

# Sarah J.S. Purce

---

## EDUCATION

### **American University, Washington College of Law**

Washington, DC

Juris Doctor, May 2009, *Cum Laude*

Law Journal: American University International Law Review, *Editorial Board*

Activities: Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity, *Executive Board*  
Black Law Students Association, *Vice President*

### **Western Washington University**

Bellingham, WA

Bachelor of Arts Psychology, June 2003; Minor in Spanish

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **PCC CLEAR Immigration Clinic**

Portland, OR

*Managing Attorney*, February 2023 – August 2023

Organize and manage the deportation defense clinic's work and staff. Provide supervised educational experiences to law student interns, and student paralegals. Supervise full-time staff and contract attorneys. Create policies and procedures, training materials, and effective workflows for the office. Provide deportation defense services to low-income immigrants by managing a large caseload, and filing of applications for defensive and affirmative Asylum, U-Visa certifications, work authorizations, FOIA requests and other immigration relief.

### **Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services**

Portland, OR

*Assistant Director/Rural Program Coordinator*, June 2019 – January 2023

In addition to Lead Attorney and Rural Program Coordinator duties below, participate in overall CCILS program management including analysis, development, and implementation efforts for broader legal services, including investigation of need, gaps in service, and potential funding sources for new and current services; development of policies and procedures focusing on clear expectations, training, and compliance. Member of Senior Management Team, working to improve program integration, and service to clients agencywide. Lead the implementation of proactive diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives supporting the agency's Equity & Inclusion plan.

*Lead Attorney/Rural Program Coordinator*, June 2012 – June 2019

In addition to Staff Attorney duties below, coordinate, plan, and implement grant activities for the Rural/VAWA Program funded by the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. Manage the grant budget, supervise Rural/VAWA Program staff including attorneys, accredited representatives, legal assistants, attorney volunteers, and interns. Conduct statewide outreach including service provider /law enforcement training and community education events in Spanish and English. Chair of the Oregon DOJ's Immigrant Crime Victims' Rights subcommittee, member of the Oregon Foreign-Born Human Trafficking Task Force, and agency AILA liaison.

*Immigration Staff Attorney*, January 2012 – June 2012

Provide direct legal representation to low-income immigrants, primarily rural victims of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. Responsible for client consultations, interviews, managing a large complex caseload, and filing of applications for U-Visas, T-Visas, VAWA self-petitions, AOS, DACA, and Family Petitions.

**Seifert Law Offices**

Olympia, WA

*Contract Attorney, September 2009 – January 2012*

Assisted in representation on a broad range of immigration issues including cancellation of removal, asylum, VAWA and U- Visa cases. Conducted client interviews, managed a caseload, performed detention center visits, bond hearings, master calendar hearings, and conducted legal research and writing.

**International Human Rights Law Clinic**

Washington, DC

*Student Attorney, August 2008 – May 2009*

Provided representation on a broad range of cases involving immigration in the DC area. Co-counsel on a successful trafficking visa application with law enforcement certification from the FBI. Worked in detention centers through CAIR Coalition in the Legal Orientation Program (LOP), as well as on indefinite detention and naturalization cases. Client interviewing, client counseling, case management, legal research and writing.

**RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, AND TRAININGS/CLEs**

Immigration P.L.A.N. Conference CLE Presenter - Affirmative Applications; Forms Practice, March 2023

National Alliance of Victims' Rights Attorneys and Advocates (NAVRA) CLE – Challenges for Immigrant

Victims Navigating the Criminal Justice System, December 2022

25<sup>th</sup> Annual Opportunities for Law in Oregon Employment Retreat – Interviewing Skills for 1L's; Mock Interviews, January 2022

Semi-annual U Visa Training CLEs for Pro Bono attorneys, 2012-2022

Training rural Domestic Violence Service Providers, Police, Sheriffs, and DA's Office staff – Immigration Relief for Survivors of Crime and Abuse, Multiple per year, 2012-2022

American Immigration Lawyers Association, NW Regional Conference – U Hot Topics, 2020

American Immigration Lawyers Association, NW Regional Conference - U, T, and VAWA Cases: Emerging Issues in a Changing Landscape, February 2019

Annual Opportunities for Law in Oregon (OLIO) Employment Retreat – Mock Interviews, August 2018

American Immigration Lawyers Association Oregon CLEs - Advanced U Visa Issues, September 2017

American Immigration Lawyers Association Oregon CLEs - Traveling with the U Visa: Tips, Tricks, and Troubles, February 2016

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Bar Membership: Admitted to the Washington State Bar (#41979), Admitted to the Oregon State Bar (#180604).

Language: Advanced written and oral Spanish (90%+ of representation exclusively in Spanish).

**Boards and****Committees:**

American Immigration Lawyers Association, Oregon Chapter, *Chair 2023-24, Chair-Elect 2022-23, Secretary 2021-22, Treasurer 2019-20*

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Oregon, *Co-President 2022-2024*

Oregon Attorney General's Taskforce on Victims' Rights Enforcement, Immigrant Crime Victims' Rights Subcommittee, *Chair 2018-Present*

Oregon Department of Justice, Labor Trafficking Taskforce, *Member 2021-Present*