

Deborah S. Gonzalez

193 Terrace Avenue, Riverside, RI 02915, 401-486-7230 (cell)

dgonzalez@rwu.edu

PROFESSIONAL:

Associate Clinical Professor of Law , Director of the Immigration Clinic – July 2015 to date

Visiting Asst. Prof. of Law, Interim Director of the Immigration Clinic – July 2013 to June 2014
& March to December 2012

Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI

- Supervise a group of approximately ten second or third year law students to represent indigent foreign nationals seeking to obtain lawful permanent residence or defending against removal.
- Supervise and teach law students litigation, client interviewing, counseling, and trial preparation skills for removal proceedings before the Executive Office of Immigration Review (commonly known as the Immigration Court), under the U.S. Department of Justice
- Supervise and teach law students to prepare various pleadings, applications and evidence submission for affirmative filings with the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service.
- Supervise and teach law students to prepare for hearings and various pleadings and affidavits for filing with the Rhode Island Family Court and the various Municipal Probate Courts.
- Supervise and teach law students how to prepare clients for Immigration Court, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service, Rhode Island Family Court and Probate Courts.
- Teach weekly seminar course in immigration law, litigation skills, client interviewing, and counseling, and ethical issues related to the practice of Immigration Law and Family Law.
- Conduct Know Your Rights presentations within the Rhode Island community and free consultations with various non-profit organizations.

Gonzalez Law Offices, Inc. – Partner East Providence, RI

July 2015 to Present (non-practicing partner)

November 2008 to July 2015 (Partner)

June 2006 to November 2008 (Law Clerk)

- Practiced law in the areas of immigration law, defending foreign nationals in removal proceedings before the Immigration Court, drafted motions, memoranda of law, appeals, evidence preparation, and trials. Also represented foreign nationals before the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service to obtain lawful permanent residence. Represented various organizations in Rhode Island, such as Brown University, University of Rhode Island, and Alex and Ani, and others – helping them obtain lawful temporary and permanent employment status for their foreign national employees.
- Practiced in Rhode Island Family Court helping clients obtain divorce, child custody, child support and defended parents in negligence cases against the Department of Children, Youth and Families.
- Practiced in Rhode Island District Criminal Court defending clients with offenses such as simple assault/battery – domestic, driving under the influence, driving without a license,

and shoplifting – also represented clients in the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal defending against breathalyzer refusal and various offenses.

- Performed law office administrative duties.

Audette, Bazar, Berren & Gonzalez, Attorneys at Law

East Providence, RI

1995 to June 2006 - Paralegal/Administrative Assistant

Rappaport, Audette & Bazar, Attorneys at Law

East Providence, RI

1990 to 1995 – Paralegal, Legal Secretary, Receptionist

PRO BONO WORK:

March 9-13, 2020 Pro-BAR, Harlingen Texas

Roger Williams University – Alternative Spring Break

Worked in conjunction with Pro-BAR volunteered and supervised law students at the Brownsville, TX, port of entry working with migrants who have been placed in the MPP program in Matamoros, Mexico with their removal proceedings in the Tent Courts at the Border. Met with detainees in El Valle, Texas helping draft declarations and completing and organizing asylum applications with supporting documentation.

March 11-17, 2018 Irwin County Detention Center, Ocilla, GA

Roger Williams University – Alternative Spring Break

Worked in conjunction with the Southern Poverty Law Center. Volunteered and supervised law students who met with immigration detainees being held by Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) to do intakes of the detainee to determine if the detainee qualified for bond and release from ICE custody, prepared legal documents and bond motions for filing with the Immigration Court in Atlanta, GA.

March 14-21, 2015 Karnes Detention Facility, Karnes Texas

Roger Williams University – Alternate Spring Break

Worked in conjunction with RAICES a non-profit organization in San Antonio, Texas. Volunteered and supervised law students who worked to help detained mothers and children being held by Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) to obtain bond to be release from custody, prepare mothers for credible fear interviews with ICE, and prepared legal documents for the mothers to present to the Immigration Court at the bond hearings before the Immigration Court in San Antonio Texas

2015 to Present - Guardian ad Litem Pro Bono for the City of Providence and City of Pawtucket – mostly in the summers.

October 2017 to Present – Member of the Rhode Island Immigration Coalition – a coalition of non-profit organizations who work with the immigrant community to identify and resolve issues involving the immigrant community in Rhode Island.

March 2015 to Present – Dorcas International Institute of RI – Board of Directors, and member of Program and Governance committees

March 2014 to Present – Rhode Island Latino Dollars for Scholars – Board Member and Secretary since January of 2015

June 2013 to March 2018 – STEAM Box – Board of Directors and Secretary

2008 to 2012 – Republica Federativa do Brasil – Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Volunteer

January 2012 to January 2013 – Chair of the East Providence Subcommittee of Welcoming Rhode Island, affiliated with Welcoming America.

PUBLICATIONS:

SKY’S THE LIMIT: Protecting Unaccompanied Minors By Not Subjecting Them To Numerical Limitations – *49 St. Mary's L.J. 555 (2018)*

Article provides history of the inception of special immigrant juvenile visas, compares and contrasts special immigrant juvenile visas to other employment based category visas, and argues that special immigrant juvenile visas are akin to humanitarian visas and should not be subjected to employment based visa limitations.

“A legal and policy analysis of driver’s licenses for undocumented Rhode Islands”, Latino Policy Institute of Roger Williams University, Deborah S. Gonzalez, Peter Margulies, J. Alejandro Tirado-Alcaraz, June 2016 – Report issued in support of providing driver’s licenses to the undocumented population in Rhode Island.

Immigration Consequences to a Charge of Simple Assault or Battery, *Rhode Island Bar Journal, Vol.61, No.4, Jan/Feb 2013* – Article focuses on the Rhode Island charge of simple assault or battery pursuant to R.I.G.L. §11-5-3, and its immigration consequences.

APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS:

Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly - Lawyer of the Year - For impact litigation done in Rhode Island District Federal Court for the release of immigrant detainees at the Wyatt Detention Facility in light of Covid-19 – 2020

Bruce I. Kogan Distinguished Service Professor Appointment 2020 to 2022

Rhode Island Lawyer’s Weekly – Newsmaker of the Year – 2019

Refugee Dream Center of Rhode Island – Community Service Award – 2019

Rhode Island Latino Public Radio – Community Service Award – 2017

Roger Williams University School of Law Champions for Justice - Alumni Award – 2015

EDUCATION:

Roger Williams University School of Law, Bristol, RI.

Juris Doctor – 2007

Cali Award – Criminal Defense Clinic – Spring 2007

Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI

Bachelor of Science/Justice Studies – 2003

Magna Cum Laude

Community College of Rhode Island, Warwick, RI

Associate of Science/Paralegal Studies – 2001

Magna Cum Laude

AFFILIATIONS:

2008 to Present – American Immigration Lawyers Association

2008 to Present – American Bar Association

2008 to Present – Rhode Island Bar Association

2010 to 2014 – Rhode Island Association for Justice

2010 to 2017 – Rhode Island Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

2012 to 2015 – Rhode Island Women’s Bar Association

2014 to Present – Rhode Island Hispanic Bar Association

2019 to Present – Federal Bar Association

BAR ADMITTANCE:

November 2008 to Present - Rhode Island Supreme Court

February 2009 to Present – Federal District of Rhode Island

November 2008 to Present – Executive Office for Immigration Review, USDOJ

March 2020 to Present – U.S. Courts of Appeal for the First Circuit

LANGUAGES:

Fluent in Spanish and Portuguese