
AREAS OF EXPERIENCE/EXPERTISE

Adjustment of Status	Consular Processing	Naturalization
NYSDOT National Interest Waivers	PERM Labor Certifications	Extraordinary Ability Petitions
Family Based Petitions	L-1A and L-1B petitions	H-1B non-immigrant petitions
N-648 Disability Waivers Affirmative and Defensive Asylum Applications	TN nonimmigrant petitions	VAWA and SIJS Self Petitions
Social Security Disability (RSDI)	H-2B nonimmigrant petitions	Circuit Ct. Appellate Litigation
	Representation before the EOIR	Public Charge Grounds of Inadmissibility

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Mitchell Hamline School of Law, St. Paul, MN

August 2016 – Present

ASSISTANT TEACHING PROFESSOR

- 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 and legal services to qualifying UFM patients and supervise Health Law Clinic students representing UFM patients served by the MLP;
- Teach Immigration Law, a 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;
- Teach Professional Responsibility, a 3.0 credit law school course providing an overview of legal ethics as set forth under the ABA Model Rules of Professional Responsibility;
- 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 Mitchell Hamline one-day immigration legal clinics.

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 at the firm on pro bono immigration matters on behalf of patients of the University of Minnesota Community University Health Care Center (CUHCC) Clinic served by the Deinard Legal Clinic.

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.

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

November 2010 – January 2011

FREELANCE EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE

- Assisted principal attorney, Robert Aronson, in completing final edits to ILW – The Physician Immigration Book, a publication released by ILW in October 2011. Responsibilities included proofreading and editing articles to be included in the book, checking citations, and ensuring citations conform to Bluebook format.

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.

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

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

The Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis, MN January 2011 – Present
PRO BONO ATTORNEY MENTOR

- Provided mentoring and guidance to pro bono attorneys in affirmative asylum applications before the USCIS Asylum Office and defensive asylum proceedings before EOIR.

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN July 2011 – July 2016
PRO BONO ATTORNEY

- Provided pro bono representation to individuals applying for naturalization, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and U-visas, a special visa for immigrant crime victims.

SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “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;
- "Furiously Building Your Reputation," 2016 AILA Upper Midwest Conference, May 2016;
- "Rebutting the Top 5 Reasons to say 'NO' to Immigration Pro Bono," MSBA Immigration Law Section, December 2015;
- "What's so Special About H-1B's?," 2015 AILA Upper Midwest Conference, April 2015;
- "2014 AILA National Conference Recap: Key Development and Tips – Employment Based Immigration," AILA Minnesota-Dakotas Chapter, July 2014.

PUBLISHED WORKS

- A. Pottratz Acosta, *Sunlight is the Best Disinfectant: The Role of the Media in Shaping Immigration Policy*, 44 Mitch. Hamline L. Rev. 808
- R. Aronson, A. Pottratz Acosta, *Searching for the Five Year Cure*, ILW – PHYSICIAN IMMIGRATION BOOK (R. Aronson, ed., 2011)

EDUCATION

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

Honor 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, Toledo, Spain

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Fluent in Spanish with intermediate/advanced legal reading and writing abilities;
- Admitted to practice in New York State and Minnesota State;
- Member of Executive Committee of American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Minnesota Dakotas Chapter and Co-Chair of the Advocacy Committee ;
- Officer - Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) Immigration Law Section (2015- Present)
- Secretary of City of New York Bar Association – Immigration and Nationality Section (2009-2010 Term)