




KARLA M. MCKANDERS


Vanderbilt Law School
131 21st Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37203

615-322-3092 

karla.mckanders@vanderbilt.edu 

law.vanderbilt.edu/bio/karla-mckanders 

ssrn.com/author=1265396 

@KarlaMckanders 

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2017 – present Vanderbilt University Law School
Clinical Professor of Law, [Director of the Immigration Practice Clinic](#)
- 2016 – 2017 Howard University School of Law
Visiting Professor, Civil Rights Clinic
- 2008 – 2017 University of Tennessee, College of Law
Associate Professor of Law (tenured)
- 2011 – 2012 University of Mohamed V-Souissi
Fulbright Lecturer, Rabat, Morocco
- 2006 – 2008 Villanova University School of Law
Reuschlein Clinical Teaching Fellow

EDUCATION

- 2003 Duke University School of Law, J.D.
- Expected 2021 Vanderbilt Divinity School
Masters in Theological Studies
Concentration Spirituality & Social Activism
- 2000 Spelman College, B.A.
Major: Political Science, Minor: French, *Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude, Academic Dean's Scholar, 1998- 2000*

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- 2005 – 2006 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
Senior Law Clerk, The Honorable Damon J. Keith
- 2003 – 2005 Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC, Detroit, MI
Associate, Labor and Employment Practice Group

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Volumes & Book Chapters

Karla McKanders, ed., [Arabs at Home and in the World: Human Rights, Gender Politics, and Identity](#), (Routledge Press 2019)
Chapter 7 - Gender, Islamophobia and Refugee Exceptionalism.

Karla McKanders, [Morocco at the Crossroads the Intersection of Race, Gender, and Refugee Status](#) in Morocco in Women and Social Change in North Africa: What Counts as Revolutionary? (Doris Gray and Nadia Sonneveld, eds.) (Cambridge University Press 2017)

Karla McKanders, [Compassionate Migration and Regional Policy in the Americas](#), Chapter 2 The Subnational Response: Local Intervention in Immigration Policy and Enforcement (Palgrave Macmillan 2017)

Raquel Aldana, Beth Lyon, Karla McKanders, & Won Kidane, [Global Issues in Immigration Law](#), Chapters on: France, Freedom of Movement & Living Conditions of Immigrants (Franklin A. Gevurt, Ed., Thomson-West Publishing 2013)

Articles

[Immigration to Blue Cities in Red States: The Battleground Between Sanctuary and Exclusion](#)

21 JOUR.CON.LAW 1051 (2019)

[Refugee Reception and Perception: U.S. Detention Camps and German Welcome Centers](#), (with Valeria E. Gomez)

40 FORD.L.JOUR. 523 (2017)

[America's Disposable Youth: Undocumented Delinquent Juveniles](#)

59 HOWARD.L.REV. 101 (2016)

[Anatomy of an Uprising: Women, Democracy, and the Moroccan Feminist Spring](#)

32 BOSTON UNIV. INTERN'TL JOUR. 151 (2013)

Invited Symposium, [Federal Preemption and Immigrant's Rights](#)

3:2 WAKE FOREST J. LAW & POLICY 333 (2013)

PUBLICATIONS CONT.

[Immigration Enforcement and the Fugitive Slave Acts: Exploring their Similarities](#)

61.4 CATH.L.REV. 1 (fall 2012); Reprinted in IMMIGRATION NATIONALITY LAW REV. (2013)

[Raising the Bar: Law Schools and Legal Institutions Leading to Education Undocumented Lawyers](#) (Raquel Aldana and Beth Lyon)

44 ARIZONA STATE L.J. 5 (2012)

Invited Symposium: [Unforgiving of Those Who Trespass Against U.S.: State Laws Criminalizing Immigration Status](#)

12 LOY. J. PUB. INT. L 331 (Spring 2011); Reprinted in IMMIGRATION NATIONALITY LAW REV. (2013)

[Unspoken Voice of Indigenous Women in Immigration Raids](#)

14 J. GENDER RACE & JUST. 1 (fall 2010)

[Class Based Coalition Building During the “Post-Racial” Era](#)

29 ST. LOUIS U. PUB. L. REV. 473 (2010)

[Sustaining Tiered Personhood: Jim Crow and Anti-Immigrant Laws](#)

26 HARV. J. RAC. & ETH. JUS. 163 (2010)

[Clinical Legal Education at a Generational Crossroads: Shades of Gray](#)

17.1 CLINICAL L. REV. 1001 (Fall 2010)

[The Constitutionality of State and Local Laws Targeting Immigrants](#)

31.4 U.ARK. LITTLE ROCK L.J. 579 (2009)

[Welcome to Hazleton! \(“Illegal” Immigrants Beware\): Local Employment Immigration Ordinances and What the Federal Government Must Do About It](#)

39 LOY.U.CHI.L.J. 1 (2007)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

From Shackles to Ankle Monitors: the Invisibility of the Non - American Black Immigrant (forthcoming 2020)

LEGAL COMMENTARY

[The Supreme Court and refugees at the southern border: 5 questions answered](#), The Conversation, October 7, 2019.

[Immigration and Blackness](#), 44 American Bar Association Human Rights Magazine 20 (2019).

[Non-Discrimination Trumps Executive Order](#), JURIST - Academic Commentary, February 10, 2017.

[Responding to the Refugee Crisis, Can Lawyers' Help?](#), JURIST - Academic Commentary, Oct. 1, 2015.

[1967 Refugee Convention: Moral Aspiration or Legal Obligation?](#), JURIST - Academic Commentary, September 28, 2015.

AWARDS

Spring 2019	American Immigration Lawyers Association, MidSouth Region, Pro Bono Champion
Dec. 2018	Vanderbilt University Global Research & Engagement Micro-Grant, Supervised Students on Service Learning Trip to Mexico Border
April 2018	Scholar in Residence at Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco
2015 – 2016	AmeriCorps Equal Justice Works Grant
May 2014	University of Tennessee, Chancellor's Honor, Jefferson Prize
May 2013	Bass, Berry & Sims Award for Outstanding Service to the Bench and Bar
May 2013	Gardener of Change Award, Community Shares of Knoxville, Social Justice Educator Award

PRESENTATIONS

- Sept. 2019 *Constitution Day Speaker*, University of Virginia, Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy
- May 2019 *Guest Lecturer, Public Theology and Racial Justice Collaborative Summer Institute on Sustaining Tiered Personhood: Jim Crow and Anti – Immigration Laws*, Vanderbilt Divinity School
- March 2019 *Expanding Impact: Leveraging a Duke Degree to Serve the Nations*, Duke University Alumnae Association, Nashville, TN
- March 2019 *Rethinking Refugee Protection: Legal Strategies for Marginalized Communities*, National People of Color Conference, Washington, DC
- March 2019 *Stand Against Racism 2019 Lunch and Learn Immigration*, Panelist, YWCA Nashville & Middle Tennessee
- Jan. 2019 *The Resurgence of Racism in the Age of “Making America Great Again:” The Role of the Civil Rights and Social Justice Lawyer in Dismantling Anti-Black Racism in Modern America*, Panel Discussion, American Bar Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV
- June 2018 Presentation Refugee Law Podcast on [Life of the Law New Voices Series](#), at Law and Society, Toronto Canada
- April 2018 *Women and Social Change in North Africa*, Hillary Clinton Center for Women’s Empowerment at Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco
- Jan. 2018 *New South Destination Migration: From Sanctuary to Exclusion*, Panel Sanctuary Cities: State and Federal Standoffs, University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law Invited Symposium
- Dec. 2018 Guest Lecture, *Human Rights, Refugees, and Displaced People*, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Munich, Germany virtually
- Dec. 2017 *U.S. Refugee Law and Procedure Guest Lecture in Human Rights, Refugees, and Displaced People*, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Munich, Germany (virtual)

PRESENTATIONS CONT.

- May 2017 Roundtable Discussion: *Gender Inequalities and Enforcement of Human Rights in the MENA Region*, International Research Collaborative, Law and Society, Mexico City, Mexico
- April 2016 *Invited. Partenariats et Réseaux de L'Enseignement Clinique (Partnerships and Methods of Clinical Teaching)*, Outils, Méthodes et Partenariats de la Coopération Euro-Méditerranéenne (Tools, Methods and Euro- Mediterranean Partnerships of Cooperation), Rabat, Morocco
- Nov. 2015 *Invited. Special Commentator. The Middle East and North Africa at the Heart of the Refugee Crisis.* European Pro Bono Forum, Rome, Italy
- May 2015 *Refugee Law Lecture at Hebron University*, Palestinian American Research Center, College of Law
- May 2015 *Pedagogical Responses to Humanitarian Crisis on the Border: Clinical Work in Artesia, New Mexico*, AALS Clinical Conference, Rancho Mirage, CA
- April 2015 *International Women's Rights, Navigating Gender in Representing Asylum Seekers in Tennessee*, University of Tennessee Women's Global Issues Conference
- March 2015 *Unlawful Exclusions: Asylum Seekers, Gender and Social Justice in Morocco*, Gender, Law, and Social Change in North Africa Conference, Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco
- Oct. 2014 *Invited University of North Carolina Law Review Symposium, Vulnerable Defendants in the Criminal Justice System, America's Disposable Youth: Undocumented Delinquent Juveniles*, Chapel Hill, NC
- Dec. 2013 *Legal Aid Clinic for Marginalized Sub-Saharan Migrants in Morocco*, Global Alliance for Justice Education, Virtual Presentation: Delhi, India
- April 2013 *Protecting the Rights of Immigrants in Criminal or Civil Proceedings*, SE/SW POC Conference, Little Rock, AR

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2018 - Present American Bar Association, Appointment to Advisory Commission for the Immigration
- 2017 - 2018 American Bar Association, Civil Rights Committee, Immigration Sub-Committee
- 2006 – Present American Immigration Lawyers Association, *Present*
- 2017 – Present Tennessee Bar Association, Executive Immigration Committee
- Present Clinical Legal Education Association
Board Member, 2014 -2015
- 2011 – 2014 American Association of Law Schools, Journal of Legal Education, Editorial Board
- 2011 – 2015 Society of American Law Teachers, Board of Directors
Human Rights Committee, *2011-2012*
- 2012 - 2015 Centro Hispano, Board Member, Knoxville, TN
- 2012 - 2013 Tennessee Alliance of Legal Services, Board Member
- 2005 - 2006 Rosa Parks Scholarship Foundation, Board Member, Detroit, Michigan

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Supreme Court of the United States, Member of Bar, 2016 - *Present*
- U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, District of Columbia. 2016 - *Present*
- U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, 2003 - *Present*
- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, 2016 - *Present*
- State Bar of Tennessee, 2008 - *Present*
- State Bar of Michigan, 2003 - *Present*
- State Bar of Pennsylvania (provisional law prf admission) *2007-2008*

LANGUAGES French (*proficient*)