

# Ana Pottratz Acosta

Minneapolis, MN

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## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

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**Mitchell Hamline School of Law**, St. Paul, MN

August 2016 – Present

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Provide instruction to law students at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in doctrinal and clinical courses in a variety of learning formats including, live in-person lecture, remote lecture via Zoom, asynchronous recorded lecture and hyflex synchronous lecture, with students participating in person and online. Teaching portfolio includes:

- Health Law Clinic - Serve as Clinical Instructor for the Health Law Clinic and oversee the Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) Program, a partnership between Mitchell Hamline School of Law and United Family Medicine (UFM), a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in St. Paul, MN. As Managing Attorney of the MLP, provide free legal screenings, limited legal services, and full legal representation in immigration and social security disability matters to qualifying UFM patients and supervise Health Law Clinic students representing UFM patients served by the MLP.
- Immigration Law - 3.0 credit upper level law school course providing an overview of all areas of immigration law. Topics covered include: criminal and non-criminal grounds of inadmissibility/deportability, citizenship and naturalization, family-based immigration, employment-based immigration, removal proceedings, expedited removal, asylum and other humanitarian-based immigration relief. Course has been offered as live in-person lecture, blended learning course with asynchronous lecture and intensive asylum simulation exercise and hyflex course with students attending remotely and in-person.
- Professional Responsibility - 3.0 credit required law school course providing an overview of legal ethics as set forth under the ABA Model Rules of Professional Responsibility. Course has been offered as blended weekend course with combination of asynchronous recorded lecture and 4 hour weekend lecture and as synchronous remote course via Zoom.
- Comparative Immigration and Asylum Law - 2.0 credit upper level intensive summer course in the Mitchell Hamline London Program providing comparison of immigration and asylum law in the U.S., U.K. and E.U. Course co-taught with faculty from the U.K. and E.U. (Spain).
- COVID-19 Response Clinic – co-taught 2.0 credit clinical course in the summer of 2020 aimed at responding to emerging legal needs within the community related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Provided supervision to clinical students representing clients appealing denial of unemployment insurance benefits and in policy work related to workplace safety issues for factory workers in Greater Minnesota during the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- MHSL Immigration Legal Screening Clinics - Organize and lead one-day immigration legal screening clinics through the Mitchell Hamline Mobile Law Office in the Twin Cities Metro Area and rural communities in Greater Minnesota. Supervise law students completing initial immigration legal screening questionnaires and preparing legal forms, including Power of Attorney and Delegation of Parental Authority (DOPA), for immigration safety planning on behalf of immigrants receiving services at MHSL one-day immigration legal clinics.

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**Stinson Leonard Street LLP**, Minneapolis, MN

February 2013 – July 2016

### STAFF ATTORNEY

- Provided representation to clients in a variety of employment based and family based immigration matters including: PERM Labor Certifications, H-1B nonimmigrant petitions, L-1A and L-1B nonimmigrant petitions, TN nonimmigrant petitions, H-2B nonimmigrant petitions, Aliens of Extraordinary Ability petitions, NYSDOT National Interest Waiver petitions, I-130 family based petitions, adjustment of status and consular processing. Advise clients on I-9 and E-Verify compliance issues.
- Provided pro bono representation and supervised non-immigration attorneys on pro bono immigration matters, including naturalization and asylum, on behalf of patients of the University of Minnesota Community University Health Care Center (CUHCC) Clinic served by the Deinard Legal Clinic.

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**Aronson & Associates, P.A.**, Minneapolis, MN

March 2011 – February 2013

**ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY**

- Provided representation to physicians, academics and other high-skilled foreign nationals on a variety of employment based immigration matters including: Immigration petitions on behalf of Aliens of Extraordinary Ability, National Interest Waivers, PERM Labor Certifications, H-1B nonimmigrant petitions, L-1A and L-1B nonimmigrant petitions, TN nonimmigrant petitions and J-1 Waivers.

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**Lutheran Social Services of New York (LSSNY)**, New York, NY

November 2004 – August 2010

**SUPERVISING ATTORNEY**

Immigration Legal Services Program: Provided direct immigration legal services to immigrant communities in the New York Metropolitan Area.

- Supervised immigration paralegals, summer and term time student interns, volunteer attorneys and other administrative volunteers from AARP and Work Experience Program (WEP).
- Provided direct legal representation to clients before USCIS and EOIR on a variety of matters including: I-130 family based petitions, I-485 adjustment of status applications, naturalization applications, I-730 asylee relative petitions, temporary protected status applications, VAWA self-petitions, and SIJS petitions.
- Conducted immigration intake clinics in immigrant communities in the five boroughs of New York City.
- Successfully represented asylum clients from Guinea, Venezuela, Peru, Egypt, Pakistan, Sudan, Cameroon, Mali, Burma and Bhutan.
- Served from September 2006 – August 2008 as an immigration legal advisor to the New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable.
- Implemented and supervised LSSNY Notario Fraud Project, a collaborative project with area law firms to provide pro bono representation to victims of notario fraud.
- Coordinated weekly immigration clinic at Haitian Family Support Center in Flatbush, Brooklyn to provide immigration services to Haitian nationals following the January 12, 2010 earthquake. Services included assistance with TPS applications, I-130 petitions, consular processing and deferred action applications.
- Prepared grant applications seeking additional funding for the LSSNY Immigration Legal Program.

Special Registration Project: Represented men from predominantly Arab and Muslim countries placed in removal proceedings as a result of complying with the NSEERS Special Call-In Registration Program.

- Represented clients placed in removal proceedings after complying with the NSEERS Special Call-In Registration Program before the EOIR, BIA and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Responsibilities included appearing in immigration court on behalf of clients, preparation of appellate briefs challenging legality of NSEERS program to the BIA and Second Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Presented oral arguments before the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals as the lead attorney in Rajah v. Mukasey

Refugee Resettlement Program: Served from Mar. 2008-Aug. 2010 as supervisor of the LSSNY Refugee Program.

- Supervised caseworkers and volunteers providing Reception and Placement (R&P) services to refugees resettled by the LSSNY program.
- Worked as a liaison between refugee clients, LSSNY and national voluntary agency (VOLAG), Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS).
- Worked with area churches and local businesses to collect in kind donations on behalf of refugees.
- Prepared grant applications seeking additional funding for the LSSNY Refugee Resettlement Program.

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**Arab American Family Support Center**, New York, NY

August 2005 – November 2006

**STAFF ATTORNEY**

- Conducted a weekly intake clinic for a predominantly Arab client base to provide advice regarding immigration issues.
- Supervised work performed by immigration paralegal on behalf of clients

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**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**


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**Lawyers for Good Government (L4GG), Project Corazon, Matamoros, Mx Jan 2020 – March 2021**  
**PRO BONO ATTORNEY**

- Provided remote pro se assistance to asylum seekers in Mexico under the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) with preparation of their I-589 Application for Asylum to be filed in the MPP Port Court in Brownsville, TX;
  - Assisted MPP asylum seekers obtain parole into U.S. in February and March of 2021 during initial phase out of MPP Program by Biden Administration.
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**SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS**


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- *Navigating the Intersection of Ethics, Client/Community Relationships and Professional Identity*, AALS 2022 Clinical Conference, May 2022;
  - *Ethics Issues for City Attorneys*, Minnesota Association of City Attorneys 2022 Annual Conference, Feb. 2022;
  - *Immigration Reform and Updates*, AILA Upper Midwest Conference, , May 2021
  - *The Border Comes Home: Escalating Immigration Enforcement in the Interior of the U.S. and Minnesota*, University of Minnesota, Binger Center for New Americans 2019 Immigration Law Forum, Nov. 2019;
  - *Workshop: Imagining a World Without ICE*, Office of Rep. Ilhan Omar, Community Symposium on Immigration, Minneapolis, MN, Aug. 2019;
  - *Best Practices for Obtaining Health Care and Public Benefits in Light of Proposed Changes to Public Charge Regulations*, AILA National Conference, Orlando, FL, June 2019;
  - *Advocacy in Your Immigration Law Practice during Challenging Times*, MSBA Immigration Law Section, June 2018;
  - *Government Services Meet Immigration Enforcement*, (Moderator), MSBA Immigration Law Section, March 2018;
  - *Keeping It Real: Insights for Trauma Informed Immigration Attorneys. How to Develop Your Immigration Practice, Roll with the Punches, Avoid Burnout and Build/Minneapolis*, 2018 AILA Upper Midwest Conference, March 2018;
  - *Client Contact from Day One: Preparing Law Students Early to Serve Client Needs*, 6th Annual IAALS Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers Conference, Denver, CO, October 2017;
  - *Tax Issues for Low Income and Undocumented Immigrants*, (Moderator), MSBA Immigration Law Section, February 2017;
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**SELECTED PUBLISHED WORKS**


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- S. Martyn, L. Fox, A. Pottratz Acosta, A. London, *TRAVERSING THE ETHICAL MINEFIELD – PROBLEMS, LAW AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY* (Aspen Casebook Series, 5th ed. 2023) – *publication pending*
- N. Netzel, A. Pottratz Acosta, J. Woolman, K. Kruse, J. Geffen, *Mitchell Hamline School of Law Summer 2020 COVID-19 Legal Response Clinic*, 28 Clinical L. Rev. 301 (Fall 2021)
- A. Pottratz Acosta, *Sunlight is the Best Disinfectant: The Role of the Media in Shaping Immigration Policy*, 44 Mitch. Hamline L. Rev. 808 (2018)
- R. Aronson, A. Pottratz Acosta, *Searching for the Five Year Cure*, ILW – PHYSICIAN IMMIGRATION BOOK (R. Aronson, ed., 2011)
- Op-Ed: *Constitution Series: Citizen at Birth? How Does That Work?*, St. Paul Pioneer Press, April 3, 2022;
- Op-Ed: *Biden Must Keep his Promise to Restore the Asylum System*, MinnPost, Jan 5, 2022;
- Op-Ed: *A Common Thread Between the 1940 and 2020 Census: Reduced Immigration*, MinnPost, May 11, 2021;
- Op-Ed: *Trump's Asylum ban is his Worst Betrayal of American Values*, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Sept. 19, 2019;
- Op-Ed: *Border Policies are Endangering Lives*, The Hill, Jan. 7, 2019

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**EDUCATION**

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**Columbia Law School, J.D., May 2004**

Honors: Public Service Fellow  
Parker School Certificate for Achievement in International Law

Activities: Journal of Transnational Law – Note Editor  
Harlem Tutorial Program

Journal Note: *How the Doctrine of State Responsibility Should Apply to the Spanish Government's Involvement with the Counterterrorist Organization Grupos Antiterroristas de Liberacion*

**University of Minnesota; College of Liberal Arts, B.A., Political Science and Spanish, May 2001**

Honors: *summa cum laude*  
Waller Memorial Scholarship 1999

Honors Thesis: *In or Out: an Analysis of Germany's and the United Kingdom's Decision to Join or Abstain from the European Monetary Union (EMU).*

Activities: Semester Abroad, Fundación Ortega y Gasset, Toledo, Spain

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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- Fluent in Spanish with intermediate/advanced legal reading and writing abilities;
- Admitted to practice in New York State and Minnesota State and U.S. District of Minnesota
- Recipient of 2020 Olga Zolti Award from the International Institute of Minnesota (March 2020)
- Chapter Chair (2020-2021 Term) and Advocacy Committee Chair (2017-Present) -American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Minnesota-Dakotas Chapter
- Officer - Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) Immigration Law Section (2015- 2019)
- Secretary of City of New York Bar Association – Immigration and Nationality Section (2009-2010 Term)