

SONYA CRISTINA GARZA

EDUCATION

STANFORD LAW SCHOOL, J.D., May 2000

Honors: *Stanford Law Review*, Note Editor

Activities: Stanford Latino Law Students Association, Board Member
Women of Stanford Law, Board Member
Stanford Public Interest Law Foundation Auction, Committee Member

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS – AUSTIN, B.A. Government and Sociology, May 1997

Honors: High Honors (magna cum laude)

Phi Beta Kappa

Dean's List (all semesters)

Liberal Arts Honors Program

Junior Fellow in the College of Liberal Arts

Activities: Child Development Intern, University of Texas – Austin Child Care Center
CEDEN Volunteer Prenatal Educator, Americorps
Latino Leadership Opportunity Program, Center for Mexican-American Studies
University of Texas Judicial Service Organization

OXFORD UNIVERSITY, Brasenose College, English Summer Program, England, Summer 1996

EMPLOYMENT

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS, CECIL C. HUMPREYS SCHOOL OF LAW, Memphis, TN

July 2022- present

Courses: Contracts, Family Law, Constitutional Law, Race and the Law, Conflicts of Law

Faculty Advisor: Hispanic Law Students Association, International Law Students Association

Faculty Committees: Admissions

BARRY UNIVERSITY DWAYNE O. ANDREAS SCHOOL OF LAW, Orlando, FL

Assistant Professor of Law

August 2019-June 2022

Courses: Family Law, Constitutional Law, Professional Responsibility, Gender and the Law, Florida

Constitutional Law, Child Protections

Co-Faculty Advisor: Hispanic Law Students Association

Faculty Advisor: Barry Child and Family Law Journal, Family Law Society, Counsel for Children

Faculty Committees: Mission Effectiveness Committee (Chair), Law School Advisory Council, Library and

Technology Committee

Upper-Level Professor of the Year, 2021-2022

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (LEGAL STUDIES), San Marcos, TX

Adjunct Professor

May 2018-May 2019

Taught Legal Research

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ECONOMICS, San Marcos, TX

Adjunct Professor

August 2016-May 2018

Taught the Legal Environment of Business

TRAVIS COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICE, VISITATION SERVICES PROGRAM

Attorney/Friend of the Court/Department Supervisor

May 2015-June 2019

Mediate visitation and custody cases; represent the domestic relations office in motions to enforce and clarify visitation and custody orders; teach seminars and assist the family court services program (guardian ad litem) on legal issues

THE LAW OFFICES OF SONYA C. GARZA, Austin, TX

Solo Practitioner

September 2013-March 2015

Represented clients in divorces, child custody, child support (establishment and enforcement), premarital agreements, and domestic violence matters; appeared as lead counsel (first chair) in hearings and negotiations/settlement conferences; drafted petitions and various additional pleadings

ELON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Greensboro, NC

Assistant Professor of Law

August 2009-July 2013

Primary Courses: Family Law, Constitutional Law I and II, Children and the Law, Gender and the Law

Secondary Courses: Criminal Law, Civil Procedure I

Faculty Advisor: Women's Law Association, Family Law Society

Coach: Child Welfare National Moot Court Competition hosted by Capital University School of Law

Faculty Committees: Admissions Committee, Hiring Committee, Orientation Committee

NEW ENGLAND SCHOOL OF LAW, Boston, MA

Assistant Professor of Law, Associate Professor of Law

August 2005-July 2009

Co-Director, Women and Children's Advocacy Project, The Center for Law and Social Responsibility

Courses: Family Law, Constitutional Law, Child Abuse and Neglect, Women and the Law, Ethics, Family Law Clinic Seminar

Faculty Advisor: Women's Law Caucus, Children's Law Society

Coach: Child Welfare National Moot Court Competition hosted by Capital University School of Law

Faculty Committees: Hiring Committee, Admissions Committee, Centennial Planning Committee, Moot Court Board

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Lubbock, TX

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law

July 2004-July 2005

Interviewed for Visiting Assistant Professorship and offered Assistant Professorship

Operated and supervised students in the Civil Practice Clinic

Acted as lead counsel (first chair) in all supervised cases

Courses: Civil Practice Clinic Seminar, Family Law

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P., Houston, TX

Associate, Family Law Section and Litigation Section

October 2001-January 2004

Participated in document review for large scale litigation; Represented clients in divorce, child custody, paternity, child support (establishment and enforcement), adoption, pre/post marital agreement and domestic violence/protective order matters; appeared as lead counsel (first chair) in pretrial hearings, contested motion hearings, negotiations/settlement conferences, mediations, and trials; drafted legal memoranda, petitions, motions, briefs, and various additional pleadings; trained and certified guardian and attorney ad litem by Children's Friend in Court; trained and certified in collaborative law at the 29th Annual Advanced Family Law Course; represented children as attorney ad litem in custody cases; served as guardian ad litem in custody and abuse/neglect cases;

AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P., Washington, DC and Austin, TX

Associate, Labor and Employment Section and Litigation Section

September 2000-September 2001

Wrote legal memoranda, motions, and briefs on various state and federal labor law and employment law (Title VII, ADA, FMLA) issues; prepared cases for administrative hearings before the National Labor Relations Board; served as assistant counsel during negotiations/settlement conferences in employment law cases

EAST PALO ALTO COMMUNITY LAW PROJECT, East Palo Alto, CA

Student Attorney, Education Clinic

January 2000-May 2000

Represented high school students in discipline and special education cases

PROFESSOR MICHAEL WALD, STANFORD LAW SCHOOL, Stanford, CA

Research Assistant

September 1999-May 2000

Researched and analyzed nationwide child maltreatment and foster care data

AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P., Washington, DC

Summer Associate

May 1999-July 1999

Completed research and drafted pleadings in the areas of labor law and employment law

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P., Houston, TX

Summer Associate

June 1998-August 1998, July 1999-August 1999

Completed research and drafted pleadings in the areas of ERISA, employment law, and family law

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, San Antonio, TX

Intern, Child Support Division

May 1997-August 1997

Interviewed and negotiated with custodial and non-custodial parents on behalf of the State of Texas; drafted agreed orders in paternity cases

OFFICE OF TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE ELLIOT NAISHTAT, Austin, TX

Intern

January 1995-May 1995

Worked with legislative assistants to prepare for committee meetings

PROFESSIONAL HONORS

NATIONAL DATA ARCHIVE FOR CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Research Fellow

May-June 2008

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Common Law Marriage: A Proposal for the Revival of a Dying Doctrine, 40 NEW ENG. L. REV. 2 (2006)

The Troxel Aftermath: A Proposed Solution for State Courts and Legislatures, 69 LA. L. REV. 927 (2009)

Dobbs v. Jackson Health Women's Health: Revisionist History and Constitutional Fallacy 51 CAP. U. L. REV. ____ (forthcoming 2023) (co-author Connor Bishop)

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

Co-Author, *Same-Sex Marriage Measure a Travesty*, GREENSBORO NEWS-RECORD, September 23, 2011 at H1 (with Andy Haile and Michael Rich).

With Sotomayor, Justice is Served, GREENSBORO NEWS-RECORD, August 9, 2009 at H1.

Co-Author, *Perceptions of Favoritism in Constitutional Law*, THE LAW TEACHER, Spring 2009 (with Lawrence Friedman).

Harvard Prof., Ex-SJC Judge Expounds, Opines on Liberty, MASS LAWYERS WEEKLY, March 26, 2007 (reviewing CHARLES FRIED, MODERN LIBERTY (2007)). *Harvard Prof., Former Judge Expounds, Opines on Liberty*, THE DAILY RECORD, March 28, 2007 (reviewing CHARLES FRIED, MODERN LIBERTY (2007)).

Author, *Common Law Marriage in Texas*, THE TEXAS DOCKET, April 2003 at 12.

Co-Author, *What To Do With the NCM Client*, 28th ANNUAL ADVANCED FAMILY LAW COURSE, STATE BAR OF TEXAS (2002).

Co-Author, *Statutory and Common Law Reimbursement*, 28th ANNUAL ADVANCED FAMILY LAW COURSE, STATE BAR OF TEXAS (2002).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

A Cautionary Tale of a Failure to Protect: The USAG Scandal

Revisiting Allen v. Farrow Thirty Years Later: The Power Dynamic in Child Sexual Abuse Allegations

PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

Panelist, "What Next? Reflecting on the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* Decision," Rhodes College (September 2022)

Panelist, "Being Transgender in America," Discussion of ACLU Movie Series, hosted by OUTLaw at Barry University School of Law (April 2021)

Speaker, "Judicial Bypass: Undue Burden or Absolute Ban," American Constitution Society Conference at Barry University School of Law (March 2021)

Panelist, Discussion of "I Am Not Your Negro" for Black History Month, hosted by Caribbean Law Students Association at Barry University School of Law (February 2021)

Panelist, Discussion on the Documentary "13th," hosted by Caribbean Law Students Association at Barry University School of Law (November 2020)

Speaker, "When Is a Parental Right to Care, Custody, and Control Absolute," American Constitution Society Conference at Barry University School of Law (February 2020)

Moderator, "Racial Equality in Law School and the Legal Profession" co-hosted by the Black Law Students Association and the American Civil Liberties Union (student chapter) at Elon University Law School (November 2012)

Panelist, "Action Panel on Marriage Equality" co-hosted by the student chapters of the Law School Democrats, the American Civil Liberties Union (student chapter), the American Constitution Society (student chapter), and OUTlaw at Elon University School of Law (October 11, 2011)

Moderator, "The Obama Administration's Mid-Term Environmental Marks: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly?", Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, Hilton Head, South Carolina (July 2010).

Moderator, "The Past, Present, and Future of State Constitutional Law", Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, West Palm Beach, Florida (July 2010).

Panelist, "The Future of the First Amendment" hosted by the School of Communications at Elon University (September 29, 2009).

Moderator, "Breaking through the Glass Ceiling: Solutions to Women's Attrition in the Legal Profession" co-hosted by the Center of Law and Social Responsibility and the Women's Law Caucus at New England School of Law (March 30, 2009).

Moderator, "Safety Takes a Back Seat: How the Current Immigration Climate Affects Domestic Violence Victims" co-hosted by The Center of Law and Social Responsibility and the student chapter of the National Lawyers Guild at New England School of Law (Thursday, April 3, 2008).

Moderator, "Same Sex Adoption" co-hosted by The Center for Law and Social Responsibility and three New England Law and the student chapters of the National Lawyers Guild chapter, the Children's Law Society, and OUTLaws at New England School of Law (March 27, 2007).

Panelist, "What's at Stake in the Upcoming Supreme Court Term?" hosted by the American Constitution Society, New England School of Law (September 27, 2005).

Speaker, "What To Do With the NCM Client", 28th Annual Advanced Family Law Course, State Bar of Texas Dallas, Texas (August 2002).

BAR ADMISSIONS

Texas

OTHER

working knowledge of Spanish