

RAFAELA RODRIGUES

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EXPERIENCE

National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP), Washington D.C. 2023 - Current

Assistant Director

- Present trainings for advocates, attorneys, prosecutors, police, judges, and other professionals on the legal rights of immigrant survivors and their children to access state and federally-funded public benefits.
- Supervise 6 to 10 law students, LLM students, and other interns working on legal and social science research projects and publications.
- Provide technical assistance, including case consultations and advocacy strategies for improving services to immigrant victims.
- Respond to technical assistance and policy assistance requests from State government agencies, Congressional and Federal Administrative agency staff.
- Monitor the implementation of federal and state laws, policies, and practices that affect immigrant women, children, and immigrant victims.
- Conduct legal research and writing of training manuals, tools, infographics, brochures, comments, model policies, research reports, and legal publications on issues of importance for immigrant survivors, women, and children.

National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP), Washington D.C. 2017 - 2023

Immigrant Women Law and Policy Fellow

- Organized training and develop training materials for judges, law enforcement, and legal service providers on the intersection of domestic violence and immigration and other immigration issues.
- Assisted the Director in managing federal grants and writing grant proposals and grant reports.
- Authored several publications on U and T Visa, Asylum and Refugees' rights, VAWA, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, and Public Benefits.
- Developed and updated the National Public Benefits Map, which provides legal information on public benefits available to immigrants in all 50 states and territories by immigration status.
- Collaborated in a range of amicus briefs filed in Federal Appeals Court, Federal District Court, state appellate court, and Board of Immigration Appeals cases on behalf of domestic violence victims seeking gender-based asylum in the U.S.

WCL Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Washington D.C. 2016 - 2017

Research Assistant

- Responsible for the G-Equal campaign, a global campaign that seeks to promote gender parity in international tribunals and monitoring bodies.
- Tracked U.N. documents and collected data from treaties' electoral bodies.
- Drafted and edited Oxford Reports on International Law in Latin America domestic courts.

Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Brasília, Brazil Jan 2016 - May 2016

Chief of Staff

- Collaborated with executive team members and Secretaries to determine new public policies and strategies.
- Oversaw Deputy Minister's agenda, communications strategies, and annual budget.
- Conducted several meetings with Executive and legislative members and Social Movements.
- Conducted successful collective bargaining negotiations with unions and employees.

General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic, Brasília, Brazil

2015 - 2016

Chief of Staff at Youth Secretariat

- Developed and executed public policy related to youth's mobility and transportation
- Drafted the regulation and implemented the cultural benefit program for Brazilian youth.
- Organized and successfully executed the National Youth Conference, with over 3,000 participants, from agenda-setting to event management and financing.

Ministry of Rural Development, Brasília, Brazil

Jun 2014 - Dec 2014

Special Assistant for Youth Development

- Managed the first grant for technical assistance to support rural students throughout the country.
- Implemented public education benefits programs for rural youth in six federal universities.
- Coordinated the Working Group for Rural Youth Development and international training for rural youth from Mercosur.

EDUCATION

- S.J.D** **American University, Washington College of Law**, Washington, D.C. 2023
Doctor of Juridical Science
Dissertation: The Invisible Workforce: Domestic Workers and Labor Rights in Brazil
- LL.M** **American University, Washington College of Law**, Washington, D.C. 2017
Master of Laws in International Legal Studies
Specializations: International Human Rights and Gender & Law
- M.S.** **Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro**, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 2014
Master of Law
Dissertation: Woman's Autonomy and Domestic Violence: An Analysis of the Direct Action of Unconstitutionality No. 4.424 based on Feminist Perspectives of Autonomy (Original in Portuguese)
- LL.B** **Federal University of Pará**, Belem, Brazil. 2011
Bachelor of Law

HONORS, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Alumni Fund Scholarship** 2016-2017
American University Washington College of Law
Full Tuition
- CNPQ Scholarship** 2012-2014
Full Tuition and Stipend

TRAININGS AND CONFERENCES

Presenter, *Using Public Benefits Map & Charts to Improve State Court Orders in Crime Victim Cases*, at the National Judicial Network Peer-to-Peer Forum, September 12, 2023.

Presenter, *Improving Access to the Public Benefits Safety Net and Victims of Crime Act Compensation for Immigrant Survivors* at the Strengthening Community and Organizational Responses: Serving Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking NIWAP Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, August 28 and 30, 2023.

Presenter, *Responding to Immigrant Sexual and Domestic Violence Survivors Part I: Legal Rights to Access Health Care, Public Benefits, and Family Law Protections*, for the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) Reno, Nevada, July 20, 2023.

Presenter, *Best Practices for Nurses Working With Immigrant Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence* to Office of Victims of Crime funded SANE forensic examiners for the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN). Owensboro, Kentucky, July 11, 2023.

Presenter, *Best Practices for Serving Immigrant Victims: Access to Public Benefits and Services in Virginia*, for the staff of Northern Virginia Family Services. Arlington, Virginia, May 11, 2023.

Presenter, *Best Practices for Nurses Working With Immigrant Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence* to Office of Victims of Crime funded SANE forensic examiners for the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN). Tulsa, Oklahoma, May 2, 2023.

Presenter, *Tips and Guidance for Helping Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth Access Publicly Funded Benefits and Services*, presented a national training for victim advocates and attorneys who represent and work with unaccompanied children sponsored by the American Bar Association Children's Immigration Law Academy, April 18, 2023.

Presenter, *Best Practices for Nurses Working With Immigrant Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence* to Office of Victims of Crime funded SANE forensic examiners for the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN). Indianapolis, Indiana, April 17, 2023.

Presenter, *Best Practices for Serving Immigrant Victims: Enhancing Safety Planning, Access to Public Benefits and Services*, at 2023 Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference. Annapolis, April 27, 2023.

Presenter, *Best Practices for Nurses Working With Immigrant Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence* to Office of Victims of Crime funded SANE forensic examiners for the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN). Austin, Texas, March 20, 2023.

Presenter, *Paid Domestic Workers and the Care Deficit in Brazil*, at 30th IAFFE Annual Conference, Geneva, Switzerland July 1, 2022. (Zoom)

Presenter, *Who are the domestic workers under the law? A comparative study of law reforms and legal exclusions in South America*, at Red de Investigación sobre Trabajo del Hogar en América Latina – RITHAL, Conference, March 26-28, 2022. (Zoom)

Presenter, *Workshop: Postgraduate Experiences in the North and South*, Red de Investigación sobre Trabajo del Hogar en América Latina – RITHAL, Conference, March 28, 2022. (Zoom)

Presenter, *Who are the domestic workers under the law? A comparative study of law reforms and legal exclusions in South America*. Panel: Domestic Workers in South America: Power Relations, Violence, Resistance, and Socio-Legal Change. Latin American Studies Association Conference 2022, San Francisco, California, May 6, 2022. (Zoom)

Presenter, *Care and Domestic Workers: The Legal Trajectory of Domestic Workers in Brazil*. Session: Protecting Domestic and Care Workers – Policy Approaches, at Global Carework Summit, Toronto, CA, 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

Dissertation

Rafaela Rodrigues, *The Invisible Workforce: Domestic Workers and Labor Rights in Brazil*, 289p. *Doctor of Juridical Science's Dissertation*, Anita Sinha (Advisor) – Washington College of Law, American University (2023).

Rafaela Rodrigues, *Woman's Autonomy and Domestic Violence: An Analysis of the Direct Action of Unconstitutionality No. 4.424 on Feminist Perspectives of Autonomy*, 105p. *Master's Dissertation*, Márcia Nina (Advisor) - Department of Law, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. (2014)

Books, Manuals, Reports

Rafaela Rodrigues, Alina Husain, Amanda Couture-Carron, Leslye E. Orloff and Nawal H. Ammar, *Promoting Access to Justice for Immigrant and Limited English Proficient Crime Victims in an Age of Increased Immigration Enforcement: Initial Report from a 2017 National Survey*, Report developed for American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) (May, 2018)

Leslye E. Orloff and Rafaela Rodrigues (editors), *Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Bench Book: A Guide to Best Practice for Judges and Courts*, Nat'l Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (2017)

Book and Manual Chapters

Rafaela Rodrigues, *O Trabalho Reprodutivo das Trabalhadoras Domésticas: Conceitos e Avanços Legais na América do Sul [The reproductive work of domestic workers: concepts and legal advances in South America]*, in Alves, Verena Holanda de Mendonça; Neves, Rafaela Teixeira Sena; Resque, João Daniel Daibes (Orgs.), *Direitos Humanos e(m) Tempos de Crise [Human Rights in Times of Crisis]* (2020)

Rafaela Rodrigues and Leslye E. Orloff, *Immigrant Victims of Sexual Assault: The Important Role of SART Teams*, in Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Toolkit, Nat'l Sexual Violence Resource Center. (2018)

Rafaela Rodrigues & Leslye E. Orloff, *Abuse, Abandonment, or Neglect: The Role of State Law Definitions in Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Findings*, in *Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Bench Book: A Guide to Best Practice for Judges and Courts*, Nat'l Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project 1-7 (2017)

Leslye E. Orloff & Rafaela Rodrigues, *Quick Reference Guide: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Findings in Civil and Criminal Protection Orders Proceedings*, in *Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Bench Book: A Guide to Best Practice for Judges and Courts*, Nat'l Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project 1-13 (2017)

Meaghan Fitzpatrick, Rafaela Rodrigues and Leslye E. Orloff, *Quick Reference Guide: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Findings in Proceedings Involving Custody and Child Support*, in *Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Bench Book: A Guide to Best Practice for Judges and Courts*, Nat'l Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project 1-12 (2017)

Rafaela Rodrigues & Leslye E. Orloff, *Custody in Protection Orders Proceedings*, in Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Bench Book: A Guide to Best Practice for Judges and Courts, Nat'l Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (2017)

Rafaela Rodrigues & Leslye E. Orloff, *State Law Definitions of Abandonment*, in Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Bench Book: A Guide to Best Practice for Judges and Courts, Nat'l Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (2017)

Chloe Canetti & Rafaela Rodrigues, *Appointment of Guardianship: State Statutes*, in Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Bench Book: A Guide to Best Practice for Judges and Courts, Nat'l Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (2017)

Tolulope Adetayo, Rafaela Rodrigues, Monica Bates and Leslye E. Orloff., *Appointment of Guardianship: State Statutes*, in Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Bench Book: A Guide to Best Practice for Judges and Courts, Nat'l Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (2017)

Eileen Lohmann, Rafaela Rodrigues, and Leslye E. Orloff, *Types of Proceedings in which State Courts Can Make Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Findings*, Nat'l Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (2017)

Articles and Online Publications

Rafaela Rodrigues, et. al., *Enhancing Trust and Sustaining Crime Reductions with Immigrant Community Members: The Successful Cases of San Francisco and Minneapolis*, POLICE CHIEF MAGAZINE (forthcoming)

Rafaela Rodrigues and Leslye E. Orloff, *Court's Role in Promoting Access to Justice for Immigrant Survivors*, Center for Court Innovation's Justice for Families Technical Assistance Newsletter (Fall 2022)

Rafaela Rodrigues, Leslye E. Orloff and Gabriela Rezetko, *How to Argue or Rule on VAWA Confidentiality Protections in Discovery Involving Immigrant Survivors*, NIWAP (November 18, 2022)

Rafaela Rodrigues, Limayli Huguet, and Leslye E. Orloff, *VAWA Confidentiality and Discovery-Related Case Law*, NIWAP (Oct. 25, 2022)

Rafaela Rodrigues and Leslye E. Orloff, *New Immigration Policies Impacting Immigrant Survivors of Crime and Abused Released in 2021*, NIWAP (December 29, 2021)

Leslye Orloff, Benish Anver, and Rafaela Rodrigues, *Family Court Bench Card on Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Confidentiality*, NIWAP (October 2013; Updated December 3, 2021)

Karlo Ng, Rafaela Rodrigues, and Leslye E. Orloff, *What Shelter and Rental Housing Assistance Are Available to Immigrant Survivors During Covid-19?*, NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR SAFE HOUSING AND THE SAFE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER. (September 2021).

Rafaela Rodrigues, Judge Lora Livingston, Judge Susan Breall, and Leslye E. Orloff, *U Visa Certification by Judges*, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES NEWSLETTER (September 15, 2021)

Faiza Chappell, Leslye E. Orloff, and Rafaela Rodrigues *Courthouse Immigration Enforcement: Steps State Courts Are Taking*, NIWAP (October 10, 2018; Update June 12, 2021)

Rafaela Rodrigues and Leslye E. Orloff, *Public Benefits, Immigrants' Rights, and COVID-19*, NIWAP (June 12, 2021)

Rafaela Rodrigues and Leslye E. Orloff, *Infographic Public Charge and Housing*, NIWAP (December 2, 2020)

Karlo Ng, Rafaela Rodrigues, and Leslye E. Orloff, *What Housing Assistance is Available to Immigrant Survivors During COVID-19?*, SAFE HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS NEWSLETTER (Fall 2020)(Newsletter).

Rafaela Rodrigues, Monica Bates and Leslye E. Orloff *Training Bulletin: Improving Crime Fighting Outcomes in Cases of Immigrant Victims: The Role of Continued Presence and the U and T Visa as Tools for Law Enforcement*, END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT (November 13, 2020) (Newsletter).

Rafaela Rodrigues and Leslye E. Orloff, *The Impact of the 2020 Public Charge Rule on Transitional Housing*, NIWAP (October 12, 2020)

Rafaela Rodrigues and Leslye E. Orloff, *Public Charge Test for Housing Benefits*, NIWAP (October 12, 2020)

Rafaela Rodrigues and Leslye E. Orloff, *The Impact of the 2020 Public Charge Rule on Transitional Housing*, NIWAP (July 13, 2020)

Rafaela Rodrigues and Leslye E. Orloff, *Immigrant Crime Victim Access to Relief During the COVID-19 Crisis Under the CARES and FFCRA Acts*, NIWAP (May 20, 2020)

Sylvie Sheng, Rafaela Rodrigues, Rocio Molina and Leslye E. Orloff, *U-Visa Application Victim Flow Chart*, NIWAP (Updated July 10, 2020, original January 28, 2019).

Rafaela Rodrigues and Leslye E. Orloff, *Public Benefits, Immigrants' Rights and COVID-19*, NIWAP (May 27, 2020)

Peter Helein, Devon E. Turner, Spencer Cantrell, Leslye E. Orloff, Rocio Molina, Benish Anver, Faiza Chappell, Andrea Carcamo-Cavazos, and Rafaela Rodrigues, *U Visa Helpfulness Checklist*, NIWAP (September 2013, Updated July 17, 2015 and October 21, 2019)

Rafaela Rodrigues, Zachary Perez, and Leslye E. Orloff, *Bench Card: Divorce and Immigration Status*, NIWAP (April 1, 2019)

Rafaela Rodrigues & Leslye E. Orloff, *Chevron Doctrine and U Visa Certification*, NIWAP (March 28, 2019)

Rafaela Rodrigues and Leslye E. Orloff, *VAWA Protections for Immigrant Survivors and the 2018 Domestic Violence Asylum Policies*, NIWAP (November 19, 2018)

Rafaela Rodrigues and Leslye E. Orloff, *Gender-based Asylum 2018 policies have no effect on VAWA protections for Immigrant Domestic Violence Victims*, NIWAP (August 31, 2018).

Rafaela Rodrigues, Amanda Couture-Carron, Leslye E. Orloff and Nawal H. Ammar, *Promoting Access to Justice for Immigrant Crime Victims and Children: Findings of a National Judicial Survey and Recommendations*, TRENDS IN STATES COURTS, NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS (NCSC) (June 2018)

Rafaela Rodrigues, Manuela D'Ávila e o *Manterrupting* na Política [Manuela D'Ávila and the *Manterrupting* in Politics], *Blog Conjunturando*, Carta Capital (July 2018), <https://www.cartacapital.com.br/blogs/conjunturando/manuela-avila-e-o-man-interrupting-na-politica/>

Working Papers

Rafaela Rodrigues & Cristina Vieceli, *Care provision Inequalities in Brazil: Addressing Gender and Racial Disparities* (working paper)

Mieke Meurs, Cristina Vieceli and Rafaela Rodrigues, *Paid Domestic Workers and the Care Deficit in Brazil* (working paper)

Conference Papers

Rafaela Rodrigues, Who are the domestic workers under the law? A comparative study of law reforms and legal exclusions in South America, In Red de Investigación sobre Trabajo del Hogar en América Latina – RITHAL, Conference, March 26-28, 2022.

Rafaela Rodrigues, Care and Domestic Workers: The Legal Trajectory of Domestic Workers in Brazil In: Global Carework Summit, Toronto, CA, 2019.

Rafaela Rodrigues, The Woman's Autonomy in Feminist Theories. In: XXIX Congreso Alas Chile, 2013, Santiago. Crisis y Emergencias Sociales en América Latina, 2013.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Leslye E. Orloff and Rafaela Rodrigues, Preventing 8 U.S.C. 1364 Violations in Family Based Adjudications discussing steps USCIS should take that require interviewing of the immigrant spouse to screen for battering or extreme cruelty before denying a family-based visa petition or lawful permanent residency application for marriage fraud. Submitted to the COUNCIL ON COMBATTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (January 30, 2023)

Leslye E. Orloff and Rafaela Rodrigues, Draft Standard Operating Procedure for Victims and VAWA Confidentiality proposing policies and training that ICE and CBP should adopt to fully implement VAWA confidentiality's victim protections. Submitted to the COUNCIL ON COMBATTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (January 30, 2023)

Leslye E. Orloff and Rafaela Rodrigues, Setting Up the Crime and Abuse Victim Protection Directorate at USCIS proposal for the consolidation of all of the VAWA, Battered Spouse Waiver, U visa, T visa and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Adjudications on specially trained single Directorate at USCIS to improve adjudications and address backlog issues that will promote safety for immigrant victim applicants. Submitted to the USCIS OMBUDSMAN (AUGUST 23, 2022)

Leslye E. Orloff and Rafaela Rodrigues, Draft Standard Operating Procedure for Victims and VAWA Confidentiality proposing policies and training that ICE and CBP should adopt to fully implement VAWA confidentiality's victim protections. Submitted at the request of Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (February 28, 2022)

Leslye E. Orloff, Rafaela Rodrigues, and Limayli Huguet, submitted comments on the Proposed Rules for Special Immigrant Juvenile Petitions 76 FR 23534, UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICE. (November 15, 2019)

Rafaela Rodrigues and Justine Deitz, Supplementary Information on Costa Rica, Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 67th Session, OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (May 20, 2017).

AMICUS CURIAE

Amicus Brief in W.M.V.C.; A.P.V. v. U.S., amicus curiae brief filed on behalf of W.M.V.C. and her son A.P.V DV who suffered domestic violence and life threats in a non-consensual relationship. The amicus brief discussed that the same power dynamics that precipitate domestic violence in heterosexual marital relationships apply and are present in same-sex and non-extramarital relationships. It also discussed that the same factors that make a woman unable to leave an abusive opposite-sex relationship also make a woman unable to leave an abusive same-sex relationship. This amicus was filed in the 5th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals seeking to overturn BIA's decision that denied Petitioners' applications for asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention Against Torture. Pro bono Law firm: Baker & McKenzie LLP (February 28, 2018)

Amicus Brief in Matter of Rosa Marisol Avelar Oliva, amicus curiae brief filed on behalf of an El Salvadorian woman who suffered child abuse and was held in isolation for years. The Immigration Judge found that she was not credible. The brief discussed the psychological and developmental effects of trauma and how childhood rape and sexual abuse can significantly impact a witness's demeanor and ability to testify and report the abuse. The amicus was filed in the Board of Immigration Appeals in a case in which Rosa Marisol is seeking gender-based asylum and withholding of removal. Pro bono Law firm: Crowell and Moring (February 16, 2018)

Amicus Brief in S.E.R.L v. U.S., amicus curiae brief filed on behalf of a Honduran woman who had helped her daughter escape from a domestic violence perpetrator who had trafficked the daughter to Mexico. The brief discussed the extent to which those who intervene to protect their family from perpetrators of domestic violence are at risk of violent retaliation by the perpetrator, up to and including death. This amicus was filed in the 3rd Circuit Federal Court of Appeals in a case in which S.E.R.L is seeking gender-based asylum as a Honduran woman who intervened in a domestic violence relationship. Pro bono Law firm: Crowell and Moring (September 25, 2017)

Amicus Brief in Maria Esterlina Perez Vigil v. U.S., amicus curiae brief filed on behalf of Maria Esterlina Perez Vigil a victim of domestic violence, who had denied her request for asylum because she was able to move out of the residence that she shared with the abuser. The brief discussed the dynamics of abusive relationships and explained that physical separation from an abuser rarely means that an abused woman has successfully left the relationship or marriage and stopped the cycle of violence. This amicus was filed in the 5th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals seeking to overturn the Immigration Judge and the Board of Immigration's ruling that denied her

request seeking asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the CAT. Pro bono Law firm: Winston & Strawn LLP. (July 26, 2017)

LANGUAGES

Portuguese: Native Language; **English:** Fluent; **Spanish:** Intermediate Speaker, Proficient Listening, Reading, and Writing

COMPUTER SKILLS

Programs: LexisNexis, Westlaw, Microsoft Office, WordPress, QuickBase, G-Suite, NVivo, SurveyMonkey, Airtable, Notion.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Annual Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition

American University Washington College of Law
Judge, 2017 and 2019.

2019 and 2022 National SJD Roundtable

American University Washington College of Law
Conference Coordinator.

2023 National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project Conference

Boston, Massachusetts
Conference Coordinator