

KARLA M. MCKANDERS

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

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2017 – VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL
Associate Director of Legal Clinic (Appointed August 2020 – present)
Clinical Professor of Law, Director of the Immigration Clinic
Service: Co-Chair, Racial Inequities and Injustices Task Force (Summer 2020)
Advisory Committee, James Lawson Institute for the Research and Study of
Nonviolent Movements (present)
Recognition: Hillary Clinton Center for Gender, Scholar in Residence, Al Akhawayn
University, Morocco (April 2018)
Courses: Immigration Clinic; Refugee Law; Immigration Law & Policy; Critical
Race Theory
- 2016 – 2017 HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, *Visiting Professor*
Courses: Civil Rights (Appellate) Clinic; Refugee Law
- 2008 – 2017 UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, COLLEGE OF LAW, *Associate Professor of Law (tenured)*
Courses: Advocacy Clinic; Immigration Clinic; Refugee Law and Policy
- 2011 – 2012 UNIVERSITY OF MOHAMED V-SOUISSI, Rabat, Morocco, *Fulbright Lecturer*
Courses: Refugee Law; Humanitarian Law
- 2006 – 2008 VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, *Reuschlein Clinical Teaching Fellow*
Courses: Clinic for Asylum, Refugee and Emigrant Services, Poverty Law

EDUCATION

- 2003 DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, J.D.
- Exp. Dec. 2021 VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL, Masters in Theological Studies
*Concentration Spirituality & Social Activism, Public Theology & Racial Justice
Fellow (2019 - 2020)*
Thesis: The Spirituality of Womanist Lawyering
- 2000 SPELMAN COLLEGE, B.A.
Major: Political Science, Minor: French, *Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude*

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- 2005 – 2006 Judicial Clerkship, Judge Damon J. Keith, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH
CIRCUIT, Detroit, MI
- 2003 – 2005 Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC, Detroit, MI, *Associate*, Labor and Employment
Practice Group

PUBLICATIONS*Articles*

[Immigration and Racial Justice: Enforcing the Borders of Blackness](#), GA.ST.U. L.Rev. (forth. 2021)

[Tearing Down Invisible Walls: Justice Sotomayor's Dissents in an Era of Immigration Exceptionalism](#), 27 WM. & MARY J. RACE, GENDER & SOC. JUST. (2021)

[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)

[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)

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)

[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)

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)

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)

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Racialized Black: Invisibility of Black Immigrants in America (forthcoming)

LEGAL COMMENTARIES

[Racial Justice and Immigration](#), Only in America with Ali Noori, September 2020.

[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).

PRESENTATIONS

Sept. 2021 *Civil Rights Panel w/ Dr. Mary Frances Berry*, Diversity Week at Belmont University

July 2021 *The Future of Qualified Immunity*, Nashville Lawyers Association for Women

June 2021 *Womanist Ethnography and Religious Experience, Navigating Ethically in Religious Spaces*, The Womanist Ethnography Conference, Vanderbilt Divinity School

March 2021 *The Intersection of Immigration & Habeas*, National Habeas Institute

Jan. 2021 Moderator, Martin Luther King Jr. Day event in partnership with Chancellor's Lecture Series with novelist Dinaw Mengestu, Vanderbilt University

PRESENT. CONT.

- Oct. 2020 Confronting anti-Blackness in the Migration Experience, Yale University
- Oct. 2020 Immigrant Justice: The Black Immigrant Experience, Villanova Law School Symposium
- Sept. 2020 Parallels of Injustice: An Intersection between Black Lives Matter and the Immigrants' Rights Movement, Penn State Law School
- July 2020 *Reimagining the Voices of Immigrant Children Through Storytelling and Art*, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry, Children's Defense Fund
- Sept. 2019 *'We' in 'We the People': A Constitution Day Lecture*, 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 *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
- 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

RECOGNITION AND GRANTS

American Immigration Lawyers Association, MidSouth Region, Pro Bono Champion (Spring 2019)
Vanderbilt University Global Research & Engagement Micro-Grant, Supervised Students on Service Learning Trip to Mexico Border (Dec. 2018)
AmeriCorps Equal Justice Works Grant (2015 – 2016)
University of Tennessee, Chancellor's Honor, Jefferson Prize (May 2014)
Bass, Berry & Sims Award for Outstanding Service to the Bench and Bar (May 2013)

SERVICE

American Bar Association, Commission for the Immigration
Chair (2021 – Present)
Advisory Committee Member (2018 – 2021)
American Bar Association, Civil Rights Committee, Immigration Sub-Committee (2017 – 2018)
Tennessee Bar Association, Executive Immigration Committee (2017 – Present)
Clinical Legal Education Association, *Per Diem Committee* (2011 - Present)

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

Supreme Court of the United States
U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals
U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
District of Columbia
State Bar of Michigan
State Bar of Tennessee