

JILL MARTIN DIAZ, ESQ. (THEY/THEM)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT VERMONT ASYLUM ASSISTANCE PROJECT

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am a humanitarian immigration lawyer and mission-based leader committed to restorative, anti-racist, and trauma- and poverty-informed practices. As Vermont Asylum Assistance Project's inaugural Executive Director, I help coordinate high quality and culturally relevant immigration legal services and take lessons learned to government leaders to advocate for systems change.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Degrees

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, Brooklyn Law School (BLS) 2016
Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, George Washington University (GWU) 2009

International Study

University of Sydney 2007

Honors

Carole Mehlman Gould Prize, BLS 2016
Professor John A. Ronayne Memorial Prize, BLS 2016
Brooklyn Law Journal of International Law Notes and Comments Editor, BLS 2015
Brooklyn Law Students for the Public Interest Fellow, BLS 2015
Squire Patton Boggs Public Policy Fellow, BLS 2015
Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellow, BLS 2013

Training

Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice, VLGS 2024
Professional Certificate in Fundraising and Development, Common Good Vermont 2022

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Professor of Law (former Associate Professor), Vermont Law and Graduate School (VLGS) 2020-2024
Courses taught: Center for Justice Reform Clinic; South Royalton Legal Clinic; Immigration Law

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Positions

Executive Director, Vermont Asylum Assistance Project 2024-Present
Associate Director, Center for Justice Reform, VLGS 2023
Lead Clinical Instructor, Vermont Immigrant Assistance, VLGS 2022
Clinical Instructor, Vermont Immigrant Assistance, VLGS 2020-2021
Vermont Poverty Law Fellow, Vermont Legal Aid 2018-2020
Immigrant Justice Corps Justice Fellow, Sanctuary for Families NY 2016-2018
Padilla Crim-Imm Clinic Intern, Brooklyn Defender Services & Immigrant Defense Project 2016
Legal Extern, Atlas: Developing Immigrant Youth in Brooklyn, NY 2015
NYIFUP Summer Intern, Legal Aid Society of New York, NY 2015
Immigration Clinic Intern, Safe Harbor Project at Brooklyn Law School 2014-2015
Litigation Intern, Children's Rights, Inc. in New York, NY 2014
Executive Assistant to the Ambassador, Australian Embassy in Dili, Timor Leste 2012
Legal/Electoral Assistant Analyst, EU Election Observation Mission in Dili, Timor Leste 2012
Senior Project Officer, Department of Children and Families in Darwin, Australia 2011
Project Officer, Remote Service Delivery National Partnership Agreement in Darwin, Australia 2010

Honors

Fellows of the American Bar Foundation 2024
40 Best LGBTQ+ Lawyers Under 40 Class of 2023, National LGBTQ+ Bar Association 2023

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Professional

Member, Coalition of Community Safety Advisors to Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak 2024
Member, Faculty Contract Review Committee, VLGS 2023-2024
Member, Diversity Committee, VLGS 2023-2024
Access to Justice Coalition Member, Vermont Judiciary 2022-2024

Center for Justice Reform Clinic Cofounder, VLGS	2022-2024
Dean's Advisory Committee Member, VLGS	2022-2024
Latin American and Caribbean Law Students Association Faculty Advisor, VLGS	2022-2024
Faculty Appointments Committee Member and former Cochair, VLGS	2021-2024
Clinic and Experiential Faculty Committee, VLGS	2020-2024
Covid Economic Stimulus Equity Fund Legal Consultant, Vermont Community Fund	2021
Covid Committee Access to Justice Coalition Representative, Vermont Bar Association (VBA)	2020-2022
SPEAK Mentor, Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility in South Burlington, VT	2019
Hotline Volunteer Attorney, Immigrant Defense Project in New York, NY	2018
U Visa Pro Bono Project Supervising Attorney, Sanctuary for Families NY and BLS	2017-2018

Academic

Board Cochair, former Treasurer, Brooklyn Law Students for the Public Interest	2014-2015
Board Cochair and Group Facilitator, Resilience Advocacy Project BLS Chapter	2013-2016
Board Cochair, National Lawyers Guild BLS Chapter	2013-2014

Volunteer

Board Treasurer, Vermont Legal Aid and Legal Services Vermont	2023-Present
Board Member, Migrant Justice <i>Junta de Apoyo</i> in Burlington, VT	2023-Present
Cofounder and organizer, Vermont Queer Legal Professionals	2023-Present
Cofounder, Vermont Asylum Assistance Project	2022-Present
Board Member, Old Spokes Home in Burlington, VT	2019-2022
Advocate, International Alliance Against Mandatory Detention	2015-2018
Consultant, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement in Manila, PH	2012

PUBLICATIONS

Journals

<i>Vt. Bar Foundation Spotlight: Vermont Immigrant Assistance</i> , 48.2 VT. BAR J. 27 (Summer 2022).	2022
<i>Vt. Poverty Law Fellowship Update: Mental Health and Housing</i> , 45.3 VT. BAR J. 43 (Fall 2019).	2019
<i>Australians' "Right" to be Bigoted: Protecting Minorities' Rights from the Tyranny of the Majority</i> , 41 BROOK. J. INT'L L. (Spring 2016).	2016
<i>If Not Now, When? LOing as Jewish Activists Say 'Enough' to Israeli Occupation</i> , XLII 2/3 GUILD NOTES 12 (2016).	2016

Web

<i>Jill Martin Diaz: No More 'Border Brain'</i> , VT DIGGER (April 15, 2024).	2024
<i>Immigration Isn't 'Illegal,' Letter to the Editor RE: Northern Exposure</i> , SEVEN DAYS (March 8, 2023).	2023
<i>Practice Advisory: Language Access Rights and Remedies for People with LEP</i> , VT. LAW S. (Feb. 2021).	2021
<i>Mental Health and Housing in Vermont: Challenges and Opportunities</i> , VT. BAR FOUND. (Dec 2020).	2020

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

Moderator and Cofounder, <i>Welcoming New Americans in Vermont</i> , Vermont Law and Graduate School	2024
Moderator, <i>Restorative DEIB Practices for Lawyers</i> , Vermont Bar Association Mid-Winter Conf.	2024
Panelist, <i>Collaborating to Defend Democracy in Communities Under Attack</i> , AALS Nat'l Conf.	2024
Moderator, <i>Ni Uno Mas: Detention Centers or Prisons</i> , VLGS	2023
Moderator, <i>Equity in the Cannabis Industry</i> , VLGS	2023
Panelist, <i>Representing Gender-Diverse Clients</i> , VBA Mid-Winter Conf.	2023
Panelist, <i>Preparing an Asylum Claim</i> , VBA Pro Bono Conf.	2022
Speaker, <i>Vermont Poverty Law Fellowship</i> , VBA	2022
Panelist, <i>Breaking Down Barriers within the System of Care</i> , Vermont Care Partners	2022
Panelist, <i>Advancing Immigrants' State-Level Rights</i> , VBA	2021
Speaker, <i>Mental Health and Housing</i> , VBA	2019
Presenter, <i>Accommodations to Stabilize Tenancies</i> , Vermont Youth Services Bureau	2019
Keynote, <i>Reasonable Accommodations</i> , Guen Gifford Advocates Training	2019
Speaker, <i>Mental Health and Housing</i> , VBA	2018

Continuing Legal Education

<i>Blood, Sweat, and Tears: Immigration Law Basics and Not-So-Basics</i> , VBA	2024
<i>Immigration and New Federalism: Updates from VT's State House, Agencies, and Towns</i> , VBA	2024
<i>Updates in Language Access Rights and Remedies</i> , Vermont Legal Aid and Legal Services Vermont	2023

<i>Updates in Immigration Law and Practice</i> , VLA/LSV	2023
<i>The Case for Support: Legal Tools for Effective Fundraising</i> , Vermont Bar Foundation	2023
<i>The Trouble with Language: Storytelling and Legal Writing</i> , VBF	2023
<i>Vermont Poverty Law Fellowship</i> , VBF	2021
<i>The Embedded Racism of Language Access Barriers</i> , VLGS	2021
<i>Language Access Rights and Remedies</i> , VLA	2021
<i>Vermont Poverty Law Fellowship</i> , VBF	2020
<i>Mental Health and Housing</i> , Central Vermont Inns of Court	2020

Events

Presenter, <i>Documenting Pertinent Country Conditions in Asylum Applications</i> , University of Vermont	2024
Presenter, <i>VT Legislators' Educational Breakfast on Immigration Access to Justice Needs</i> , VATJC	2023
Presenter, <i>Immigration Legal Needs at the Borders</i> , Dartmouth College	2023
Speaker, <i>Immigration and Pardons, Clemency, and Expungements</i> , VLGS	2023
Presenter, <i>Asylum 101</i> , Chittenden Asylum Seekers Support and Assistance Network	2023
Host and Moderator, <i>To Be Fair</i> documentary showing	2023
Host and Moderator, <i>To Be Fair</i> documentary premiere	2022
Presenter, <i>Immigration Legal Needs at the Borders</i> , Dartmouth College	2022
Presenter, <i>Asylum 101</i> , New England Survivors of Torture and Trauma	2022
Panelist, <i>Being "Out" in the Professional World</i> , VLGS	2022
Panelist, <i>Emerging Legal Needs of Afghan Evacuees</i> , Vermont Legal Aid	2021
Presenter, <i>U Visas for Survivors of Crime</i> , Columbia Law School	2017
Panelist, <i>Careers in Immigration Law</i> , Brooklyn Law School	2017
Moderator, <i>Chasing Asylum</i> U.S. film premier and director Q&A, New York University	2017
Presenter, Know Your Immigration Rights Under Trump, various community and law school audiences	2016, 2017
Speaker, <i>The Health Opportunity for Teens</i> , Resilience Advocacy Project Annual Friendraiser	2015
Speaker, <i>Public Service Welcome Breakfast</i> , Brooklyn Law School	2014, 2015

Media Appearances

<i>Final Reading: Bill in Senate proposes removing barriers to professional licensing for new immigrants</i> , VT DIGGER	2024
<i>A migrant farmworker's life in Vermont is threatened by deportation</i> , BURLINGTON FREE PRESS	2024
<i>Vermont Asylum Assistance Project Welcomes New Director</i> , WCAX	2024
<i>The Little Ways People are Supporting Impacted Communities</i> , SHONDALAND	2023
<i>Two SoRo Legal Clinic Lawyers Celebrated by LGBTQ+ Bar Assoc.</i> , THE HERALD	2023
<i>A new US-Canada deal makes it harder for migrants to claim asylum</i> , VERMONT PUBLIC	2023
<i>Vermont Law professors named among best LGBTQ+ lawyers</i> , MY CHAMPLAIN VALLEY	2023
<i>Supporters of migrant farmworkers rally against Vt. Deportations</i> , WCAX	2022
<i>What's next for Burlington renters following 'just cause' eviction veto</i> , WCAX	2022

Testimony

Testimony on H.606, Vermont Senate Committee on Government Operations	2024
Public Comment on Fair and Impartial Policing, Vermont Criminal Justice Council	2024
American Immigration Lawyers Association National Day of Action, U.S. Congress	2024
Testimony on Act 98 implementation, Vermont Judiciary Joint Rulemaking Committee	2023
Testimony on VLGS Signage Needs, Burlington Development Review Board	2023
American Immigration Lawyers Association National Day of Action, U.S. Congress	2022
Testimony on Act 98, Vermont House Committee on the Judiciary	2022
Testimony on Act 98, Vermont Senate Committee on the Judiciary	2022
Public Comment on Police Use-of-Force, Burlington Board of Police Commissioners	2020
Public Testimony on state courthouses as ICE sanctuaries, NY Attorney General Press Conference	2017

AFFILIATIONS

Attorney licensed in New York (2017), Vermont (2018), and the District of Vermont (2022).
U.S./Canada Border Network (2024), VT Queer Legal Professionals (2022), Northern New England Practitioners (2020),
Refugee and Immigrant Service Providers Network (2020), VT Bar Association (2018), American Immigration Lawyers Assn
(2014), American Bar Assn (2014).