

## Jennifer M. Fernandez, Esq.

University of Pennsylvania Law School | 3501 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

### EDUCATION

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- **Juris Doctor, Columbia University School of Law, New York, New York**
  - Honors: Columbia Law School Social Justice Institute Honors for Pro Bono Hours; Frederick Douglass Moot Court; *Soto/Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP Scholarship* (awarded annually to outstanding Columbia Law School students); Postgraduate Social Justice Fellowship.
  - Activities: Lawyering in the Digital Age Clinic, Spring 2012; Columbia Journal of Race and Law- Staff Editor, 2011-2012; Black Law Students Association- Alumni Development Chair, 2011-2012; Columbia High School Law Institute- Instructor, 2010- 2011.
  - Internships: Advocates for Children, 2012; California Appellate Project, 2012; Inwood Academy of Leadership Board of Directors, 2011-2012; Legal Outreach, 2011; Miami-Dade County Public Defender, 2011.
  - Thesis: *“Bridging the Gap; The Disparity in Parental Involvement among Students with Disabilities and its Effect on Educational Success.”*
- **Master of Science in Teaching, Pace University School of Education, New York, New York**
  - Honors: New York City Teaching Fellowship
- **Bachelor of Arts in American Studies, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut**
  - Honors: CORO Fellowship, National Urban League Scholarship, Yale Club of Queens Scholarship
  - Activities: Urban Improvement Corps., Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Dwight Hall Center for Public Service and Social Justice, Performing Arts
  - Thesis: *“Hip-Hop, Hurricane Katrina, and the Future of American Civil Liberties.”*

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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#### Faculty Appointments

- **Clinical Supervisor and Lecturer, Civil Practice Clinic, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia, PA, 2018- Present**
  - Course planning, teaching, supervising and mentoring law students in pro bono representation of low-income clients on legal matters of critical importance, such as housing, consumer, family law, employment, education, civil rights, and civil forfeiture.
  - Assisting clinic students in developing and enhancing core competencies needed for successful lawyering, including client interviewing, case planning, client counseling, fact development, problem solving, legal research and writing, ethical decision-making, negotiation, and trial presentation skills.
- **Adjunct Assistant Professor, Queens College, City University of New York, Department of Sociology, Queens, NY, 2016- 2019**
  - Design and implement curriculum for undergraduate courses. Courses include:
    - *Sociology of Law*, Spring 2018, an examination of the relationship between law and society. Topics include theories of law; the structure and function of the legal system, defining and implementing justice, social change, law and social control, and inequality in our legal system.
    - *Sociological Theory*, Fall 2017, an introduction to sociological theory, critically examining the theories and perspectives of sociologists, including Weber, Marx, Durkheim, and DuBois.
    - *Criminal Justice*, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, an introduction to the United States’ Criminal Justice system, including its history and development, examining prosecutorial discretion, policing, the prison system, juvenile justice, the administration of justice, and bias.

#### Other

- **Special Education Teacher, New York City Department of Education, Queens, New York, 2007- 2010**
  - Taught Math, English, and Social Studies to middle school students with learning disabilities.

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### LEGAL EXPERIENCE

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- **Staff Attorney, Queens Legal Services, Queens, NY, 2016- 2018**
  - Domestic Violence Family Law Advocacy Practice*
    - Provide consultations, representation and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence in custody, visitation, and family offense proceedings in Queens Family Court and in matrimonial matters in New York State Supreme Court- Queens County.
  - Housing Defense Practice*
    - Provide representation and advocacy for tenants in New York City Civil Court- Queens County, New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) administrative hearings; New York City Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) Hearings, and in New York State Supreme Court actions.
    - Draft and filed a variety of motions; court appearances; prepare numerous matters for trial; conduct trials.
    - Conduct trainings and presentations in the community.
- **Assistant Law Clerk to Hon. Lawrence H. Ecker, New York State Supreme Court, White Plains, NY, 2015-2016**
  - Research and draft judicial orders and decisions in matrimonial, foreclosure, and other complex civil matters.
  - Review of applications for mortgage foreclosure, name change, divorce and other motions.
  - Filing of documents; handling communications with lawyers, pro se litigants, and court personnel.
- **Staff Attorney, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, New York, NY, 2013-2015**
  - Promoted from Columbia Law School Postgraduate Social Justice Fellow.
  - Represent tenants in holdover and nonpayment proceedings in New York City Civil Court- Manhattan County, NYCHA, and HPD administrative hearings.
  - Advocacy to restore benefits lost as a consequence of contact with the criminal justice system.
  - Draft and file a variety of motions and prepared matters for trial.
  - Conduct trainings and provide legal advice at tenant association meetings and community events.
  - Provide housing law trainings and materials to criminal defense attorneys; receive criminal defense training.
- **Law Clerk, Kraus & Zuchlewski, LLP, New York, NY, 2012-2013**
  - Legal writing, legal research, direct client services, and office support for midtown employment law firm.

### FELLOWSHIPS

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- **New York City Teaching Fellowship, New York, New York, 2007-2010**
  - One of the country's largest and most selective alternative routes to teacher certification. The program involves training, preparation for the classroom, mentorship with concurrent graduate school enrollment.
- **CORO Fellowship in Public Affairs, St. Louis, Missouri, 2006- 2007**
  - A nationally accredited nine-month, full-time, graduate-level program examining the dynamics of public affairs while building communication, decision-making, team-work, and analytical skills through placements.
  - Worked directly with upper-level management at a private company, state government campaign, government organization, university, and a nonprofit to complete eight high impact projects involving program evaluation, human resources, capacity building, management, design, grant-writing, research, and marketing.

**LANGUAGE SKILLS:** Advanced Spanish, Beginning Portuguese

**LICENSES:** Admitted to practice in New York and Pennsylvania; Notary Public, State of New York

**ACTIVITIES:** New York City Bar Association; Philadelphia Bar Association; Yale Alumni Volunteer