



## **2025 ASYLUM CONFERENCE AGENDA**

**FEBRUARY 6 AND 7, 2025**

Co-hosted by: Immigrant ARC, NYLS, and the Immigration Section of the Federal Bar Association



# **NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL**



**Federal Bar  
Association**

Immigration Law Section

## Full Description of Panels and Speakers

### Asylum Conference Feb 6-7, 2025 New York Law School

Location: the New York Law School - 185 W Broadway, New York, NY 10013. Enter at the corner of Leonard and West Broadway  
Co-sponsored by Immigrant ARC, New York Law School, and the Immigration Section of the Federal Bar Association

### DAY ONE: Thursday, February 6, 2025 -Afternoon, Interdisciplinary Conversations-- No Cost, No CLE

**1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.** Classroom W 420 Professors Lenni Benson (NYLS) and Decio Coviello (HEC Montreal) present their research on “Observers in Master Calendar Immigration Hearings.” In person and via zoom.

**2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.** Classroom W 420 Professors Anna Law (CUNY Brooklyn College) and Karen Musalo (UCSF Law School, discussing their published article “With Fear, Favor, And Flawed Analysis: Decision-Making In U.S. Immigration Courts” Boston College Law Review (2024) available at <https://bclawreview.bc.edu/articles/3171/files/67461abe8771c.pdf> Via zoom and in person.

**4:00 to 5:30 p.m.** Classroom W 402 Journalist and Researcher Monica Codero and a panel of journalists in Mexico and Latin America on Migration Policy in their country and what they are reporting. In person and via zoom.

## **EVENING 5:45 to 7 p.m. reception 7 to 8:30 Presentation and Discussion**

### Thursday, February 6, 2025 - Reception and Panel with Jonathan Blitzer

Examining the past U.S. relationship with the Northern Triangle of Central America and patterns of migration. Mr. Blitzer is a writer with *The New Yorker* and the author of *Everyone Who is Gone, Is Here* (Penguin Press 2024). *The New York Times* names this book in the top ten notable books of 2024. <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/625425/everyone-who-is-gone-is-here-by-jonathan-blitzer/>

#### **A Discussion with Jonathan Blitzer**

**Introduction: Professor Lenni Benson, Distinguish Chair of Immigration and Human Rights Law at NYLS**

**Interviewer: Heather Axford, Executive Director Central American Legal Assistance and Adjunct Professor NYLS**

#### **Tickets**

Students: Free but registration required

Reception and talk: \$75.00

Ticket with book purchase \$100 There is no CLE for this event. Webinar Tickets will be available. See **registration** at end.

## DAY TWO

**Friday, February 7, 2025**  
**Classrooms at NYLS—Webinar option available**

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Lunch and Afternoon tea break included	Track 1: Beginners			Track 2: Advanced			
	Session	Title	Moderator	Panelist	Title	Moderator	Panelist
	<b>Session 1 (9:00-10:30)</b>	Who is a Refugee? The Asylum Basics	Judge Lori Adams, invited	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cynthia Katz, HIAS</li> <li>2. Marian Negron-Quiones, Safe Passage Project</li> <li>3. Lauren Wyatt, Catholic Charities NYC</li> </ol>	Preserving the record for judicial review – aka surviving the next 4 years	Heather Axford	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kohsei Ugumori, OIL</li> <li>2. Michelle Méndez (National Immigration Project)</li> </ol>
<b>Break 1 (10:30-10:50)</b>							
	<b>Session 2 (10:50-12:20)</b>	Meeting the standard of proof - what kind of evidence is required? ( <i>trial skills credits</i> )	Alexander Holtzman, Hofstra Law School	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Susan Roy, former IJ and private practice</li> <li>2. Lori Nessel, Seton Hall</li> </ol>	Special Litigation Issues—Mandamus, Constitutional Challenges, Habeas	Paige Austin, Make the Road NY (invited)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Linda Evarts, IRAP</li> <li>2. Possible OIL attorney</li> </ol>
	<b>Session 3 (12:30-1:30)</b>	Understanding withholding of removal and the convention against torture	Whitney Braunstein, IJC	Rachel Jordan, Safe Passage Project Amelia Wilson, PACE Law School	The borders and barriers to asylum: Expedited Removal, In absentia, motions to reopen. Pursuing relief after more procedural barriers.	Lenni Benson, NYLS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jodi Ziesemer, NYLAG</li> <li>2. Trina Realmuto, National Immigration Litigation Alliance</li> </ol>

<p>LUNCH-- Box Lunch provided  Management from the Newark and New York Asylum Officers invited. Camille Macker, Immigrant ARC and Laura Rion, Church World Service moderating  Optional: For nongovernmental attendees, Trina Realmuto will lead a discussion of current and possible litigation issues (location will be announced)</p>						
<b>Session 4 (2:45-4:15)</b>	The nexus requirements - how to prove the prosecution is “on account of a protected ground”	Rex Chen, Legal Services Corp. NYC	1. Claire Thomas, NYLS 2. Lauren Anselowitz, Private Practice	Making a record for particular social group - strategies and alternatives	Alexandra Rizio, Safe Passage Project	1. Dree Collopy, AILA Asylum Primer 2. Rebecca Press, Co-Counsel NY 3. Karen Musalo, CRGS and UCSF Law School
<p><b>Tea break (4:15-4:50)</b>  - Panelist Q&amp;A and follow up questions  - We will ask all panelists to attend the tea break so that people can ask them questions—we will use classrooms and hallways (not recorded)</p>						
<b>Session 5 (4:50-6:00)</b>	Demonstrations of direct examinations and cross-examinations of victim of gender-based violence ( <i>trial skills credits</i> )	Raissa Cohen, Retired IJ, former OPLA, now private practice	1. Paul O’Dwyer 2. Susan Henner	Circumvention of lawful pathways bars, third country and firm resettlement the experience so far.	Desireé Hernández Sánchez; Catholic Charities	1. Deborah Lee, Sayoni Maite (LegalAid) 2. Victoria Nielson, (National Immigration Project)

6:00 p.m. End and Closing Remarks. Reminders about CLE compliance.

**Tickets DAY TWO**

Full price: \$400 Federal Bar Member: \$350

Students: \$35

Non- Lawyer for Accredited Rep. credit: \$100

Non-profit or government attorney: \$250

*NYLS has a CLE Scholarship policy, please review and make requests by going to this [NYLS page](#)*

Speakers and Staff of Event: no charge

Webinar costs are \$35 dollars reduced as no food is provided.

**REGISTRATION LINK NEXT PAGE**

To Register:

<https://secure.givelively.org/event/immigrant-advocates-response-collaborative-inc/2025-annual-asylum-and-immigration-conference>