RACHEL ELIZABETH LOPEZ

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITE PARIS 1, PANTHEON-SORBONNE, Paris, France

LL.M., French and European Law (dual degree with J.D.), May 2008

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, SCHOOL OF LAW, Austin, TX

J.D., May 2008

Honors: Dean's Achievement Award for highest grade in international human rights course; Public Interest Graduate Award; Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) Scholarship; Presidential Scholarship; Human Rights Scholar.

Activities: President of Human Rights Law Society; Assisted in the representation of detainees held indefinitely at Guantanamo Bay and two prisoners on death row through legal clinics.

UNIVERSIDAD RAFAEL LANDÍVAR, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, December 2004 - August 2005

Completed coursework in international and human rights law; researched indigenous land rights.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, Evanston, IL

B.A., June 2003

Majors: Political Science, International Studies, & Sociology

Honors/Activities: Leadership & Achievement Award; Student Body President, Associated Student Government; Executive Board of Alianza.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF LAW, Newark, NJ

Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor & Center for Constitutional Rights Cooperating Attorney
August 2012 – present

Supervise law students in a five credit, semester long clinic focused on cases from the international human rights docket of the Center for Constitutional Rights, including litigation involving FOIA and the Alien Tort Statute and litigation before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Clinical Teaching Fellow, August 2010 – July 2012

Co-taught in the Immigrants' Rights/International Human Rights Clinic and the Equal Justice Clinic, including creating curricula for seminars; supervising law students, research assistants, and paralegals on immigration, civil rights, human rights, death penalty, and family law cases; developing case theories and litigation strategy with co-counsel; drafting motions, briefs, affidavits, and legal memoranda; directing correspondence with judges, opposing counsel, and clients; engaging in fact-finding and authoring human rights reports; selecting and preparing expert witnesses; and mentoring law students.

Highlights:

- Established the Guatemala Rule of Law Program
- Led a delegation of students and faculty on a fact-finding mission to Haiti
- Obtained a U-visa for a Peruvian woman who was sexually assaulted by her doctor
- Served as lead counsel for a woman seeking custody of her children, including arguing a motion before the Family Law Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey
- Managed client relations and document review during negotiation of a comprehensive settlement agreement in a lawsuit challenging unconstitutional prison conditions
- Served as one of lead attorneys seeking state post-conviction relief in a death penalty case in Alabama

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS, Istanbul, Turkey

Instructor, July 2012

Taught a week long, intensive course on human rights to undergraduate students from Eastern Europe who received scholarships to study in the United States.

NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT, Santa Fe, NM

Law Clerk, September 2009 – August 2010

Drafted decisions, opinions, and bench memoranda in civil and criminal cases; researched legal issues involving sovereign immunity, the death penalty, and the Confrontation Clause.

OPEN SOCIETY JUSTICE INITIATIVE, New York, NY

CITIZEN GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES, Yaoundé, Cameroon

University of Texas/Helton Fellow, September 2008 – August 2009

Researched legal issues and completed extensive fact-finding for prospective RICO case; conducted field research in all regions of Cameroon; interviewed Cameroonian government officials, local advocates, hospital and school administrators, and citizens about access to information; co-wrote report on freedom of information and extractive industries; and attended the 46th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

WINSTON & STRAWN LLP, Paris, France

Avocate Stagiaire (equivalent of summer associate), April – August 2008

Worked with the arbitration, corporate, and environmental departments; drafted legal memoranda on environmental law in the European Union; and drafted letters to shareholders (work primarily conducted in French).

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA, United Nations, Arusha, Tanzania *Legal Intern*, May – August 2007

Researched joint criminal enterprise and the prosecution of rape as a violation of international criminal law; edited closing brief for prosecution team; and participated in fact-finding mission to Rwanda.

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, Washington, DC

Rapoport Summer Fellow, May – July 2006

Worked with the Office of the Rapporteurship on Indigenous Peoples; evaluated petitions alleging human rights violations and requests for precautionary measures; and wrote admissibility report (work primarily conducted in Spanish).

CONGRESSIONAL HUNGER CENTER, Los Angeles, CA and Washington, DC

Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow, August 2003 – August 2004

Field placement: Interviewed low income individuals in Los Angeles County; authored report on strategies and reforms to improve participation in the food stamp program; presented findings at local and national antihunger conferences; conducted trainings with civil servants.

Policy placement: Wrote report on development of the native arts economy; managed grant-making for a million dollars in rural entrepreneurship development funded by the Ford Foundation.

MEDIA APPEARANCE

Television Interview, Ebru Today, discussing the United States Supreme Court's decision on the Arizona immigration law, June 27, 2012, available at http://news.ebru.tv/en/search/arizona-immigration-laws.

PRESENTATIONS

Guest Lecturer, Advancing Human Rights in Haiti: Utilizing Regional and International Mechanisms, L'École Supériure Catholique de Droit de Jérémie, Haiti (March 7, 2012).

Speaker, Getting Away with Murder: The False Choice between Peace and Justice in Post-Conflict Society, Violence, Memory, and Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Conference, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida (January 30, 2012).

Guest Lecturer, *The Human Rights of Child Soldiers during Armed Conflict: The Case of Omar Khadr*, Teachers College, Columbia University (May 31, 2011).

PUBLICATIONS

Remembering What We Want to Forget: The (Re)collection of Memory After Mass Murder and the Dilemma for Transitional Justice (book chapter), in SERIES ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE (Stephan Parmentier et al. eds., Intersentia Publishers, forthcoming 2013).

Detained in Destitution: A Report on Prison Conditions in Jérémie, Haiti, Center for Social Justice and Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (forthcoming 2012).

Discharge, Deportation, and Dangerous Journeys: A Study on the Practice of Medical Repatriation, Center for Social Justice and New York Lawyers in the Public Interest (forthcoming 2012) (with Professor Lori Nessel and Seton Hall law students)

The Right of Access to Information and Administrative Transparency in Cameroon, Citizen Governance Initiatives, 2010, available at

http://www.citizens-governance.org/IMG/pdf/Right_Access_Info_Admin_Transparency_CMR.pdf.

Editor, Unfulfilled Promises and Persistent Obstacles to the Realization of the Rights of Afro-Colombians, Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice, University of Texas School of Law, July 2007, available at http://www.utexas.edu/law/centers/humanrights/projects and publications/colombia-report.pdf.

Serving Up Solutions, California Food Policy Advocates and United States Department of Agriculture, February 2004, available at http://www.myfoodstamps.org/pdf files/ServingUp.pdf.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Getting Away with Murder: The False Choice between Peace and Justice in Post-Conflict Society"

"The Right to Work for Asylum Seekers" (with Professor Lori Nessel and Seton Hall law students in conjunction with Human Rights Watch)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Fluent in written and spoken Spanish and French

BAR ADMISSION

Admitted to State Bar of New York