

**JESSICA EMERSON, LMSW, Esq.**

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**BAR ADMISSIONS**

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State Bar of Maryland, December 2013

**EDUCATION**

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**UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW**, Baltimore, MD  
Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, May 2013

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**, New York, NY  
M.S. in Social Work, *summa cum laude*, May 2003

**UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND**, Kingston, RI  
B.A. in Psychology, *magna cum laude*, May 2000

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

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**UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW**, Baltimore, MD  
*Director, Human Trafficking Prevention Project*, August 2015-present

Supervise student attorney legal work with survivors of sex trafficking who have criminal records stemming from their history of victimization. Teach weekly clinic seminar, including sessions on client interviewing, counseling, negotiation and trial skills. Oversee student work on policy projects relating to legislative advocacy and community education presentations. Coordinate with a local pro bono services organization on the supervision of a pro bono attorney project focused on human trafficking and civil legal needs, including post-conviction relief.

**WOMEN'S LAW CENTER OF MARYLAND, INC.**, Towson, MD  
*Equal Justice Works Fellow/Staff Attorney*

*Director, Trafficking Victims Post-Conviction Advocacy Project*, September 2013-August 2015

Designed and implemented pilot project intended to help survivors of human trafficking vacate their prostitution convictions. Provided legal representation to survivors of sex trafficking in Maryland; outreached to community partners, victims' services organizations, attorneys, judges and relevant professional organizations to increase visibility of the law and to facilitate its implementation; began implementation of a pro bono attorney training program on sex trafficking and post-conviction remedies. Participated in the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force Victim Services and Legislative committees to ensure continued presence within the Maryland anti-trafficking community as a resource for survivors.

**UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE MEDIATION CLINIC FOR FAMILIES**, Baltimore, MD  
*Student Mediator/Rule 16 Student Attorney*, August 2012-May 2013

Provided pro bono Limited Representation during court ordered child access mediation and pro-bono co-mediation services for families as a student attorney.

**TURNAROUND, INC.**, Baltimore, MD  
*Legal Intern, Anti-Trafficking Program*, August 2011-May 2012

Analyzed recent and proposed Maryland anti-trafficking legislation; created and implemented programmatic systems designed to assess client criminal histories and make referrals for expungement and/or vacatur of criminal charges related to client's history of trafficking. Participated in the Maryland Human Trafficking Taskforce's Legislative Committee; educated members of the Maryland legislature about human trafficking during the Legislative Committee's yearly Lobby Day; testified before the Maryland Legislature in support of human trafficking legislation during the 2012 legislative session. Performed legal research and writing on legal issues impacting survivors of sexual exploitation.

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY, New York, NY

*Legal Intern, Trafficking Victims Legal Defense and Advocacy Project*, May-August 2011

Assisted staff attorney in providing support and advocacy to persons arrested on prostitution-related charges in New York County, as part of an innovative, grant-funded pilot public defense project. Drafted successful written motion to vacate prostitution-related convictions for survivors of sex trafficking and pimp-controlled prostitution. Assisted with client interviewing, case investigation, in-court advocacy and legal research.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MOUNT SINAI ADOLESCENT HEALTH CENTER, New York, NY

*Licensed Clinical Social Worker*, January 2004-August 2010

Provided intensive, long-term individual and family treatment to HIV-positive and sexually high-risk adolescents. Provided group counseling and HIV testing services to adolescent survivors of domestic commercial sexual exploitation and LGBTQ youth at partnering community agencies. Facilitated the Adolescent Health Center Youth Advisory Board and trained clinic youth as peer educators. Participated in the development and implementation of a substance use-specific treatment program for adolescents.

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## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force; Maryland State Bar Association; Baltimore City Bar Association; American Bar Association; Freedom Network.

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## MEDIA

Vox, "[What Jeffrey Epstein's Case Says \(And Doesn't Say\) About Human Trafficking in America](#)," August 16, 2019.

WYPR's Midday Culture Connections, "[The Insidious World of Sex Trafficking](#)," April 16, 2019.

The Daily Record, "[MD Bill Passes Allowing Prosecutors to Vacate 'Unjust' Convictions](#)," April 9, 2019.

The Baltimore Sun Editorial Board, "[We Need More Protections for Sex-Trafficking Victims](#)," March 15, 2019.

The Daily Record, "[Human Trafficking Survivors, Advocates Seek Expansion of Vacatur Law](#)," February 28, 2019.

The Baltimore Sun, "[Maryland is an Unforgiving State for Sex-Trafficking Victims, a Study Finds. Some Are Trying to Change That](#)," March 12, 2019.

The New Yorker, "[The Hypocrisy of Trump's Anti-Trafficking Argument for a Border Wall](#)," February 5, 2019.

WYPR's On the Record, "[Human Trafficking: Erasing Convictions](#)," January 25, 2018

The Daily Record, "[How Maryland Can Better Help Human Trafficking Victims](#)," September 28, 2017.

CBS Baltimore, *On Time*, "[Human Trafficking Prevention Project](#)," August 13, 2017.

The Baltimore Sun, "[University of Baltimore Law Students Help Trafficking Victims Escape Their Past](#)," July 8, 2017.

The Daily Record, "[UB Law Human Trafficking Project Receives \\$466K Grant](#)," October 27, 2016.

The Daily Record, "[Law Students Join Anti-Trafficking Efforts at UB Law School](#)," September 23, 2015.

University of Baltimore Magazine, "[The Victims' Advocate](#)," Fall 2015.

NPR, "[Young Trafficking Victim's Story on NPR Leads to Senator's Amendment](#)" (heard on *All Things Considered*), April 24, 2015.

NPR, "[Little-Known Laws Help Sex Trafficking Victims Clear Criminal Records](#)" (heard on *All Things Considered*), February 24, 2015.

Equal Justice Works, "[Fellow Jessica Emerson \(13\) Files First Motion Under the Maryland Human Trafficking Victim Protection Act](#)," October 8, 2014.

The Baltimore Sun, "[For Human Trafficking Victims, State Offers 'A New Beginning.'](#)" December 8, 2014.

The Daily Record, "[Jessica Emerson, LMSW, Esq.](#)" (coverage of The Daily Record's 2014 *Leading Women* Winners), December 3, 2014.

The Daily Record, "[New Program Removes Stigma for Sex Trafficking Victims](#)," December 30, 2013.

Open Society Institute-Baltimore, "[Survivors of Sex Trafficking are Victims, Not Criminals](#)," September 17, 2012.