ALMA MAGAÑA

55 Fifth Ave., Room 1116, New York, NY 10003 ● alma.magana@yu.edu

Academic Appointments

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law   New York, NY
Harold A Stevens Visiting Assistant Professor of Law   2021-present
- Courses: Evidence (Spring/Fall 2022), Criminal Law (Spring 2023)

Scholarship

Public Defenders as Gatekeepers of Freedom (Forthcoming UCLA Law Review 2023)

Education

Penn. State University, Dickinson School of Law   Carlisle, PA
Juris Doctor, 2007
Activities: Miller Center Public Interest Advocate; President, LLSA;
            Vice President, Public Interest Law Fund; Inmate Assistance Clinic

Furman University   Greenville, SC
Bachelor of Arts in Politics, Spanish, and Latin American Studies, 2004

Professional Experience

The Legal Aid Society   New York, NY
Staff Attorney, Special Litigation Unit – Decarceration Project   June 2018 – December 2020
- Developed and implemented strategies for challenging bail determinations in an effort to eliminate unconstitutional pre-trial detention, including through bail applications, bail packages, bail reviews, referrals to alternatives to detention, filing of bail writs, appeals, and motions for interim relief, and instructing attorneys on such strategies.
- Worked with social workers to develop bail packages by finding programming and presenting diagnoses and treatment plans.
- Supervised students from Cardozo Criminal Defense Clinic working on Decarceration Project assignments.

Staff Attorney (Felony-Certified), Criminal Defense Practice   2010-2015, 2017-2018
- Represented over 2,200 indigent clients from arraignment to resolution, including hearings and trials.
- Investigated cases, represented clients at proffer sessions and collateral proceedings, and strategized to provide holistic advocacy.
- Negotiated with prosecutors and judges to obtain favorable plea bargains and sentences.
- Worked with social workers and other Legal Aid staff members to ensure legal and non-legal client needs were met to the highest extent practicable.

Criminal Immigration Specialist (1 yr. rotation), Immigration Law Unit June 2015-August 2016
- Provided legal counsel to attorneys and non-citizen clients on the potential immigration consequences of their criminal cases.

Staff Attorney, Parole Revocation Defense Unit Sept. 2007-Oct. 2010
- Represented over 1,200 indigent clients from arraignment to resolution.
- Advocated for clients in contested hearings, including witness examination, presentation of evidence, and negotiation of mutually-favorable dispositions.
- Worked with other staff members to secure access to alternative-to-incarceration programs and services.

Leonard Weinglass, Esq. New York, NY
Volunteer Research Assistant Spring 2007

Friends of Farmworkers Philadelphia, PA
Legal Intern, MLK Summer Intern Grant Recipient Summer 2006

Defender Corporation Greenville, SC
Cherie T. Millage Public Interest Law Fund Fellow Summer 2005

South Carolina Center for Equal Justice Greenville, SC
Legal Intern Summer-Fall 2004

Selected Lectures and Presentations

Invited Presenter, *Public Defenders as Gatekeepers of Freedom, Forthcoming UCLA Law Review 2023*, Case Western Reserve School of Law, April 2022

Presenter, *Public Defenders as Gatekeepers of Freedom, A Work-in-Progress*, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Junior Faculty Workshop, February 2022

Presenter, *Public Defenders as Gatekeepers of Freedom, A Work-in-Progress*, Latina Scholars Workshop, February 2022

Presenter, *Unlikely Gatekeepers of Freedom, A Work-in-Progress,* LATCRIT, October 2021

Presenter, *Unlikely Gatekeepers of Freedom, A Work-in-Progress,* Junior Faculty Forum at University of Richmond Law School, October 2021

Presenter, *Unlikely Gatekeepers of Freedom, A Work-in-Progress,* CrimFest, July 2021

Presenter, *Unlikely Gatekeepers of Freedom, A Work-in-Progress,* Decarceration Law Profs Workshop, July 2021

Presenter, *Unlikely Gatekeepers of Freedom, A Work-in-Progress,* CrimWIP, July 2021

Admissions

State Bar of New York, Admitted 2008