

NATALIE L. CADWALADER

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

California Western School of Law, San Diego, CA
Associate Professor of Law (tenure-track), 2026-present
Courses Taught: Civil Procedure I

EDUCATION

DEGREES

University of California, Berkeley - School of Law, J.D. (2017)

Honors: Legal Defense Fund Earl Warren Scholar; Boalt Hall Women's Association Herma Hill Kay Fellow; Human Rights Center Fellow; International Human Rights Law Clinic Summer Fellow; Harry Falik Public Interest Scholar

Certificates: International Law; Public Interest Law

Brigham Young University, B.A. (2012)

Majors: Latin American Studies
Linguistics

Minor: Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

OTHER

University of Arizona & Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (2022)

Certificate: Mexican Public Law & Policy Certificate

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

LAW REVIEW ARTICLES

South to Justice: Using International Law to Defend against U.S. Border Externalization Policies through the Example of Forcibly Disappeared Migrants in Mexico, 64 SANTA CLARA L. REV. 561 (2025). Available at: [link](#).

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Enforced Disappearance as a Border Management Tool: The Case of Border Patrol Detentions of Immigrant and Asylum-Seeking Families in the United States, 13 J. MIGRATION & HUM. SEC. 234 (2025) (peer reviewed) (with Dr. Diego F. Leal). Available at: [link](#).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Policy Brief: Enforced Disappearances of International Migrants & Asylum Seekers in the United States, CENTER FOR MIGRATION STUDIES AND BINATIONAL MIGRATION INSTITUTE, UNIV. ARIZ. (2025) (with Dr. Diego F. Leal). Available at: [link](#).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Reporting Failures of Deaths in CBP Custody Amounting to Enforced Disappearance (with Diego F. Leal).

The Children that DHS Tries to Deport as Adults (selected as an incubator project for the June 2026 Immigration Law Teachers and Scholars Workshop).

SELECTED HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, & GRANTS

AWARDED GRANTS

Summer Grant, School of Sociology University of Arizona (\$6,506) **2025**

This small grant covered the costs of 50 hours of work for two research assistants to investigate in-custody border patrol deaths, and to conduct a literature review on immigration detention in the U.S.

Role: Consultant (Principal Investigator: Diego F. Leal).

Capacity-Building Grant, University of Arizona (\$4,969) **2024**

This competitive small grant covered costs for lodging, mileage, incidental expenses, and 40 hours of work for a research assistant. We published the study in the *Journal of Migration & Human Security*.

Role: Consultant (Principal Investigator: Diego F. Leal).

FELLOWSHIPS

Mesa Refuge Writing Fellow **2022**

Researched how U.S. border policies create victims of enforced disappearances in Mexico and how U.S. and Mexican litigators can challenge U.S. border policies in Mexican courts and in international fora. Findings are in my forthcoming *Santa Clara Law Review Journal* article.

Equal Justice Works Fellow **2017-2019**

Secured \$100,000 grant for a project-based fellowship, funded by the Texas Access to Justice Foundation to work at the American Bar Association's South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR), to represent children and youth in detained immigration court.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ABA Children's Immigration Law Academy (CILA), San Diego, CA **2026**

Senior Staff Attorney: Provided technical assistance and drafted legal educational resources for attorneys representing unaccompanied immigrant children.

Human Rights First, San Diego, CA **2025-2026**

Senior Staff Attorney, Rapid Response: Represented individuals at imminent risk of removal. Led coalition of immigrants' rights organizations in regular meetings with U.N. and Inter-American special procedures.

Al Otro Lado, San Diego, CA **2024**

Supervising Attorney, Family Reunification Project: Supervised team providing legal education services to class members of the *Ms. L.* settlement agreement who were separated at the border.

The Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, Tucson, AZ **2022-2024**

Pro Bono Mentor Staff Attorney, Adult Program: Recruited, trained, and supported pro bono attorneys representing detained adults in Arizona immigration courts.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Tucson, AZ **2021-2022**
Protection Associate: Liaised with government and NGO stakeholders at the U.S. southern border to improve humanitarian response. Coordinated protection activities with UNHCR Mexico field teams.

ABA South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR), Harlingen, TX **2017-2021**
Staff Attorney: Represented adults in ICE detention, adults and families in Remain in Mexico program, and released unaccompanied children and unaccompanied children in state custody.

San Antonio Region Justice for Our Neighbors (SARJFON), Harlingen, TX **2019-2020**
Staff Attorney: Represented asylum seekers placed in the Remain in Mexico program. Filed habeas petitions on behalf of asylum seekers in Border Patrol facilities subjected to third country removal program.

ABA South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR), Harlingen, TX **2017-2019**
Equal Justice Works Fellow: Represented children and youth, ages 17-21 (“age-outs”), in detained immigration court. (See “Fellowships” above).

St. Vincent DePaul Society of Marin County, San Rafael, CA **2013-2014**
AmeriCorps Member: Recruited, trained, supported volunteers in the community dining room, homeless help desk, and housing help hotline.

Notre Dame Mission Volunteers - AmeriCorps, Phoenix, AZ **2012-2013**
AmeriCorps Member: Served as educational assistant in classrooms with teachers from the Maricopa County School District at an unaccompanied minor shelter. Provided educational assessments to unaccompanied children who recently arrived, determined their educational levels, registered and withdrew students, and supported school district teachers in the classroom.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL WORKS

SELECTED FEDERAL COURT SUBMISSION

Complaint, *Padre et al. v. MVM, Inc.*, No. 3:24-cv-01265, 2024 WL 3:24CV01265 (S.D. Cal. July 23, 2024) (Claims for violations of the Alien Tort State and 42 U.S.C. § 1985 and 1986 brought against private contractor that transported children who had been separated from their parents under the Zero Tolerance policy).

SELECTED FOREIGN COURT SUBMISSIONS

Brief for Natalie L. Cadwalader as Amici Curiae Supporting Plaintiffs, Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación [Mexican Supreme Court] Amparo en Revisión 606/2022. 2023 (Amicus brief for plaintiffs in case challenging legality of U.S.-Mexico agreement to implement Remain in Mexico program).

Brief for Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project et al. as Amici Curiae Supporting Plaintiffs, Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación [Mexican Supreme Court] Amparo en Revisión 606/2022. 2023.

SELECTED UNITED NATIONS SUBMISSIONS

Haitian Bridge Alliance et al., *Report to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances Regarding Disappearances of Migrants and Asylum Seekers in the United States*, Shadow report submitted to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Dec. 2023.

Haitian Bridge Alliance et al., *Short-Term Disappearances of Migrants and Asylum Seekers in the United States*, Shadow report submitted to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (in response to their call for inputs regarding the concept of short-term enforced disappearances), Aug. 2023.

PRESENTATIONS

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- 2025** “Enforced Disappearances in U.S. Immigration Enforcement,” Women’s Law Association, *Harvard Law School* (Apr. 2025).
“Enforced Disappearance as a Border Management Tool in the United States,” Guest Lecture, Immigration Law Lab, *Loyola University Chicago* (Feb. 2025).
- 2024** “Enforced Disappearance as a Border Management Tactic: Pushbacks to Mexico under the Remain in Mexico Program and Title 42,” *Belmont University College of Law* (Nov. 2024).
“Enforced Disappearance as a Border Management Tool: The Case of Border Patrol Detentions of Immigrant and Asylum-Seeking Families in the United States,” Bacon Immigration Law & Policy Speaker Series, James E. Rogers College of Law, *University of Arizona* (Oct. 2024).
- 2019** “Challenging Age Determinations of Children in ICE Detention,” Children’s Legal Rights Journal Symposium, *Loyola University Chicago School of Law* (Nov. 2019).

PRESENTATIONS FOR ATTORNEYS

- 2026** “Overview of Working with Detained Unaccompanied Children,” CILA’s Virtual Boot Camp for Detained Children’s Legal Service Providers, American Bar Association’s Children’s Immigration Law Academy (Mar. 2026).
“Working with Unaccompanied Children Aging Out,” CILA’s Virtual Boot Camp for Detained Children’s Legal Service Providers, American Bar Association’s Children’s Immigration Law Academy (Apr. 2026).
“Engaging Youth in a Group Setting and Effective Know Your Rights,” CILA’s Virtual Boot Camp for Detained Children’s Legal Service Providers, American Bar Association’s Children’s Immigration Law Academy (Apr. 2026).
“Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Clients in Removal Proceedings,” American Bar Association’s Children’s Immigration Law Academy (Apr. 2026).
- 2025** “Immigration Policy and Practice Updates for Pro Bono Attorneys” Human Rights First (June 2025).
“Briefing: Asylum Seekers Detained in Guantánamo,” Human Rights First (May 2025).
- 2024** “International Law Beyond the Refugee Convention and Convention Against Torture: Incorporating International Human Rights into Removal Defense,” American Immigration Lawyers Association Upper Midwest Conference, University of Minnesota Law School (May 2024).

- 2021** “TX Champions for Immigrant Youth Symposium,” Litigation Strategies for Improper Age Redetermination Cases, American Bar Association Children’s Immigration Law Academy, Houston, TX (May 2021).
- “Handling Your First (or Next) Asylum Case,” Trauma Informed Representation in Asylum Cases: Asylum Interview/ Asylum Merits Hearing Checklists, Texas Bar CLE, Houston, TX (Mar. 2021).
- “Defend Asylum Together! Essentials of Immigration Law for Effective Pro Bono Representation,” American Bar Association, Houston, TX (Jan. 2021).
- 2019** “National Training on Representation and Advocacy of Unaccompanied Immigrant Children,” American Bar Association / Kids in Need of Defense, Houston, TX (Dec. 2019).
- “Age Determination of Unaccompanied Children in ORR Custody,” Presented joint webinar and co-authored practice advisory with Catholic Legal Immigration Network and American Bar Association (Aug. 2019).

PUBLISHED MEDIA FEATURES AND INTERVIEWS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE MEDIA

- 2025** Tim Padgett, *‘This Can Never Happen Again’: Legal Claims Stir from Venezuelans Trump Sent to El Salvador Prison*, WLRN (National Public Radio affiliate station), Sept. 18, 2025 (last accessed Sept. 18, 2025).
- Mattathias Schwartz, *Trump Administration Poised to Ramp Up Deportations to Distant Countries*, THE NEW YORK TIMES, July 13, 2025 (last accessed July 20, 2025).
- Kate Morrissey, *Tortured by the Taliban, Locked Up in the U.S.*, CAPITAL & MAIN, July 11, 2025 (last accessed July 20, 2025).
- Mark Betancourt, *Many Immigrants Don’t Get the Chance to Prove Their Fear of Torture if Deported*, NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO (All Things Considered), June 2, 2025 (last accessed July 20, 2025).
- Mark Betancourt, *This Ethiopian Woman was Tortured by Her Government*, KQED (National Public Radio affiliate station), May 27, 2025 (last accessed July 20, 2025).
- Daniella Silva, *Anguished Families are Losing Hope as They Can’t Reach Loved Ones Sent to El Salvador Mega-Prison*, NBC NEWS, May 7, 2025 (last accessed July 20, 2025).
- Tim Padgett, *Trump Deports More Venezuelans to El Salvador – As Lawyers Ask the U.N. for Help*, WLRN (National Public Radio affiliate station), March 31, 2024 (last accessed July 20, 2025).
- 2024** Mo Goldman, *Andrew Fels and Natalie Cadwalader-Schultheis about Enforced Disappearances*, IMMIGRATION AIN’T EASY PODCAST, Season 1, Episode 19, Dec. 16, 2024 (last accessed July 20, 2025).
- 2020** Adolfo Flores, *Border Patrol is Detaining Asylum-Seeking Families at a Texas Facility for Longer than the Law Allows*, BUZZFEED NEWS, January 11, 2020 (last accessed July 20, 2025).
- 2019** Michell Hackman, *At Migrant Camp in Mexico, Crowds and Complaints Swell*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, Nov. 23, 2019 (last accessed July 20, 2025).

SPANISH LANGUAGE MEDIA

- 2025** Cindy Espina, *Enforced Disappearance as a Tool of Migration Management in the United States: Interview with Natalie Cadwalader-Schultheis*, HORA CERO, May 26, 2025 (last accessed July 20, 2025).
- Ricardo Piña, *Families of Deported Migrants Lose Hope of Contacting Them: They Were Sent to the Mega Prison in El Salvador*, INFOBAE, May 7, 2025 (last accessed July 20, 2025).
- 2023** Alfredo Maza, *Organizations Request Rejection of Minister Esquivel's Amparo for Considering that "Remain in Mexico" Does Not Violate Rights of Migrants*, ANIMAL POLÍTICO, Oct. 5, 2023 (last accessed July 20, 2025).

VOLUNTEER WORK

Presentations for the Public

"Overview of Affirmative and Defensive Asylum Procedures," for Scholars At Risk (March 2025)

American Immigration Lawyers Association, San Diego Chapter Committees

Essay Contest Committee (2025-present)

Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project

OPEIU Local 251, union steward (2023-2024)

Equal Justice Works

Alumni fellowship application reviewer (2019-2020)

BAR ADMISSIONS, MEMBERSHIPS, AND LANGUAGES

Bar Admissions: States of Arizona and Texas; U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fifth, Ninth, and Tenth Circuits; District of Arizona, Southern District of Texas, Western District of Texas, District of New Mexico

Memberships: American Immigration Lawyers Association (Arizona, San Diego); National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers' Guild; State Bar of Texas (Immigration & Nationality Law Section); State Bar of Arizona (Immigration Law Section)

Languages: English (native); Spanish (fluent); Arabic (ACTFL-certified intermediate-high level proficiency)