

# New Abolitionism

Ending Civil Immigration Detention and Criminalization—  
Policy, History, and Legal Strategies

February 26 and 27, 2021  
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



The Western New England Law Review  
is pleased to present the Symposium:

# New Abolitionism: Ending Civil Immigration Detention and Criminalization—Policy, History, and Legal Strategies

**This virtual Symposium will explore various arguments that challenge the systemic use of civil detention of migrants and asylum seekers entering the United States**

The WNE Law Review would like to acknowledge the generous support of the Western New England University School of Law administration and staff. We would like to thank Dean Sudha Setty, Director of the Center for Social Justice Ariel Clemmer, Professor Harris Freeman, Professor Lauren Carasik, Admissions Office Manager Marcella Haynes, the Members of Volume 43, and the Law Review Advisory Committee for their assistance in planning this event. The WNE Law Review also extends its gratitude to the Western New England Marketing Department for materializing our vision for this event.

Most importantly, the WNE Law Review is grateful for all panelists and speakers who have generously contributed to our program and made a difference toward the goal of ending immigration detention and criminalization.

# SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

10:00 a.m.

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Panel One:

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10:20 a.m.

A C

10:40 a.m.

A F

11:00 a.m.

A C D  
C B O

11:20 a.m.

&A B

Keynote Speaker at 12:00 noon

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

**10:00 a.m.**

A C C C

**Panel Two:**

O

**10:10 a.m.**

E D O

**10:30 a.m.**

E C A C

**10:50 a.m.**

# Keynote Speakers

## **César Cuauhtémoc García Hernández**

César Cuauhtémoc García Hernández is a professor of law at the

**Eloa Celedon**

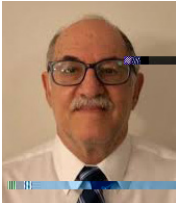


## Shannon Johnson



Shannon Johnson is the Managing Attorney at Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project. Attorney Johnson represents asylum seekers detained in Arizona. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Global Studies from Providence College and her Juris Doctor from Boston College Law School. Prior to law school, she worked as an advocate for domestic violence survivors at the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice. After law school, she was a public service fellow in Worcester, Massachusetts, working with adolescent youth and young adults in their family law and immigration matters. Currently, she provides representation to detained asylum seekers and people who fear return to their countries of origin. Attorney Johnson focuses on bond representation and representation at merits hearing for individuals applying for asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention against Torture. She aspires to find strategies to make asylum law more just and more clearly protective of vulnerable populations who fear harm based on their gender, sexual orientation, race, socio-economic status, personal convictions, and individuals historically prevented from seeking protection and safety.

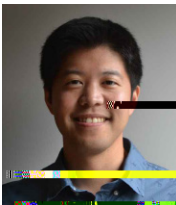
## Harvey Kaplan



Harvey Kaplan is an Immigration Attorney and Professor Emeritus at Northeastern University School of Law. Attorney Kaplan received his undergraduate degree from Clark University and his Juris Doctor from Boston University. He was an immigration practitioner for over 35 years and the founding member of the immigration law firm Kaplan, O'Sullivan & Friedman. He specialized in immigration appellate work in federal court. He has been the recipient of numerous national awards.

Most recently, he received the 2018 Humanitarian Rights Award from the Open Avenues Foundation. Attorney Kaplan taught an immigration law course at Northeastern University School of Law for 25 years. After retiring from private practice in 2014, he began volunteering in the immigration law unit of Greater Boston Legal Services. As an Access to Justice Fellow, Attorney Kaplan continues to volunteer work with Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS).

## Sangyeob Kim



SangYeob Kim is an immigration staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of New Hampshire (ACLU-NH). Attorney Kim earned his Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from George Washington University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law. For the ACLU-NH, Attorney Kim runs the New Hampshire Immigrants' Rights Project, which is committed to providing legal services for bond representation and federal litigation, as well as Know Your Rights training for concerned communities. Prior to joining the ACLU,

Attorney Kim gained extensive experience in detention and removal defense in New Jersey and New Hampshire, providing pro bono consultation and legal representation to detained immigrants.

## Ravi Ragbir



Ravi Ragbir is the Executive Director of the New Sanctuary Coalition (NSC) in New York, one of the largest coalitions in the city focused on immigrant rights. Through his own struggle to remain in the U.S., Ragbir became active in supporting other immigrants who were facing similar challenges. Today, Ragbir is a nationally recognized leader in the immigrant rights movement. Ragbir is a community educator, spokesperson, and advocate for immigrants. When Ragbir was released from immigration custody, he immediately volunteered with Families for Freedom, a network

of immigrants facing and fighting deportation. He went on to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors for the organization. He has trained other advocates, allies, community organizers, and elected officials about immigration issues and how to reform the deportation system. He has met with members of Congress and administration officials, and has testified in front of the New York City Council to discuss detention and deportation policy.

## Ghita Schwarz



Ghita Schwarz is a Senior Staff Attorney at Center for Constitutional Rights and author of *Displaced Persons*. Attorney Schwarz received her undergraduate degree from Harvard College and her Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School. Attorney Schwarz works on racial justice, immigrants' rights, and government misconduct and transparency. She worked at LatinoJustice PRLDEF, the Door Legal Services Center, and Legal Services for New York City prior to the Center for Constitutional Rights. Her recent writing includes "Why New York is Still the Capital of Immigrant America," published in *The Nation*, and she has appeared on NY1, NY1 Noticias, Univision, Telemundo, CUNY TV's Ronnie Eldridge & Co, and numerous radio programs. Her past work includes

*Aguilar v. ICE*, fighting ICE's practice of warrantless home raids, and *NDLON v. ICE*, challenging government secrecy regarding DHS' Secure Communities program. Some of her current cases include the challenge to the Trump administration's public charge rule, *Make the Road New York v. Cuccinelli*; the Freedom of Information Act cases *Detention Watch Network v. ICE* and *Immigrant Defense Project v. ICE*, seeking government transparency about controversial immigration detention and enforcement practices.

## Ragini Shah



Ragini Shah is an Immigration Clinical Professor of Law at Suffolk Law University. Professor Shah received her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and her Juris Doctor from Northeastern University School of Law. Professor Shah also teaches Immigration Law and has supervised a number of students conducting internships with law offices working on immigration issues. Her scholarship examines the effectiveness of enforcement in the immigration context focusing on rights for undocumented youth, and the connections between international trade and migration. In

2012, she was granted a Fulbright award to deepen her research into these connections and from 2012-2013 conducted over 70 interviews with former migrants and their families in Mexico. In 2017, Professor Shah returned to Mexico to examine the impact of the Trump administration's heightened border enforcement measures on unauthorized migrants' decision making. This research, combined with the research from 2012-2013, will be featured in a forthcoming book on unauthorized migration. She has published two law review articles: "No Matter What: The Inevitability of Mexico-U.S. Migration and Its Lessons for Border Control Strategies" and "Sharing the American Dream: Towards Formalizing the Status of Long-Term Resident Undocumented Children in the United States."





