

# Neha Lall

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## EDUCATION

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL** **Ann Arbor, MI**  
**Juris Doctor, *cum laude*** **Dec. 2002**

- **Michigan Law Review:** Contributing Editor, 2002; Associate Editor, 2001-2002
- **Henry M. Campbell Moot Court:** Executive Board Member, 2002-3; Quarterfinalist, 2002
- **Immigration Law Certificate of Merit:** Awarded for Achieving the Highest Grade, 2002

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN** **Ann Arbor, MI**  
**Bachelor of Arts with High Distinction in History and Political Science** **May 1999**

- **James A. Knight Scholarship in History,** 1999: Awarded for outstanding work on Honors Thesis.
- **William J. Branstrom Freshman Prize,** 1996: Given to top 5% of students.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- **Chicago Bar Association's Alliance for Women 2017-2018 Founders Award:** awarded to a lawyer with fifteen years of experience who has significantly contributed to the empowerment of women, promotes positive change among women in the legal profession, and reflects the highest standards of professional excellence. More information about this prestigious award can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/yc33wzjk>
- **Trial Advocacy Award:** International Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2002
- **Award for Outstanding Law Students:** Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, 2001

## LEGAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW** **Baltimore, MD**  
**Director of Externships and Professor of the Practice** **May 2019 – Present**

- Oversee the law school's externship program including strategic planning, program management, placement development, and student counseling.
- Develop and teach the externship program's classroom curriculum focused on professional development and lawyering skills.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, THE LAW SCHOOL** **Chicago, IL**  
**Lecturer in Law** **Dec. 2011 - Oct. 2018**

- Created and taught an innovative two-quarter clinical course on gender-based violence and the law, exploring a wide range of civil legal remedies available to survivors of violence.

- Taught a seminar covering the various legal systems (both criminal and civil) that affect victims of domestic and sexual violence, with a focus on victims living in poverty.
- Structured and oversaw clinic students' placements and evaluation at Legal Aid Chicago on family law, housing, immigration, and employment matters.
- Designed exercises to improve students' advocacy skills, including a simulated contested hearing conducted at the Richard J. Daley Center before Cook County judges.

**HARVARD LAW SCHOOL****Cambridge, MA****AIDS Clinic Fellow, Wilmer Hale (Hale & Dorr) Legal Services Center** **March-July 2005**

- Served as clinical supervisor to law students in the Health and Employment clinical program.
- Provided legal representation and community education to HIV-positive clients through medical-legal partnerships with HIV/AIDS health care providers in Boston and Quincy.
- Represented HIV-positive individuals in estate planning, including wills, trusts, medical and durable powers of attorney.
- Assisted HIV-positive parents in permanency planning for their minor children through estate plans and child guardianship petitions.

**NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW****Boston, MA****Clinical Teaching Fellow, The Domestic Violence Institute** **Sept. 2003-March 2005**

- Created curriculum and provided classroom instruction in the domestic violence clinic.
- Taught interviewing skills to students participating in the Boston Medical Center medical-legal partnership.
- Supervised the Dorchester District Court's walk-in civil legal advocacy office, staffed by students and community advocates, in assisting victims seeking restraining orders.
- Provided legal supervision to community advocates from domestic violence agencies providing culturally competent services to Vietnamese and Haitian clients.
- Served on committees composed of law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers and service providers, and aimed at creating a coordinated community response to domestic violence.

**PRACTICE AND ADVOCACY EXPERIENCE****Legal Aid Chicago (formerly LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION)****Chicago, IL****Supervisory Attorney, Housing Practice Group****April 2017 – Oct. 2018****Senior Attorney, Housing Practice Group****Jan. 2015 – April 2017****Staff Attorney, Housing Practice Group****Sept. 2011 – Jan. 2015****Staff Attorney, Loop Service Office****Nov. 2009 - Sept. 2011**

- Supervisor in the Housing Practice Group, which handles approximately 40% of the extended representation the largest legal aid organization in the Midwest.
- Brought discrimination claims based on race, religion, sex, familial status, gender identity and national origin under the Fair Housing Act, Illinois Human Rights Act, Title VII, as well as claims under the Violence Against Women Act and the Family Medical Leave Act.
- Represented clients in a full range of litigation related to housing, orders of protection, and domestic relations, including injunctive relief, pretrial, bench trial, and jury trial proceedings.
- Provided representation to clients in administrative proceedings and judicial review of agency decisions relating to housing and unemployment benefits.

- Litigated administrative complaints for source of income discrimination on behalf of Housing Choice Voucher participants before the Chicago Commission on Human Relations.
- Conducted legal consultations and provided emergency intervention on a variety of poverty-related legal issues, including employment, utility, public benefits, domestic violence, and housing matters.
- Provided supervision and training to law student clerks, clinical students, fellows and pro bono attorneys from various Chicago law firms.

**LIFE SPAN CENTER FOR LEGAL SERVICES & ADVOCACY**  
**Staff Attorney**

**Chicago, IL**  
**Sept. 2005-Nov. 2009**

- Acted as trial and appellate counsel in the first appellate court decision under the Illinois Civil No Contact Order Act (*J.M. v. Briseno*, 2011 IL App (1st) 091073), a civil protective order for sexual assault victims.
- Represented sexual assault victims in civil no contact order proceedings, school disciplinary complaints, complaints to the Department of Education under Title IX, and workplace safety matters.
- Litigated divorce, custody, child support, and order of protection matters on behalf of domestic violence victims.
- Represented victims of domestic and sexual violence on U-visa and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) immigration petitions, including administrative applications and adjustment of status proceedings.

**INDIA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & LAW**  
**Bates Fellow**

**Mumbai, India**  
**Jan. 2003 – Apr. 2003**

- Interviewed hundreds of blind beggars and hawkers in the Mumbai local railway stations regarding employment discrimination and police harassment as part of a survey in support of a class action lawsuit.
- Interviewed and prepared battered women to testify in family violence petitions.

**SANCTUARY FOR FAMILIES**  
**Equal Justice America Fellow**

**New York, NY**  
**Summer 2001**

- Represented victims of domestic violence in family court proceedings, including custody and divorce matters.
- Filed affirmative petitions for immigration relief under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).
- Prepared an affirmative asylum application on behalf of a Tibetan refugee who had been imprisoned and subjected to torture and rape.

**LAW SCHOOL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

**ANN ARBOR, MI**

- **Child Advocacy Law Clinic:** Represented parents, minor children, and a state child protection agency in adjudications of abuse and neglect petitions and termination of parental rights cases in Washtenaw County, Jackson County, and Flint, Michigan.
- **Children's Law Appellate Clinic:** Represented minor children in appeals of termination of parental rights cases.
- **The Family Law Project:** Represented victims of domestic violence in Personal Protection Order (PPO) cases in Washtenaw County, Michigan.

- **Medstart Program:** Worked with a multidisciplinary team of medical, law, public health, and social work students to create a hands-on conference focusing on children in the juvenile justice system for local community members and leaders.

**THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT / SAFE HOUSE**  
**Staff Legal Advocate/24-Hour On-Call Team**

**Ann Arbor, MI**  
**1998-2003**

- Provided in-court civil and criminal advocacy to victims of domestic violence and their children.
- Worked with local law enforcement to provide 24-hour in-home services to all reported victims of domestic abuse in Washtenaw County.

**SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

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**Illinois Legal Aid Advocates Conference**  
**Lawyers Trust Fund**

**Chicago, IL**  
**Sept. 8, 2017**

**“Defending Tenancies in the Age of Crime-Free Housing Policies”**

- Presented on legal strategies to protect tenants from eviction because of crime-free policies, including housing protections under the Violence Against Women Act, Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Forcible Entry and Detainer Act, and the Fair Housing Act.

**Illinois Legal Aid Advocates Conference**  
**Lawyers Trust Fund**

**Chicago, IL**  
**Sept. 7, 2017**

**“Civil Relief for Sexual Assault Victims”**

- Participated in a panel discussion on the civil needs of sexual assault victims, including protective orders, Title IX, and various protections available under housing, employment, and domestic relations statutes.

**Equal Means Equal**  
**Illinois Gender Equity Fund**

**Chicago, IL**  
**Aug. 26, 2016**

- Discussed housing injustice for women in conjunction with the screening of the film, “Equal Means Equal.”

**Fair Housing Symposium**  
**Illinois Department of Human Rights**

**Chicago, IL**  
**June 21, 2016**

- Trained property managers, Public Housing Authority staff, HUD personnel, and community advocates on housing protections under the Violence Against Women Act.

**“Making the Connections”**

**Comprehensive Legal Assistance for Survivors Project, Legal Aid Chicago**

**Chicago, IL**  
**June 25, 2015**

- Developed a full-day training for attorneys and advocates on various legal remedies for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.
- Presented on housing protections for survivors of violence.

**Landlord Fair Housing Training**  
**Village of Oak Park**

**Oak Park, IL**  
**Oct. 1, 2014**

- Developed training curriculum and conducted training of Oak Park landlords on issues under the Illinois Safe Homes Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Oak Park Crime Free Ordinance and Cook County protections for tenants.

**Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation** **Chicago, IL**  
**“Lessons from the Court Room: Litigating Sexual Assault Under the Illinois Civil No Contact Order Act”** **August 26, 2013**

- Trained a panel of pro bono attorneys on litigating sexual assault protective orders under the Civil No Contact Order Act.

**Cook County Domestic Violence Division Judiciary** **Chicago, IL**  
**“The Illinois Civil No Contact Order Act”** **March 22, 2013**

- Provided training to all judges in the Cook County Domestic Violence Division on the unique challenges of adjudicating sexual assault protective orders under the Civil No Contact Order Act.

**Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence and** **Various Locations in IL**  
**The Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women’s Network** **Sept. 2010 – Sept. 2011**  
**“Legal Update on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking”**

- Conducted approximately ten trainings statewide to educate advocates, law enforcement, judges, attorneys, and counselors on legal issues facing victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

**Chicago Bar Association, CLE Training** **Chicago, IL**  
**“Litigating and Enforcing Orders of Protection and Civil No Contact Orders”** **May 20, 2009**

- Presented on the subject of civil no contact orders and enforcing protective orders in civil court through contempt proceedings.

**Illinois Legal Aid Advocates Conference** **Chicago, IL**  
**Lawyers Trust Fund** **November 13-14, 2008**  
**“Turn that Paper into Real Protection”**

- Trained attorneys at the statewide legal aid conference on bringing criminal contempt petitions in civil court as a means to enforce orders of protection and civil no contact orders.

**National Advanced Sexual Assault Law Institute** **Boston, MA**  
**Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women** **October 28-29, 2008**  
**“Legal Strategies and Remedies for Minor Victims”**

- Presented on various methods to protect the educational rights of adolescent and teen victims of sexual assault, including through civil protective orders, disciplinary complaints, and Title IX complaints with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights.

**Life Span Center for Legal Services** **Chicago, IL**  
**“Representation and Advocacy for Sexual Assault Victims”** **August 27, 2008**

- Created curriculum and provided all-day training to domestic violence service providers on the unique legal and advocacy issues facing victims of non-intimate partner sexual assault.

**National South Asian Bar Association Convention  
“Domestic Violence in the South Asian Community”****Chicago, IL  
June 27-28, 2008**

- Planned and participated in a mock trial and panel discussion with judiciary and practitioners on the legal and cultural barriers facing victims of abuse in the South Asian community.

**National Sexual Assault Law Institute  
Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women  
“Sexual Assault Legal Intake and Screening”****New Orleans, LA  
February 12-13, 2008**

- Presented on methods that legal services providers can use to create community-based legal programs to address the civil legal needs of rape victims.

**MEDIA MENTIONS AND CASE PROFILES**

Lolly Bowean, “South suburban woman who sued housing agency gets a new apartment,” *Chicago Tribune* (March 17, 2016), found at: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-public-housing-lawsuit-settled-met-0318-20160317-story.html>

Phil Kadner, “Lawsuit says housing authority punishing crime victim,” *Daily Southtown* (April 30, 2015) found at: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/news/ct-sta-kadner-blakemore-st-0501-20150430-column.html>

Lolly Bowean, “Chicago Heights woman injured in fire sues housing agency,” *Chicago Tribune* (April 28, 2015), found at: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-housing-lawsuit-after-fire-met-0428-20150428-story.html>

Pat Milhizer, “Law student’s case leads to court’s reversal,” *The Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* (June 6, 2011).

Kari Lydersen, “Law Came Too Late for Some Rape Victims,” *The New York Times* (July 8, 2010), found at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/09/us/09cnckits.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

Megan Twohey, “School districts struggle to deal with dating violence among students” *Chicago Tribune* (Jan. 10, 2010), found at: [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2010-01-10/news/1001090238\\_1\\_school-districts-schools-task-force-sexual-assault](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2010-01-10/news/1001090238_1_school-districts-schools-task-force-sexual-assault)

Megan Twohey, “Domestic violence and stalking victims get new legal protections,” *Chicago Tribune* (Jan. 1, 2010), found at: [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2010-01-01/news/0912310766\\_1\\_domestic-violence-victims-of-sexual-assault-stalking](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2010-01-01/news/0912310766_1_domestic-violence-victims-of-sexual-assault-stalking)

Megan Twohey, “2 teens raped as evidence sat,” *Chicago Tribune* (Oct. 18, 2009), found at: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-dna-rape-evidenceoct18-story.html>

Megan Twohey, “Rape test backlog never went away,” *Chicago Tribune* (May 1, 2009), found at: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/watchdog/chi-rapekitbacklog-050109--story.html>

**BAR ADMISSIONS**

Illinois State Bar; Northern District of Illinois (Trial Bar)