute, New York, NY **Summer 2003**
Intern

- Prepared "bridging leadership" case studies, a program that focuses on bridging the perspectives of key partners and stakeholders to develop a common agenda that can be followed in pursuit of solutions to social and economic problems around the world.
- Researched potential donors and funding sources, and drafted grant applications.

Center for Migration Studies, New York, NY **Summer 2002**
Intern

- Researched and drafted memoranda regarding current migration patterns and refugee crises around the world.
- Maintained national press clipping service on migration and refugees.
- Drafted extensive press summaries, which were published in *Migration World Magazine.*

Education

The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law **Washington, DC**
Juris Doctor and Certificate in Law and Public Policy, 2007

- *Catholic University Law Review:* Note and Comment Editor, Staff Member.
- *Honors:* Dulin-Haynes Fellowship for exceptional public service and academic excellence.
- *Law and Public Policy Program:* One of 12 students admitted in class year. Academic focus and training in skills important to the development and implementation of law and policy in legislative, administrative, and judicial fora. Extensive research and writing on public policy issues. Development of a public policy proposal and engagement in hands-on advocacy for its implementation. Served as Student Coordinator for the program.
- *Thesis:* "Lost in Translation: Why Professional Interpreters are Critical to the Fairness of Asylum Interviews."
- *Students for Public Interest Law:* President, Vice-President.

Grinnell College **Grinnell, IA**
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Spanish, 2004

- *Study Abroad:* Universidad de Costa Rica – Spanish and Sociology.
- *Field Research:* Rural Costa Rican Family Dynamics and Gender Roles.
- *Thesis:* "The International Criminal Court: The Best Answer to the Needs of the Global Community?"
- *Activities:* Division III Athlete – Varsity Tennis Team; Grinnell College Dance Team – Captain and Head Choreographer; American Cancer Society – Board Member.

Publications

Books

- *AILA's Asylum Primer: A Practical Guide to U.S. Asylum Law and Procedure, 10th Edition*, American Immigration Lawyers Association, Forthcoming: Expected 2026.
- *AILA's Asylum Primer: A Practical Guide to U.S. Asylum Law and Procedure, 9th Edition*, American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2023.
- *AILA's Asylum Primer: A Practical Guide to U.S. Asylum Law and Procedure, 8th Edition*, American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2019.
- *AILA's Asylum Primer: A Practical Guide to U.S. Asylum Law and Procedure, 7th Edition*, American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2015.

Book Chapters

- "Gatekeeping the American Dream: The Importance of the Naturalization Interview to Achieving Citizenship and Full Integration into American Life," *AILA's Guide to U.S. Citizenship & Naturalization Law*, 2021.

- "An Introduction to Asylum Law and Procedure," *What Every Lawyer Needs to Know About Immigration Law*, American Bar Association, 2014.
- "Gatekeeping the American Dream: The Importance of the Naturalization Interview to Achieving Citizenship and Full Integration into American Life," *AILA's Guide to U.S. Citizenship & Naturalization Law*, 2014.

Journal Articles

- "Detention as Deterrent: Denying Justice to Immigrants and Asylum Seekers," GEORGETOWN IMMIGRATION LAW JOURNAL, Fall 2021.
- "Representing Stateless Asylum Seekers in the United States," IMMIGRATION BRIEFINGS, October and November 2019.
- "The Gang Phenomenon and Persecution on Account of Political Opinion in Central America," IMMIGRATION BRIEFINGS, October and November 2017.
- "Crisis at the Border, Part III: Reinstatement of Removal and Demonstrating a Reasonable Fear of Persecution or Torture," IMMIGRATION BRIEFINGS, October 2016.
- "Crisis at the Border, Part II: Demonstrating a Credible Fear of Persecution or Torture," IMMIGRATION BRIEFINGS, April 2016.
- "Crisis at the Border, Part I: Securing Access to Protection Following CBP Screening Interviews," IMMIGRATION BRIEFINGS, November 2015.
- "Thwarting the Intent Behind VAWA? USCIS' Interpretation of Good Moral Character," IMMIGRATION BRIEFINGS, April 2014.
- "I-601A Provisional Unlawful Presence Waivers: A Practitioner's Guide for Preserving Family Unity," IMMIGRATION BRIEFINGS, June 2013.
- "No Minor Issue: The Diminished Capacity of Minors in Our Immigration System," IMMIGRATION BRIEFINGS, April 2012.
- "The Plight of the Crewman: The Need for an Immediate Relative Exception to the Prohibition on Adjustment of Status and Strategies for Representing Alleged Crewmen Under Current Law," IMMIGRATION BRIEFINGS, June 2010.
- "Lost in Translation: Why Professional Interpreters are Critical to the Fairness of Asylum Interviews," AILA's IMMIGRATION LAW TODAY, May/June 2008.
- "Incorporating a Hardship Factor in Asylum Claims Based on Female Genital Mutilation: A Legislative Solution to Protect the Best Interests of Children," GEORGETOWN IMMIGRATION LAW JOURNAL, Spring 2007.

Op-Eds

- *The Hill*, "We Must Stand Up and Speak for the Children," February 14, 2020.
- *The Washington Post*, "Trump is right: There is a crisis at the border. But he is causing it." January 10, 2019.
- *The Washington Post*, "Trump's attack on asylum is based entirely on false claims." November 13, 2018.
- *The Guardian*, "Why is Obama still locking up so many innocent women and kids on US soil?" November 4, 2014.

Other

- Developed the curriculum and course materials for the AILA Asylum Online Course, which includes over 20 hours of practical, comprehensive instruction for asylum practitioners and presents a practical overview of affirmative and defensive asylum cases from start to finish.
- Author of dozens of conference papers, practice advisories, practice alerts, and blog posts for the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Speaking Engagements and Media Appearances

Conference Leadership

- Conference Chair, "Searching for Protection Amongst the Ruins of the U.S. Asylum System," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2020 AILA Virtual Asylum Conference, September 30, 2020.
- Planning Committee, "In Children's Best Interests: Advancing a Fundamental Standard for the Treatment of Immigrant Children," American University's Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and Washington College of Law and the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Washington, DC, February 13-14, 2020.
- Conference Chair, "Asylum Under Attack: Seeking Refuge in the Trump Era," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2019 Asylum Conference and Webcast, Washington, DC, October 18, 2019.
- Due Process/Removal Track Chair, "2017 AILA Annual Conference," American Immigration Lawyers Association, New Orleans, LA, June 21-24, 2017.
- Planning Committee, "2016 AILA Annual Conference," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Las Vegas, NV, June 22-25, 2016.
- Conference Chair, "2016 AILA Asylum CLE Conference," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2016 Asylum Conference and Webcast, San Antonio, TX, February 8, 2016.
- Planning Committee, "2015 AILA Annual Conference," American Immigration Lawyers Association, National Harbor, MD, June 17-20, 2015.
- Planning Committee, "2014 AILA Annual Conference," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Boston, MA, June 18-21, 2014.

Academic and Conference Presentations

- "Defining and Refining Political Opinion and Particular Social Groups," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2026 Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, Forthcoming: June 20, 2026.
- "Advocacy in Unjust Systems: Teaching Lawyering Skills for Compromised Rule of Law," Association of American Law Schools 2026 Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Portland, OR, Forthcoming: May 4, 2026.
- "Particular Social Groups," New York Law School, 2026 Annual Asylum and Immigration Conference, Forthcoming: March 6, 2026.
- "Crafting and Proving Particular Social Groups," American Immigration Lawyers Association, DC Chapter Conference, Shady Grove, MD, November 14, 2025.
- "Beyond the Basics: Constructing Strong PSG and CAT Claims in Complex Cases," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2025 Fall Conference, Boston, MA, September 11, 2025.
- "Hot Topics in Bars to Asylum," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2025 Annual Conference, Denver, CO, June 21, 2025.
- "Asylum for Gender-Based Violence," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2025 AILA Hot Topics and Survival Skills Virtual Conference, March 3-4, 2025.
- "Litigating Particular Social Groups," New York Law School, 2025 Annual Asylum and Immigration Conference, February 7, 2025.
- "Navigating the Broken Asylum System," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2024 Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, June 12-15, 2024.
- "The Role of the Federal Courts in Shaping Asylum Law: A Comparative Analysis," AILA LAW JOURNAL Symposium, Washington, DC, March 21, 2024.
- "Crafting Particular Social Groups," American Immigration Lawyers Association, DC Chapter Conference, November 10, 2023.

- "Asylum Law: Strategizing a Winning Case," Federal Bar Association, Immigration Law Conference, Arlington, VA, May 5-6, 2023.
- "Hot Topics in Asylum Law," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2022 Annual Conference, June 15-18, 2022.
- "Surfing the Waves of Asylum Litigation," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2022 Fall Conference, Maui, HI, September 11, 2022.
- "Protecting Asylum Seekers: Cutting Edge Issues, Updates, and the Impact of Climate Change on Migration," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Colorado Chapter Winter Conference, February 11, 2022.
- "We Must Keep Our Eyes Open: Recent Changes in Attorney General and BIA Decisions," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Midwinter Virtual Conference, February 3, 2022.
- "Asylum Update," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Ohio Chapter Conference, December 3, 2021.
- "Nexus: Effectively Presenting Your Argument Without Dissecting the Mind of the Persecutor," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Asylum Virtual Conference, August 19, 2021.
- "Asylum in the U.S. after Trump: Surveying the Damage and Looking into the Future," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Chicago Chapter Spring Family/Removal Conference, March 19, 2021.
- "The Continued Assault on Asylum: How to Formulate PSGs in Light of Recent Case Law," American Immigration Lawyers Association, New England Chapter Conference, March 5, 2021.
- "Evidentiary Issues and Expert Witnesses," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Midwinter Virtual Conference, March 2, 2021.
- "Everything Caliente in Asylum," American Immigration Lawyers Association, South Florida Chapter Conference, February 25, 2021.
- "Asylum Overview and Update About Latest Developments," Practising Law Institute, Asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, Crime Victim, and Other Immigration Relief Virtual Conference, February 5, 2021.
- "Cutting Edge Issues on Asylum and Humanitarian Relief," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Colorado Chapter Winter Conference, February 5, 2021.
- "Hot Topics II," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2020 Virtual Annual Conference, July 20, 2020.
- "An Assault on Asylum: Evolving Standards, Migrant Protection Protocols, and 'Safe' Third Countries," American University's Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and Washington College of Law and the American Immigration Lawyers Association, In Children's Best Interests Symposium, Washington, DC, February 13, 2020.
- "Asylum Practice in a Hostile Climate," American Immigration Lawyers Association, DC Chapter Conference, Shady Grove, MD, November 13, 2019.
- "Asylum Advocacy in a Post-*Matter of A-B- World*" and "Child Asylum Seekers and the Trump Administration's Targeting of the Most Vulnerable," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2019 Asylum Conference and Webcast, October 18, 2019.
- "Recent Developments in Asylum Law," Practising Law Institute, Defending Immigration Removal Proceedings 2019, New York, NY, July 25, 2019.
- "Advanced Asylum: Prevailing After *Matter of A-B-*," American Immigration Lawyers Association, South Florida Chapter Conference, Miami Beach, FL, March 1, 2019.
- "Statelessness in the U.S. and Emerging Challenges in Nationality," Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness, UNHCR, and Open Society Justice Initiative Workshop, Washington, DC, November 5, 2018.

- "Recent Developments in Asylum Law," Practising Law Institute, Defending Immigration Removal Proceedings 2018, New York, NY, July 26, 2018.
- "Bars to Asylum," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2018 Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, June 16, 2018.
- "Advanced Discussion About Particular Social Groups," Federal Bar Association, Immigration and Asylum Conference 2018, New York, NY, February 23, 2018.
- "Hot Topics in Asylum Practice," American Immigration Lawyers Association, DC Chapter Conference, Shady Grove, MD, November 8, 2017.
- "Preparing and Presenting Central American Asylum Claims: Tips and Tricks for Success," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2017 Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, June 22, 2017.
- "Statelessness" and "Particular Social Group Claims," Federal Bar Association, Immigration and Asylum Conference 2017, New York, NY, February 10, 2017.
- "Seeking Protection from Gang Violence in Central America," UDC David A. Clarke School of Law, Chasing Liberty: Family Detention Symposium, Washington, DC, February 3, 2017.
- "Country Conditions in Central America and Asylum Decision-Making," American University's Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and Washington College of Law, Washington, DC, January 12-13, 2017.
- "Fixing the Broken Asylum System," Migration Policy Institute and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Roundtable Discussion, Washington, DC, November 18, 2016.
- "Issues in Immigration Law: Family Detention," George Mason University School of Law, Civil Rights Law Journal Symposium, October 27, 2016.
- "The Particular Social Group: Strategies on Winning Asylum Cases," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Advanced Business and Removal Issues Conference, New York, NY, October 10, 2016.
- "Family Detention and the Criminalization of Asylum Seekers in the United States," Crimmigration in the Shadow of Sovereignty CINETS Conference, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, October 7, 2016.
- "Family Detention, PEP, and Prosecutorial Discretion: Developments in Immigration Enforcement," CLINIC, Migration Policy Institute, and Georgetown University Law Center's Immigration Law and Policy Conference, Washington, DC, September 12, 2016.
- "Global Politics of Migration and Refuge," Grinnell College, Rosenfield Program in Public Affairs, International Relations, and Human Rights Symposium, Grinnell, IA, September 6-8, 2016.
- "Fleeing Families: Obtaining Derivative Status for Family Members of Asylum Applicants and Grantees," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2016 Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV, June 25, 2016.
- "From Displacement to Resettlement: an Overview of Refugee Law," Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Annual Convention 2016, St. Petersburg, FL, June 4, 2016.
- "Expert Roundtable on the Topic of U.S. Refugee Resettlement Admissions and Reception Policies," Center for Forced Migration Studies, Washington, DC, March 14, 2016.
- "Expedited Removal and Reinstatement of Removal," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2016 Asylum Conference and Webcast, February 8, 2016.
- "On the Run: UAC/Family Detention/Asylum Update," American Immigration Lawyers association, Colorado Chapter Conference, Denver, CO, October 16, 2015.
- "Asylum and Related Claims of Relief," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2015 Fundamentals of Immigration Law Conference, Miami Beach, FL, August 7, 2015.
- "How to Win Gang-Based Asylum Claims," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2015 Annual Conference, National Harbor, MD, June 19, 2015.

- "Advanced Immigration Legal Issues: Seeking Protection for Refugees in the United States," Freedom Network USA, TVPRA Past, Present, & Future: Elevating the "Human" in Human Trafficking Conference, Arlington, VA, April 21-22, 2015.
- "Winning Asylum Claims Based on Particular Social Group," American Immigration Lawyers Association, DC Chapter Conference, Shady Grove, MD, October 22, 2014.
- "Credible/Reasonable Fear Interviews: Lessons from Artesia and Karnes," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Colorado Chapter Conference, Denver, CO, October 17, 2014.
- "Seeking Protection for Individuals Fleeing Gang Violence: The Evolution of Gang-Based Asylum and Practice Pointers for Success," Elon University School of Law, Humanitarian Immigration Law Clinic Symposium, Greensboro, NC, August 1, 2014.
- "Challenges and Strategies Beyond Relief," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2014 Annual Conference, Boston, MA, June 20, 2014.
- "Asylum and Removal Case Preparation and Practicum," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2013 Paralegals Conference, Washington, DC, October 25, 2013.
- "Evidentiary Issues in Asylum Cases," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2013 Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, June 29, 2013.

Webinars and Roundtable Discussions

- "Issues Impacting the Humanitarian Parolee Population," Welcome.US, Series of Webinars for Sponsors and Humanitarian Parolees, November 2024 – Present.
- "Asylum: One Central Reason and Nexus," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Webinar, December 16, 2025.
- "Recent Extreme Vetting and National Security Policy Announcements Affecting Refugees, Asylees, LPRs, and Discretionary Applicants," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Virtual Roundtable, December 11, 2025.
- "Hot Topics in Asylum Law & Practice: A Conversation with Dree Collopy," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Virtual Roundtable, July 30, 2025.
- "Ask the Author Q&A Session," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Annual Conference, Denver, CO, June 21, 2025.
- "Representing Asylum Seekers in the United States," Williams & Connolly, Pro Bono Training, Washington, DC, March 26, 2025.
- "Asylum Claims Based Upon a Pattern or Practice of Persecution and Disfavored Groups," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Webinar, March 20, 2025.
- "Immigration Policy Developments Under Trump 2.0," Grossman Young & Hammond, Webinar, February 24, 2025.
- "Representing Asylum Seekers in the United States," Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Pro Bono Training, Washington, DC, July 9, 2024.
- "Ask the Author Q&A Session," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, June 12-15, 2024.
- "2024 Update on Asylum and Particular Social Groups," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Webinar, January 25, 2024.
- "Ask the Author Q&A Session," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Virtual Roundtable, November 15, 2023.
- "Ask the Author Q&A Session," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Annual Conference, Orlando, FL, June 22, 2023.
- "Navigating Complications and Obstacles in the Affirmative Asylum Process," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Webinar, October 19, 2022.

- "Particular Social Groups in Limbo: What PSGs Are Working Now?" American Immigration Lawyers Association, Virtual Roundtable, October 14, 2022.
- "Creative Evidentiary Solutions for Asylum Cases," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Webinar, March 2, 2021.
- "Ask the Author Q&A Session," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Virtual Roundtable, September 29, 2020.
- "Stuck in the Affirmative Asylum Backlog: What Are My Options?," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Webinar, May 28, 2020.
- "Assault on Asylum: Navigating the Proposals to Limit Access to Asylum," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Webinar, March 15, 2019.
- "*Matter of A-B-*: Case Updates, Current Trends, and Suggested Strategies," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Webinar, February 6, 2019.
- "Representing People Seeking Protection at Our Borders," Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Pro Bono Training, Washington, DC, July 9, 2018.
- "Advanced Issues in Asylum and Withholding of Removal," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Webinar, March 20, 2018.
- "What is a Particular Social Group?," "Working with Victims of Trauma," and "Documenting the Claim," AILA Paralegals Online Course, 2017.
- "Representing Stateless Persons Before U.S. Immigration Authorities," United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Webinar, August 22, 2017.
- "Bayou Asylum Training," Loyola University and American Immigration Lawyers Association, Pro Bono Training, New Orleans, LA, June 24, 2017.
- "Asylum: Keeping Safe in an Unsafe World," The Clinic at Sharma-Crawford, Asylum Colloquium, Kansas City, MO, April 20, 2017.
- "Reopening Expedited Removal Orders," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Colorado Chapter Meeting, Teleconference, April 12, 2017.
- "Fundamentals of Asylum and Withholding of Removal" and "Defensive Asylum: Preparing and Trying Your Case," University of North Carolina School of Law, Building Community Networks: In Support of Women & Children from Central America Seeking Asylum, Chapel Hill, NC, November 11, 2016.
- "Gender-Based Asylum Claims," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Webinar, September 13, 2016.
- "How to Prepare an Asylum Application and Supporting Evidence" and "Hot Topics in Particular Social Group Formulation," RMIAN, AILA Colorado Chapter, and Colorado Asylum Project, Representing Asylum Seekers: An In-Depth Training on Asylum Law and Procedure, Denver, CO, April 1, 2016.
- "Central American Asylum Cases," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Webinar, August 4, 2015.
- "Lessons from Artesia," American Immigration Lawyers Association, DC Chapter Webinar, October 6, 2014.
- "U.S. Asylum Law: A Primer," Institute for U.S. Law, Washington, DC, August 8, 2014.
- "Best Practices in Challenging Detention and Advocating for Asylum, Withholding, and CAT Relief," ILW.com Webinar, March 27, 2014.
- "I-601A Waivers: A Year in Review," American Immigration Lawyers Association, DC Chapter Webinar, March 14, 2014.
- "Asylum Officer Notes and Assessments," American Immigration Lawyers Association, DC Chapter Litigation Roundtable, February 24, 2014.
- "Recent Updates in Comprehensive Immigration Reform," American Bar Association, Lunch and

Learn Series, July 29, 2013.
- "Representing Clients with Mental Health Issues: A Primer on EOIR's New Mental Health Rules," American Bar Association, Lunch and Learn Series, April 18, 2013.
- "Representing Immigrant Children," American Immigration Lawyers Association, DC Chapter and Child Immigrants DC Collaborative Training, Washington, DC, March 19, 2013.
- "2012 Election Results: Consequences for Employment and Family-Based Immigration," American Bar Association, Lunch and Learn Series, December 18, 2012.
- "When the Petitioner Becomes the Target: Strategies for Presenting Petitions Impacted by the Adam Walsh Act," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Webinar, November 13, 2012.
- "Practical 'Nuts and Bolts' Tips – Criminal Issues," Federal Bar Association, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Nuts and Bolts Seminar, Washington, DC, October 31, 2012.
- "The Essentials of Immigration Court Representation" and "Appeals to the BIA and Circuit Courts," American Bar Association, Pro Bono Training, Chicago, IL, August 1, 2012.
- "Deferred Action for Dreamers," American Bar Association, Lunch and Learn Series, July 25, 2012.
- "The Essentials of Immigration Court Representation" and "Appeals to the BIA and Circuit Courts," American Bar Association, Pro Bono Training, New Orleans, LA, February 1, 2012.
- "The Plight of the Crewman: Strategies for Representing C-1/D Entrants Under Current Law," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Webinar, November 22, 2011.
- "VAWA and U Visa Petitions," Maggio + Kattar and Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, Pro Bono Training, Washington, DC, November 15, 2011.
- "Trying a Case in Immigration Court: Advice from the Bench and Bar," District of Columbia Bar, Continuing Legal Education Course, Washington, DC, August 23, 2011.
- "The Varying Definition of Conviction," American Bar Association, Lunch and Learn Series, March 24, 2011.
- "Pro Bono Model Hearing Program: Skills for Representing Respondents in Immigration Court," American Immigration Lawyers Association DC Chapter, Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, and Catholic Charities, Pro Bono Training, Baltimore, MD, February 5, 2010.
- "Declaratory Judgments for Business and Family Practitioners," American Immigration Lawyers Association, Webinar, August 4, 2009.
- "Immigration Implications of Criminal Convictions," District of Columbia Bar, Continuing Legal Education Course, Washington, DC, May 12, 2009.

Guest Lectures and Speaking Engagements for Students

- "Refugee Protection from Transnational Criminal Organizations," City University of New York School of Law, Refugee Protection Practicum, Long Island City, NY, Forthcoming: April 23, 2026.
- "Working with Women Seeking Asylum," Washington & Lee University School of Law, Virtual Panel, March 17, 2022.
- "Spanish Department Careers Panel," Grinnell College, Virtual Panel, April 8, 2021.
- "Immigration Law in Private Practice," Grinnell College, Dreamers and Doers: Exploring Immigration in America Symposium Panel Discussion, Grinnell, IA, October 12, 2018.
- "Presenting an Asylum Claim," American University Washington College of Law, Asylum and Refugee Law Course, Washington, DC, September 27, 2018.
- "Spanish Welcome Session," Grinnell College, Video Conference, November 1, 2017.
- "Immigration Law in Private Practice," Department of Justice Office of Immigration Litigation, Brown Bag Lunch, Washington, DC, July 26, 2017.
- "Law Students Panel," American Immigration Lawyers Association, AILA Open House, Washington, DC, March 4, 2016.
- "When is a Migrant a Refugee? The Central American Refugee Crisis and the U.S. Asylum System,"

Washington and Lee University School of Law, Transnational Law Course, Lexington, VA, February 26, 2016.
- "Building a Career in Immigration Law," American Immigration Lawyers Association, New Members Division Meeting, Washington, DC, April 30, 2015.
- "Law Students Panel," American Immigration Lawyers Association, AILA Open House, Washington, DC, 2015.
- "Crisis at the Border: Immigration Law and Policy," The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, Law and Public Policy Forum, Washington, DC, October 27, 2014.
- "Alumni Career Panel," The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, Washington, DC, March 21, 2014.
- "Women as Leaders: Negotiating Skills for Success," The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, Women's Law Caucus, Washington, DC, September 19, 2013.
- "Careers in Immigration Law," George Mason University School of Law, Immigration Law Society, Fairfax, VA, January 17, 2013.
- "Prosecutorial Discretion in Immigration Law," The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, Law and Public Policy Forum, Washington, DC, January 30, 2012.
- "Careers in Immigration Law," The George Washington University Law School, Washington, DC, November 3, 2011.
- "Careers in Immigration Law," Ayuda, Inc., Summer Intern Program, Washington, DC, July 29, 2010.
- "Law Student Panel," American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2010 Annual Conference, National Harbor, MD, June 30, 2010.

Keynote Addresses
- American University Washington College of Law, *Human Rights Brief* 2026 Spring Symposium, Washington, DC, Forthcoming: February 20, 2026.
- "My American Dream," Asylum Seeker Assistance Project, With Liberty and Breakfast for All Fundraiser, Washington, DC, May 23, 2018.

Congressional Testimony, Briefings, and Press Conferences
- "Representing Traumatized Central American Children and Mothers: Updates from Experts and Efforts to End Family Detention," U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate Briefings, Rayburn House Office and Dirksen Senate Office Buildings, Washington, DC, March 29, 2016.
- "Family Detention Briefing for Members of the U.S. House of Representatives," Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC, June 11, 2015.
- "House Democratic Leaders Call for End to Family Detention Program," Press Conference with 13 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC, May 21, 2015 (remarks begin at 19:43).
- "Family Detention Briefing for Members of the U.S. House of Representatives," Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC, April 22, 2015.
- "Family Detention Briefing for White House Staff," Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Washington, DC, April 16, 2015.
- "Family Detention Briefing for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights," Organization of American States, Washington, DC, October 27, 2014.
- "Domestic Violence-Based Asylum Claims and Family Detention," Telephonic Press Briefing, September 23, 2014.
- "Family Detention: Denying Protection to Refugees," U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate Briefings, Rayburn House Office Building and Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, September 22, 2014.

Select Media Interviews and Quotes

- *Forbes*, "Court Likely to Block Biden Immigration Rule," May 14, 2023.
- *Forbes*, "Asylum Rule Faces Immigration Questions on Logic and Legality," March 22, 2023.
- *Forbes*, "Asylum Expert: Respecting Human Rights Also Controls the Border," March 24, 2021.
- *Rational Middle*, "Episode 70: The Status of Asylum in America with Dree Collopy," March 3, 2021.
- *Forbes*, "Joe Biden's New Policies for Asylum, DACA, and Legal Immigration," January 5, 2021.
- *San Diego Union Tribune*, "Who gets asylum? Even before Trump, system was riddled with bias and disparities," August 23, 2020.
- *NPR*, "U.S.-Canada Asylum Treaty Unconstitutional, Judge Finds, Citing 'Cruel' U.S. Behavior," July 23, 2020.
- *Rational Middle,* "Episode 203: Asylum in America," interview completed March 11, 2020.
- *NPR All Things Considered*, "Trump Administration Makes it Harder to Grant Relief to Torture Victims," February 10, 2020.
- *Speaking of Justice Podcast*, "Attorney Dree Collopy, A Practical Guide to U.S. Asylum Law and Procedure," October 18, 2019.
- *Forbes*, "Analysts Find Restrictive Measures in New Trump Immigration Bill," January 23, 2019.
- *PBS: This is America and the World with Dennis Wholey*, "Episode #2143: Attorney Dree Collopy (U.S. Immigration and Asylum)," July 23, 2018.
- *Forbes*, "The Sessions Asylum Decision: What Are Its Implications?", June 13, 2018.
- *HBO: VICE News Tonight*, "What Trump's Revised Travel Ban Means for Asylum Seekers in the U.S.," March 8, 2017.
- Frequently interviewed and quoted in the media, including by outlets such as: The Washington Post, Associated Press, Reuters, The Atlantic, Forbes, Voice of America, NPR, CNN, USA Today, Foreign Policy, Al Jazeera, The Huffington Post, BuzzFeed, Politico, Univision, The LA Times, National Journal, Daily Beast, Law 360, San Diego Union Tribune, and AILA Quicktakes.

Professional Memberships, Leadership, and Service

American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) — **2006 – Present**

- Editorial Board, AILA LAW JOURNAL — 2018 – 2022; 2024 – Present
- Member, AILA National Removal Defense Steering Committee — 2023 – 2024; 2025 – Present
- Member, AILA National Asylum and Refugee Liaison Committee — 2022 – 2024
- Chair, AILA National Asylum and Refugee Liaison Committee — 2012 – 2016; 2017 – 2022
- Member, AILA Asylum Online Course Committee — 2021 – 2022
- Volunteer, Dilley Pro Bono Project (formerly the CARA Pro Bono Project) — 2016 – 2019
- Member, AILA National USCIS Headquarters Liaison Committee — 2016 – 2017
- Vice Chair and Member, AILA National Media Advocacy Committee — 2014 – 2017
- Member, AILA National Annual Conference Committee — 2013 – 2017
- Volunteer, AILA Artesia Project — 2014 – 2016
- Member, AILA National Interagency Committee — 2013 – 2014
- Fourth Circuit Representative, AILA Federal Court Litigation Section — 2012 – 2014
- Member, AILA National Distance Learning Committee — 2012 – 2013
- Member, AILA National Board of Publications — 2011 – 2012
- Co-Chair, AILA-DC Chapter Pro Bono Committee — 2009 – 2013

Asylum Litigation Working Group **2012 – Present**

- Develop and implement nation-wide litigation strategies on behalf of asylum seekers.
- Mentor attorneys representing asylum seekers before the U.S. immigration courts, Board of Immigration Appeals, and U.S. courts of appeals.
- Draft and contribute to amicus briefs in support of asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention Against Torture applications on appeal before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the U.S. courts of appeals.

Asylum Working Group **2012 – Present**

- Develop and implement nation-wide policy advocacy and media campaigns on behalf of asylum seekers.
- Participate in and contribute to hearings on Capitol Hill and media press calls regarding asylum-related legislation, policy changes and interpretations, and other developments.

National Lawyers Guild, National Immigration Project **2007 – Present**

Amica Center (formerly CAIR Coalition) **2007 – Present**

Maryland State Bar Association **2007 – Present**

District of Columbia Bar Association **2011 – Present**

American Bar Association **2007 – 2019**

- Co-Chair, Immigration Litigation Subcommittee, Section on Litigation 2011-2013

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. **2012 – 2016**

- Reviewed records of proceedings for appeals pending before the Board of Immigration Appeals to select cases for the BIA Pro Bono Project.
- Served as a mentor for pro bono attorneys representing asylum seekers.

Honors and Awards

Chambers and Partners **2020 – 2025**

- Ranked one of the top immigration lawyers in Washington, DC. 2020-2024
- Benach Collopy LLP ranked one of the best immigration law firms in Washington, DC. 2020-2025

***Washingtonian* Magazine** **2019 – 2025**

- Named one of Washington, DC's top immigration lawyers.

Super Lawyers **2013 – 2025**

- Named one of Maryland and Washington, DC's top immigration lawyers.

President's Commendation Award **2021**

AILA Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV

- Presented for exemplary service to the President and to AILA.

President's Commendation Award **2016**

AILA Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV

- Presented for exemplary service to the President and to AILA.

Michael Maggio Pro Bono Award **2015**
AILA Annual Conference, National Harbor, MD

- Presented to members of the AILA Artesia Project for dedicated efforts to promote justice and provide access to counsel, and for proven tenacity in the fight to end family detention.

Joseph Minsky Young Lawyer Award **2014**
AILA Annual Conference, Boston, MA

- One of the American Immigration Lawyers Association's highest honors, presented for outstanding contributions made in the field of immigration and nationality law.

President's Commendation Award **2013**
AILA Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA

- Presented for work in advancing and defending the cause of refugees.

The Dean's Award **2007**
The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law

- Presented for dedicated service to Students for Public Interest Law.

The Extra Mile Award **2007**
The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law

- Presented for outstanding service to the law school community.

The First Lap Award **2005**
The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law

- Presented for dedicated service to the law school during the first year of law study.

Bar and Court Admissions

Maryland Bar, December 11, 2007
District of Columbia Bar, May 13, 2011

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 2010
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, 2013
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, 2009

Language Skills

Full professional proficiency in written and spoken Spanish