

# Claudia De Palma

Temple University, Beasley School of Law  
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## Education

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**New York University School of Law**, J.D., *cum laude* 2012

Top 25% of graduating class

Carr Center for Reproductive Justice Fellowship

NYU REVIEW OF LAW AND SOCIAL CHANGE, Student Article Development Editor

Student advocate, Immigrant Defense Clinic and Children's Rights Clinic

**Yale University**, B.A. in American Studies, *cum laude* 2005

Distinction in the American Studies major

Yale University English Department Award for Creative Nonfiction

## Clerkship

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**Hon. Vanessa L. Bryant**, U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut 2014 – 2015

## Professional Experience

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**Temple University, Beasley School of Law**, Assistant Professor of Law 2025 – present

- Teaching Legal Research and Writing
- Focus on public interest litigation and state constitutional law

**The Public Interest Law Center**, Senior Attorney 2018 – 2025

Litigated a wide array of impact civil rights cases, including:

- *William Penn Sch. Dist. v. Pa. Dep't of Educ.*, No. 587 MD 2014 (Pa. Commw. Ct.): State constitutional challenge to Pennsylvania's education funding system. Resulted in historic ruling declaring education a fundamental right and the Commonwealth's funding system unconstitutional. Presented winning oral arguments in opposition to motions to exclude evidence. Led direct examination of constitutional expert witness and multiple fact witnesses at trial. Lead author of post-trial briefs and second chair at oral argument.
- *A.P. v. Pa. Dep't of Educ.*, No. 23-cv-02644 (E.D. Pa.): Class action lawsuit under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Resulted in a settlement with the Pennsylvania Department of Education extending special education services for high school students with disabilities.
- *Center for Coalfield Justice v. Wash. Cnty. Bd. of Elections*, No. CV-2024-3953 (Wash. Ct. Com. Pl.): Procedural due process challenge to county board of elections' policy and practice of disqualifying mail-in ballots without notice to voters.
- *Defy Ventures v. U.S. Small Bus. Admin.*, No. 20-cv-01838 (D. Md.): Administrative Procedure Act claim. Successfully challenged the U.S. Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program criminal record ban and helped precipitate a rule change broadening eligibility for business owners. Earned a Washington Lawyers' Committee Outstanding Achievement Award.

**Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller, PC**, Associate 2015 – 2018

Litigated complex commercial and governmental cases in state and federal court, including:

- *Williams v. City of Philadelphia*, Nos. 2 & 3 EAP 2018 (Pa.): defended challenge to Philadelphia's Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax and obtained ruling upholding the tax.
- *League of Women Voters of Pa. v. Commonwealth*, No. 159 MM 2017 (Pa.): represented Governor Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of State in landmark partisan gerrymandering case, resulting in a new congressional map.

**Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP**, Associate, New York, NY 2013 – 2014  
Represented clients in commercial litigation, regulatory investigations, and shareholder disputes.

**Sanctuary For Families**, Legal Fellow, New York, NY 2012 – 2013  
Represented immigrant survivors of gender-based violence in asylum claims and other applications for immigration relief. Assisted in Second Circuit appeal of gender-based asylum claim.

### **Articles, Publications, and Works in Progress**

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Claudia De Palma & Dan Urevick-Ackelsberg, *The Arc from Non-Justiciable to Fundamental: The History of School Funding Challenges in Pennsylvania*, 33 WIDENER COMMONWEALTH L. REV. 75 (2024)

Karen U. Lindell & Claudia De Palma, *Friendly Gatekeepers: The Rise of Amicus Advocacy in Federal District Courts* (law journal article in progress)

Claudia De Palma, *The Debate over Taxpayer-Funded Private Education Comes to Pa.*, THE LEGAL INTELLIGENCER (Dec. 18, 2023)

Claudia De Palma & Ben Geffen, *Does the U.S. Constitution Bar State Courts From Protecting Voting Rights?*, THE LEGAL INTELLIGENCER (Oct. 14, 2022)

Claudia De Palma, *Op Ed: Philadelphia Can't Afford the Price of Hiring Bias*, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (Mar. 25, 2019)

Claudia De Palma, *A decade after the 2008 foreclosure crisis, Northwest Philadelphia is fighting back*, GERMANTOWN COURIER (Jul. 24, 2019)

Archana Pyati & Claudia De Palma, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IN THE UNITED STATES, Policy Report, Sanctuary for Families (2013)

Claudia De Palma, *Citizens, Persons, Humans: A Place for Human Dignity in the Modern Nation-State* (substantial writing requirement, NYU School of Law, Professor Jeremy Waldron, 2011)

### **Select Teaching and Speaking Engagements**

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#### **Guest lectures**

- Temple University Beasley School of Law, State Constitutional Law, Prof. Ellie Margolis (Spring 2025)
- University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, Amicus Advocacy, Prof. Karen U. Lindell (Spring 2024)
- University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice, Law and Social Policy, Prof. Vikram Patel (Spring 2024, 2025)
- Drexel University Thomas R. Klein School of Law, Poverty Law, Prof. Lauren Katz Smith (Fall 2023)
- University of Pittsburgh, Pitt School of Education, Education Politics, Prof. Josh Bleiberg (Spring 2023, 2024)

#### **Presentations**

- University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Edward V. Sparer Symposium, “Reclaiming History: Leveraging Originalism to Progressive Ends” CLE (2025)
- Pennsylvania Bar Institute, “School Law” CLE (2022 – present)
- NAACP-PA Quarterly Meeting, “Pennsylvania’s School Funding Lawsuit” (2023)
- Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center Annual Summit, “Pennsylvania’s School Funding Lawsuit” (2023)
- University of Pennsylvania Journal of Law and Public Affairs Symposium, “The Sky is the Limit . . . Unless There’s a Ceiling in the Way” (2021)

- Philadelphia Reentry Coalition, “Criminal Records and Employment in Philadelphia” (2021)
- American Constitution Society, “Voting Rights Issues for 2020” (2020)
- Philadelphia Bar Association Bench-Bar Annual Conference, “Preparing for Life After School: Tools to Improve Post-School Outcomes for Students and Youth with Disabilities” CLE (2019)
- Economy League of Greater Philadelphia, “Access to Employment for Individuals with Criminal Records” (2019)
- PA CareerLink, “Know Your Rights When You’re Applying for a Job with a Record” (2019)

### **Training and mentorship**

- Co-director, Amy Ginensky & Andy Rogoff Emerging Advocate Initiative: design, implement and oversee the Public Interest Law Center’s legal internship program. Provide supervision and mentorship to 8–10 law students per year, including through the Penn Carey Law Gittis Externship program. (2021 – 2025)
- Panelist, Law School Public Interest Professionals Summer Series, Philadelphia Bar Association: speaker in annual series advising law students on public interest careers. (2019 – 2025)
- Speaker, Temple University, Pre-Law Society: gave presentation to undergraduate students interested in pursuing public interest law. (2019)
- Teaching Assistant, Civil Procedure, Prof. Samuel Issacharoff, NYU School of Law: taught weekly sections for 35 1L students, graded and provided feedback on writing assignments, and led review sessions for the final exam. (2010 – 2011)
- Student Articles Development Editor, NYU Review of Law and Social Change: helped students develop scholarship, gave feedback on structure and content of student articles, and led workshops to improve drafts. (2011 – 2012)
- Instructor, NYU Law Prison Teaching Project: taught legal research to individuals incarcerated in New York state prisons. (2010)
- Guest teacher, Academy at Palumbo, AP English Language and Composition: lecturer on persuasive and argumentative writing for 130 high school students. (2018 – present)

### **Professional Affiliations**

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#### **Bar admissions**

- Pennsylvania (2015 – present)
- New Jersey (2016 – present)
- New York (2013 – 2022, voluntary resignation)
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

#### **Other professional affiliations**

- Philadelphia Bar Association, Public Interest Section
- University of Pennsylvania Law School American Inn of Court