Agenda

10:30-10:45AM  
**Opening Remarks**  
J. Anna Cabot  
UHLC Immigration Clinic Director

**Tribute to Joe Vail**  
Rehan Alimohammad  
Professor of Practice, UHLC Immigration Clinic

10:45-12:00PM  
**Moving Target: Gender and Family Asylum Claims in the Fifth Circuit**  
Victoria Neilson  
Supervising Attorney, National Immigration Project

Anne Dutton  
Staff Attorney, Center for Gender and Refugee Studies

Samantha Del Bosque  
Supervising Attorney, Tahirih Justice Center

**Moderator:** J. Anna Cabot  
UHLC Immigration Clinic Director

This panel will discuss two recent cases that limit asylum eligibility: Matter of M-R-M-S- and Jaco v. Garland. They will address the consequences of these cases, as well as strategies for representing asylum seekers with family- and gender-based asylum claims.

12:00-1:00PM  
**Border Policies: Texas and the United States**  
Robert Painter  
Managing Attorney, American Gateways

Kristen Etter  
Director of Policy and Legal Services, Texas Immigration Law Council

**Moderator:** Daniel I. Morales  
Associate Professor of Law, Dwight Olds Chair, UHLC

This panel will discuss Texas’ attempts to control the border through Operation Lone Star and new legislation like SB-4 as well as the Biden administration’s asylum ban or “Circumvention of Lawful Pathways” Rule. They will address the development of these laws and policies, their consequences, and their current legal status.
Anne Dutton
Staff Attorney
Center for Gender and Refugee Studies

Anne Dutton is a Staff Attorney at the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies (“CGRS”), where she engages in strategic litigation on a range of asylum issues and provides technical assistance and training to other attorneys representing asylum seekers. Anne first joined CGRS as an Equal Justice Works Fellow. Before assuming her staff attorney role, Anne clerked for the Honorable Gerard E. Lynch of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Anne received her J.D. and M.S.W. from the University of Minnesota. Prior to law school, Anne worked for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service’s policy advocacy office, covering issues related to unaccompanied children, immigration detention, and refugee and asylum policy.

Samantha Del Bosque
Supervising Attorney
Tahirih Justice Center

Samantha Del Bosque is a graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, where she participated in the Immigration Law Clinic. Samantha joined the Tahirih Justice Center in April 2012; she represents people who are fleeing gender-based violence. Prior to working with Tahirih, she worked with Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston. Samantha currently serves as the local Asylum Liaison for the Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). In addition, Samantha served on the 2024 Texas State Bar Immigration Law Conference planning committee. She has also served on the AILA National Committee on Asylum and Refugees. Samantha frequently speaks at conferences and CLEs on various topics, including humanitarian immigration protection, gender-based violence, and working with survivors of trauma. Before going to law school, Samantha taught Spanish to disadvantaged and at-risk children in the Houston area. She is fluent in both French and Spanish.

Rehan Alimohammad
Professor of Practice, University of Houston Law Center
Partner, Wong Fleming

Rehan Alimohammad is a Partner in the national firm of Wong Fleming in the Sugar Land, Texas, office in charge of Immigration Law. He has been named a Super Lawyer in Immigration Law since 2019 and is currently Chair of the Committee for Laws related to Immigration and Nationality for the State Bar of Texas since 2022. Professor Alimohammad is Past Chair of the Board for the State Bar of Texas and past State Bar Advisor for two years for the Immigration and Nationality Section. He also served as Past Co-Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee for the State Bar of Texas, member of the Executive Committee, and Past Minority Director and Board Member of the State Bar of Texas.

He has given over 500 seminars on immigration law topics throughout the U.S., written over 400 articles on immigration topics for community papers, and answered questions for over 5 years on immigration topics on community radio. He graduated in 1996 from The University of Texas at Austin in Accounting and from the University of Houston Law Center in 2001 with a J.D. where he also assisted the late Professor Michael Olivas with publications on immigration law.

J. Anna Cabot
Clinical Associate Professor
Immigration Clinic Director
University of Houston Law Center

Prior to teaching at the University of Houston Law Center, Professor J. Anna Cabot was the Practitioner in Residence in the Gender Justice Clinic at American University Washington College of Law. There, she taught and supervised students representing clients with cases spanning immigration, housing, family law, domestic violence protection, wills, and name-and-gender change. Additionally, from 2014 to 2018, Professor Cabot was the William Davis Clinical Teaching Fellow at the University of Connecticut School of Law, teaching in the Asylum and Human Rights Clinic. Professor Cabot’s research interests include the intersections of gender and cultural difference with global migration, immigration laws, and international law, and crisis-responsive clinical pedagogy. Professor Cabot received her J.D. from American University Washington College of Law in 2009 and her B.A. from Amherst College in 2003. Professor Cabot graduated from college with a degree in physics and received a Fulbright Scholarship to study at the Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Chennai, India.
Kristin Etter
Director of Policy and Legal Services
Texas Immigration Law Council

As the Director of Policy and Legal Services at the Texas Immigration Law Council, Kristin Etter develops strategies and programs to move forward practical immigration reforms for Texas and our nation. Prior to joining Texas Immigration Law Council, Kristin served as the Special Project Director of Operation Lone Star at Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid where she developed and implemented the litigation response to Operation Lone Star. With over 20 years of federal and state litigation and policy experience, Kristin frequently shares her expertise on immigration and border issues with state and federal governmental officials, non-governmental organizations and media. In addition to representing thousands of immigrants throughout her legal career, Kristin is also regularly engaged in collaborating with advocacy organizations and policy makers, drafting and analyzing legislation, testifying on legislative issues, and educating immigrant communities, attorneys, judges, students, business and law enforcement groups.

Daniel I. Morales
Associate Professor of Law
Dwight Olds Chair
University of Houston Law Center

Professor Daniel I. Morales is a scholar and theorist of immigration law known for his work problematizing the legal underpinnings of immigration control and for identifying the progressive possibilities of decentralization as an antidote to what ails immigration law. His scholarship has appeared in leading law reviews, including the N.Y.U. Law Review, U.C. Irvine Law Review, Indiana Law Journal, and Wake Forest Law Review. Professor Morales began his academic career as a William H. Hastie Fellow at the University of Wisconsin Law School and subsequently clerked for both the Hon. R. Guy Cole Jr., United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and the Hon. Joan B. Gottschall, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. He received his J.D. from Yale Law School and his B.A., magna cum laude, from Williams College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He has practiced law at Jenner & Block LLP and Kirkland & Ellis LLP. He teaches Constitutional Law, Immigration Law, and seminars on legal theory.

Victoria Neilson
Supervising Attorney
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild

Victoria (Vickie) Neilson is a Supervising Attorney at the National Immigration Project (NIPNLG) where her work focuses on asylum, border issues, removal, and trial skills trainings. She is co-chair of AILA’s National Asylum Committee and she regularly conducts trainings with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA). Before joining NIPNLG, Vickie was Managing Attorney of the Defending Vulnerable Populations program at the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. Vickie worked previously as the Legal Director of the Immigrant Justice Corps, as an attorney for the Refugee and Asylum Law Division of USCIS, and as Legal Director of Immigration Equality and the HIV Law Project. She has taught as an adjunct professor at CUNY School of Law and NYU School of Law. She is a graduate of CUNY School of Law and Harvard College.

Robert Painter
Managing Attorney
American Gateways

Robert (Bobby) Painter has worked with American Gateways since 2014. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Law (J.D. 2012) and Macalester College (B.A. 2009). While in law school, Bobby was a recipient of the Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellowship and worked as a student attorney with the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic. He spent his summers working as an intern with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, and as a Consultant with the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to water and sanitation in Berlin, Germany. Before joining American Gateways, Bobby was a VISTA Staff Attorney with The Advocates for Human Rights in Minneapolis, where he worked with asylum seekers. Bobby is a native of Madison, Wisconsin, and enjoys the outdoors. He is fluent in Spanish.