

Alex Vernon

Windsor, Ontario, Canada
agvernon@gmail.com Tel: (313) 444-9222



For we are sojourners before Thee, and strangers...1 Chronicles 29:15

A competent and compassionate advocate aiming to provide meaningful learning experiences for law students. Committed to social justice and service learning. Striving to integrate scholarship with pedagogy, practice and service in the field of human migration law.

Employment History

Director/Asst. Professor of Law

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, Immigration Law Clinic,
June 2015 to present

- Teaching clinical immigration class
- Supervising clinical students on immigration cases.
- Representing migrants seeking asylum and other humanitarian protection for crime victims, unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable migrants and their families.
- Representing migrants seeking release from detention
- Providing information and representation regarding Canada /US cross border family reunification
- Coordinating outreach to vulnerable immigrant communities
- Coordinating with organizations providing social services to immigrants
- Representing school at recruiting events
- Faculty Advisor, Immigration Club, Hispanic Students Association.
- Committee Member, Diversity, and Mission and Identity

Acting Director/Visiting Asst. Professor of Law

Ave Maria School of Law, Asylum and Immigrant Rights Clinic,
August 2011 to June 2015

- Taught clinic class, Supervised students on immigration cases
- Expanded clinic outreach to underserved community
- Created intercession clinic practicum representing detained migrants
- Served as Interim Director of Alumni Affairs, 2012
- Faculty Advisor, Immigration Club, Black Law Students Association.

Attorney

Siegel, Gross & Tou, P.C., November 2008 to August 2011(now of counsel)

Robert M. Birach, P.C., May 2008 to September 2008

Piston & Carpenter, P.C., August 2005 to May 2008

Specialized in Family Immigration, Removal Proceedings, Asylum/Humanitarian

Relief, SIJS, VAWA, Private Bills and Prosecutorial Discretion requests
Handled H1, J, TN, F-1, B-1, B-2, P-3 and other non-immigrant matters
Argued before Federal District Court, Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals
Member, American Immigration Lawyers Association
Board Member, Strategic Partnership. (pro-se court orientation sessions.)
Volunteer at Most Holy Trinity Legal Clinic, Freedom House
Member, Windsor-Essex Anti-Trafficking Committee

Education

Ave Maria School of Law,

Elected President, Alumni Association, November 2006

Presenter, “U.S./Canada Border and Irregular Crossers”, International Sanctuary Declaration Network delegation to Poland/Belarus border organizations, Podlasie, Poland, September, 2023

Presenter, “Safe Third Country and Irregular Crossers” Midwest People Of Color Conference, Detroit Mercy School of Law, April 22, 2023

Presenter, “Safe Third Country Agreement and Canada border crossings” Presented at Immigrant Advocates Response Collaborative, New York, NY, June 7, 2023

Panelist “Bridges not Fences V”, University of Detroit Mercy, March 1, 2022

Discussion Group Moderator on "The US-Canada border in the age of COVID ", Canadian

“Demandeuse d’asile libérée après 10 semaines de détention aux États-Unis” (Asylum seeker freed after 10 weeks detention in the United States) <http://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1059857/sheila-prevost-detention-plattsburgh-etats-unis-traversee-canada>

“Alex Vernon explains Marriage and Citizenship”, One Detroit Explainer, DPTV, <http://www.dptv.org/blogs/one-detroit/marriage-and-citizenship-a-one-detroit-immigration-explainer/>

“Guest column: Ending the 287(g) Program” by Alex Vernon, Acting Director, Asylum and Immigrant Rights Clinic, Ave Maria School of Law Published on: 12/7/2012, Naples Daily News <http://archive.naplesnews.com/opinion/perspectives/guest-column-ending-the-287g-program-ep-385612087-342315851.html/>

“Ave Maria law clinic aids youths seeking right to stay in U.S. under new program” Victoria Maachi, August 22, 2012, Naples Daily News <http://archive.naplesnews.com/news/education/ave-maria-law-clinic-aids-youths-seeking-right-to-stay-in-us-under-new-program-ep-387797238-342428471.html/>

“Undocumented immigrants allowed to stay in Collier as crime victims, witnesses” Victoria Maachi, November 25, 2012, Naples Daily News <http://archive.naplesnews.com/community/undocumented-immigrants-allowed-to-stay-in-collier-as-crime-victims-witnesses-ep-385768381-331579421.html/>

Research Interests:

Irregular Crossings into Canada and the Safe Third Country Agreement
Coercive Population Control and Asylum Claims

Professional Organizations

American Immigration Lawyers Association
Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers
Canadian Council of Refugees
State Bar Michigan Immigration Law section

Admissions

State Bar of Michigan
Federal Court, E.D. of Michigan
Federal Court, W.D. of Michigan
United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

Community Service

Michigan Immigrant Rights Center- volunteer attorney
Freedom House-volunteer attorney
Justicia for Migrant Workers-volunteer
Detroit Mercy Ad Hoc Sanctuary Committee
S.E. Michigan Catholics for Immigration Justice (Strangers No Longer)
Canada US Cross Border Network founding member
Canada Sanctuary Network Member
International Sanctuary Declaration Network member
Canadian Council for Refugees member
Board member of the Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center
Board member Organización Internacional de Latinos en el Exterior (OILE SW Florida)
Board member of the Deported Asylum Seekers Advocacy Project
Board member, Rehumanize International
Ignatian Solidarity Network/Jesuit Migration Network Advocacy Dimension Member
McAuliffe Park Soccer Club- Coach
Detroit Clark Park Coalition-Hockey/Learn to Skate program
Coach, Riverside Minor Hockey Association

Languages

French, fluent
Spanish, reading and listening
Jamaican Creole, speaking and listening