

Edna Yang

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WORK EXPERIENCE

American Gateways (Formerly Political Asylum Project of Austin),

Assistant Executive Director

January 2016 - present

Interim Executive Director

July 2011- December 2011

Legal Director

September 2006-December 2015

Staff Attorney

October 2002-September 2006

Solely directed all legal operations for from 2005 - 2016. Set case priorities and monitor the case loads of 5 staff attorneys. Doubled program capacity for legal services since becoming Legal Director by opening and expanding the San Antonio office. Created 9 new staff attorney positions since 2005 and Board of Immigration Accredited positions for 3 legal assistants. Obtained federal funding for the Legal Orientation Program, and supervise this program which allows us to provide presentations and self help workshops to the 1900 detained individuals at the South Texas Detention Center, 525 detained women and children at the Karnes Detention Center and 2400 women and children at the South Texas Residential Detention Center. Also expanded legal representation and Know Your Rights sessions to the Hutto Women's Detention Center. Won over 160 asylum hearings and appeals. Obtained legal permanent residency more than 400 immigrant victims of family violence and sexual assault before US CIS. Received relief from deportation and family reunification for 78 long term U.S. residents. Filed successful habeas corpus actions against the government for illegal detention. Continue to maintain an active deportation case load and federal immigration practice of 75-80 cases.

Community Law Centre, Visiting Professional

August 2012-September 2012

Wellington, New Zealand

Assisted with Refugee Family Reunification applications. Drafted and filed and appeals for family reunification denials.

Legal Resources Centre, Visiting Professional

October 2010-December 2010

Drafted and filed appeals to the High Court for denied asylum claims and researched and drafted legal memoranda on various constitutional issues.

Berkley War Crimes Studies Center, Special Court for Sierra Leone*October 2009-December 2009*

Monitored the international criminal trial of the former president of Liberia, Charles Taylor, and provided written legal commentary.

Texas Council on Family Violence, Contract Trainer

June 2003-Current

Conduct trainings as a part of the Criminal Justice Response Training Program throughout Texas for law enforcement agents, shelter workers, and prosecutors. Compose chapters in written training manuals for law enforcement, judges, and attorneys regarding the intersection of immigration and family violence.

American University Domestic Violence Clinic

Sept. 2002-May 2002

Worked as a student attorney representing family violence survivors in proceedings for protection orders.

Tahirih Justice Center

Sept. 2001-December 2001

Worked on gender based asylum cases and Violence Against Women Act cases for immigrant women.

University Legal Services (Protection and Advocacy for D.C.)

June 2001-August 2001

Wrote legal briefs and memoranda for a large ongoing class action focusing on the rights of indigent and physically and mentally disabled clients in the District of Columbia.

NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, Immigrant Women Program

Sept. 2000-May 2001

Researched and wrote legal policy memoranda and policy position papers regarding access to various services for immigrant women under VAWA 1994 and the new provisions under VAWA 2000.

Neighborhood Legal Services Program

May 2000-August 2000

Conducted legal research focusing on areas of Public Benefits, Housing, and Family Law and represented a client in a Social Security Disability Insurance Hearing.

Legal Services of Southeastern Michigan

June 1999-December 1999

Interviewed incoming and current clients, conducted legal research focusing on areas of Domestic Violence, Family Law, Housing, and Bankruptcy.

EDUCATION

American University Washington College of Law. Washington, DC

J.D. May 2002

- *John Sherman Meyer's Scholarship and Peter Cicchino Award for Commitment to Public Interest.*
- *Marshall Brennan Teaching Fellow, 2000-2002, at Ballou STAY High School in Southeast DC.*

American University School of International Service Washington, DC

M.A. International Studies concentrating in International Studies, May 2002

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI

B.A. Russian Language and Literature & Political Science, May 1998

Positions and Memberships

American Immigration Lawyers Association, Austin Chapter Co-Chair (2010-2012)

Austin Commission on Immigrant Affairs (2004-2005)

National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild

Vice-President of Non Profit Issues, State Bar of Texas Immigration and Nationality Section (2010-2012)

Council Member, State Bar of Texas Immigration and Nationality Section (2012-2014)

Austin Asian American Bar Association (2012-present)

Peer Reviewer for the Office of Violence Against Women Grant Process

Presentations and Awards

National Immigration Law Center Annual Conference, 2006

Texas Counsel on Family Violence Annual Conference, 2002-2008, 2013-2014

Texas Association Against Sexual Assault Annual Conference, 2003-2004

Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Annual Conference, 2003

National Lawyers Guild International Legal Mission to Cuba, 2005

University of Texas Immigration and Nationality Conference, 2008-2009, 2011-2012, 2014, 2015

University of Texas Domestic Violence Institute Expert Witness Training, 2006-2011

Travis County Women Lawyers Award for Contribution to Minority Community, 2007

National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women Annual Conference, 2007-2008

State Bar of Texas Continuing Legal Education, Advanced Immigration Seminar, 2011

CLINIC Annual Convening, Particular Social Group Construction in Asylum, 2012

Institute for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Expert Witness Presentation, 2007, 2009, 2013

Creative Solutions to Strengthen Advocacy and Healing, OVW Grant Conference, 2013

Lotus Award, Asian Family Support Services of Austin, 2014

Peter M. Cicchino Award for Service in the Public Interest for a WCL Alumnus working in the US, 2015

PUBLICATIONS

“Rural Development in Cuba” Chapter on the report for the International Legal Mission to Cuba, 2005

“Immigration” Chapter in the Benchbook for Texas State Judges, Office of Courts Administration, 2010

“U Visa Legal Advocacy: Overview of Effective Practices and Policies,” OVW Policy Brief, 2011

“Asylum, Withholding of Removal and CAT Relief,” State Bar of Texas CLE, 2011

“Barriers and Successes in U Visas for Immigrant Victims: The Experiences of Legal Assistance for Victims Grantees,” Arts and Social Sciences Journal, July 2014

LANGUAGES

Proficiently use Spanish daily, conversational in Korean, and working knowledge of written Russian

Paul Steven Zoltan has practiced exclusively immigration law since 1992. He has served as AILA liaison with the Houston Asylum Office and, for over a decade, coordinated the Dallas section of AILA. He has chaired the District 6A Grievance Committee for the Texas Bar, as well as the boards of directors of Proyecto Adelante and the Center for Survivors of Torture. Mr. Zoltan served on the advisory board of the Dallas office of the International Rescue Committee. He has taught both Immigration Law and Legal Writing and Reasoning at the University of Texas at Dallas. For his work with Dallas' Child Refugee Support Network, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas has honored him with the 2016 Louise Raggio Women's Legal Advocacy Award.