

# DANA KANDEL SISITSKY

## EDUCATION

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**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**, New York, New York

J.D. Degree, May 2001

*Honors and Activities:* Journal of International Law and Policy, Staff Editor  
Public Interest Grant Recipient, Summers 1999, 2000

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY**, Berkeley, California

B.A. in Political Science, *cum laude*, May 1996, Minor in Spanish Language and Literature

**UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA**, San Jose, Costa Rica

Coursework in Spanish Language and International Politics, Spring 1995

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**CALIFORNIA WESTERN SCHOOL OF LAW**, San Diego, California

*Clinical Professor and Executive Director of Community Law Project*, 2022 - present

*Community Law Project Executive Director, Supervising Attorney, and Adjunct Clinical Professor*, 2010 - 2022

### **Faculty Member Functions**

- Serve on Admissions Committee, reviewing upwards of 50-75 student admissions applications annually and advising on measures for admission to CWSL.
- Chair Experiential Learning Committee, including leading of clinical faculty members in conversations on collaborative issues, drafting of uniform clinical policies, and serving as liaison between CWSL administration and experiential learning faculty on issues relating to clinical curriculum and standards.
- Inaugural Co-Director of Social Justice Area of Concentration, including creation of criteria for recognition and review of applicants.
- Interview and evaluate potential faculty and staff.
- Partner with various CWSL departments, including admissions, student services, marketing, alumni, and others, in campus wide efforts to continuously improve the student law school experience.

### **Executive Director Functions**

- Create and manage budget for clinical program, including fundraising, securing of grants, and donor campaigns that raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for program.
- Recruit, train, mentor, and supervise volunteer attorneys from nonprofit legal organizations, law firms, and solo practices, and implement strategies for volunteer engagement and recognition.
- Supervise, evaluate, and coach staff of clinical program, including legal and administrative staff.
- Develop and maintain strong working relationships with legal and non-legal partners, increasing geographic range, and cultural and linguistic background of communities served.
- Promote program and generate awareness across multiple constituencies with tailored messaging across law student population, client communities, prospective donors, and potential volunteers.
- Oversaw creation of clinical program website, social media outlets, and publicity videos, and drive ongoing content creation.
- Coordinated opening of additional clinic locations over multi-year period, and during COVID-19, led the transition to virtual clinics.
- Communicate regularly with Community Law Project Advisory Council and constituencies of California Western School of Law, including Board of Trustees, Alumni Council, and Faculty.

### **Supervising Attorney Functions**

- Manage and oversee the provision of legal services by volunteer pro bono attorneys and law students at clinical program sites across San Diego County.
- Coordinate client referrals to appropriate agencies and attorneys, including revamping of referral process, increased collaboration with outside legal service providers, and tracking of referrals.
- Oversee community education programming, including assessment of community need, content selection, and review and vetting of materials and guidance.

### **Teaching Functions**

- Develop curriculum for three-unit clinical course focused on poverty law issues, including development of lawyering skills to best serve low-income communities of diverse cultures.
- Teach an average of 36 students annually through training program and clinical course.
- Coach students and encourage growth through a variety of techniques and experiences.
- Recruit, train, supervise, and evaluate law students and undergraduate students.
- Assess students throughout term, providing feedback to ensure optimal progress towards learning goals.

### **GREATER BOSTON LEGAL SERVICES, Boston, Massachusetts**

***Staff Attorney, 2004 - 2009***

#### **Family Law Advocate**

- Advised and counseled victims of domestic violence with respect to family and immigration law matters.
- Managed average caseload of approximately 30 clients, including conducting discovery, negotiating with counterparties, drafting of legal documents and courtroom litigation.
- Tried cases before the court, including the preparation of trial notebooks, drafting of arguments, framing of direct and cross-examination questions, and the introduction of evidence.

#### **Manager of Medical / Legal Collaboration Project**

- Oversaw Department of Justice funded program to provide legal services, advice, and training to social workers and patients at hospitals and health centers in greater Boston.
- Restructured program, developing procedures for referrals for efficient administration of program.

### **MERRIMACK VALLEY LEGAL SERVICES, INC., Lowell, Massachusetts**

***Staff Attorney, 2001 - 2004***

- Advised and represented victims of domestic violence in family law matters.
- Served as lead counsel in several complex cases, many of which were tried in family court.

### **TEACH FOR AMERICA, Paterson / Newark, New Jersey**

***Third Grade Bilingual Teacher; Corps Member Advisory Committee, 1996 - 1998***

- As a part of the Teach for America National Service Corps, taught a bilingual Spanish third grade class in an under-resourced school in Paterson, New Jersey.
- Organized after school reading program and spearheaded statewide book drive.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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**CASA DE AMISTAD, Solana Beach, California**

***Board Member, 2025 - Present***

**SOLANA BEACH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION, Solana Beach, California**

***Board Member, 2016 - 2020***

**EARL WARREN MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL, Solana Beach, California**

***Parent Representative, 2018 – 2019***

**TEMPLE SOLEL, Cardiff by the Sea, California**

***General Member, 2010 – present; Temple Band Member, 2019 - 2024***

## **RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

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Individually Awarded Top Attorney, Academic Category, San Diego Source - 2013

Community Law Project Awarded Nonprofit of the Year for California by Assembly District 78 – 2022

Presenter at UCSD Medical School Transdisciplinary Class Session – 2014 – present

Presenter at American Association of Law Schools Clinical Conference – April 2015 and May 2023

## **BAR ADMISSIONS AND LANGUAGES**

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Member of California, Massachusetts, and New York Bars

Fluent in written and oral Spanish