

Noelia Rivera-Calderón, Esq. (they/them)

1719 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122
nriveracalderon@temple.edu | noeliariveracalderon.com

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY BEASLEY SCHOOL OF LAW, Philadelphia, PA

Practice Professor of Law, May 2024 – Present

Director of the Law & Public Policy Program, May 2024 – Present

Adjunct Professor of Law, May 2022 – August 2023

Direct the Law & Public Policy Program, where students develop their skills as policy strategists in Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia. Law & Public Policy Scholars receive individualized support, including career guidance; a summer spent studying law & public policy in Washington, D.C.; access to special skills workshops, symposia, trainings, panels, and networking events; alumni mentorship; and the opportunity to present their work at conferences and compete in a policy advocacy competition.

Courses Taught:

- Institutional Decision Making. Exam course exploring the intersection of law, politics, and public policy. Students learn how policy change happens at the federal level and the role of lawyers in shaping it.
- Law and Public Policy I. Research writing course where the students write a substantial policy paper proposing an original policy solution.
- Law and Public Policy II. Collaborative serial writing course where students work in teams to tackle local policy issues identified by members of Philadelphia City Council and community organizations.
- Understanding Justice. An undergraduate General Education course examining what justice means and what it requires, especially in the context of law. Students study political philosophy and the relationship between justice and rights, distributive justice, and harm.

EDUCATION

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY BEASLEY SCHOOL OF LAW, Philadelphia, PA

Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, Order of the Coif, May 2019

- Honors: *Temple Law Review* Note/Comment Editor; Temple Law Alumni Association 30 Under 30 (2020); National Jurist Law Student of the Year Finalist; Henry Kent Anderson Human Services Award; Law & Public Policy Scholars Award; Nelson Diaz Scholarship in Law; H. Monica Rasch Memorial Award
- Activities: School Discipline Advocacy Service (Program Director; Director of Training)

Boston University, Boston, MA

Bachelor of Science in Social Studies Education, Concentration: Political Science, May 2011

- Honors: University Scholarship, Dean's List

PUBLICATIONS

Arrested at the Schoolhouse Gate: Criminal School Disturbance Laws and Children's Rights in Schools, 76 NAT'L LAW. GUILD REV. 1 (Spring 2019) (arguing that school disturbance laws—which criminalize the vague act of “disturbing a school”—are unconstitutional, harmful, and unnecessary state intrusion). Available at: <https://www.nlg.org/nlg-review/article/arrested-at-the-schoolhouse-gate-criminal-school-disturbance-laws-and-childrens-rights-in-schools/>.

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

ADVANCEMENT PROJECT, Washington, D.C.

Right to Education Fellow & Staff Attorney (3-year fellowship), August 2021 – April 2024

Provided legal/policy support to grassroots organizations engaged in education-related policy change campaigns, including the Sanctuary Schools Campaign in Philadelphia. Negotiated a successful settlement including systemic changes on behalf of an immigrant student threatened with deportation. Created a history of education rights timeline and workshop as an organizing tool used by youth organizing groups nationwide to develop their education justice campaigns. Supported the development of legal and organizing strategies for liberatory school mental health as part of the National Campaign for Police Free Schools.

THE HONORABLE NITZA I. QUIÑONES ALEJANDRO, U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, PA

Term Clerk, 2020 – 2021 Term

NATIONAL WOMEN’S LAW CENTER, Washington, D.C.

Tom Steel Fellow, August 2019 – August 2020

Temporary Employee, January 2019 – August 2019

Legal Intern, May 2018 – January 2019

Organized youth to develop a curriculum centering LGBTQ student of color, which was then implemented across the country. Organized youth to co-write a report using the participatory action research (PAR) model, focusing on Latina mental health in education. The published report led to federal, state, and local efforts for change. Built and maintained relationships with local and national advocacy groups to organize for legal and policy change. Frequently trained educators and school administrators.

- Publications:
 - BRICK BY BRICK: BUILDING LGBTQ ADVOCACY (2020), <https://nwlc.org/resources/brick-by-brick-the-lgbtq-advocacy-curriculum/>.
 - WE ARE NOT INVISIBLE/NO SOMOS INVISIBLES: LATINA GIRLS, MENTAL HEALTH, AND PHILADELPHIA SCHOOLS (2019), <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/We-Are-Not-Invisible-Final-Report-1.pdf>.

JUVENILE LAW CENTER, Philadelphia, PA

Legal Intern, September 2018 – December 2018

Advocated to end the Pennsylvania practice of charging parents for children’s incarceration. Researched for advocacy and litigation aimed at protecting the rights of Pennsylvania students in the juvenile justice and foster care systems.

EDUCATION LAW CENTER, Philadelphia, PA

Legal Intern, September – December 2017

Conducted client intake and counseling. Researched for advocacy and litigation aimed at protecting the rights of PA students of color, foster youth, students with disabilities, and LGBTQ students.

NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER, Washington, D.C.

Law Clerk, May 2017 – August 2017

Researched and updated guides on juvenile law and policy in fourteen states. Researched, wrote, and published a guide for juvenile defenders on immigration and juvenile justice.

OTHER TEACHING

ESPERANZA ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL, Philadelphia, PA

Middle School Social Studies Teacher, August 2013 – July 2016

Middle School Projects Manager, August 2012 – July 2013

Taught 7th and 8th grade Social Studies at a school serving nearly 100% Latinx and Black students. Developed and implemented curriculum focused on decolonial education. Formally mentored new teachers. Coordinated school expansion from high school to middle school. Founded and coached middle school debate team. Informally mentored LGBTQ students when there was no school-sponsored LGBTQ student group. Organized and facilitated peer support circle for girls.

PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, *Youth Healing Chi: Campaign Report Launch*, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council & Advancement Project (Online), June 9, 2026

Panelist, *Power Hour: Law, Resistance, and Organizing in Experiential Education*, AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education (Portland, OR), May 3, 2026

Panelist, *Movement Lawyering in DC*, University of the District of Columbia School of Law, October 28, 2025 and April 14, 2026

Organizer and Moderator, *The Intersection of Law and Public Policy: 2024 Update, 2025 Update, and 2026 Update*, Temple Law School (Online), most recent April 10, 2026

Panelist, *Queer Rights Across Borders: International Law, Human Rights, and Global Advocacy*, Drexel Kline School of Law, March 12, 2026

Co-Organizer, *Crisis, Care, and Cops: Mental Health Crisis Response in Philadelphia*, Temple Law School, October 24, 2025

Presenter, *Rethinking Mental Health*, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council and coalition of Chicago-based youth organizing groups, April 23, 2025 and October 17, 2025

Panelist, *Meet Temple Law's Latina and Latinx Legal Academics*, Temple Law School, April 15, 2025

Organizer, *Decarcerating Care: Beyond Mandated Reporting*, Institute for the Development of Human Arts, November 12, 2024

Facilitator, *Mental Health Policy Lab*, Institute for the Development of Human Arts, June 20, 2024

Expert Testimony, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, April 29, 2024

Presenter, *Abolition Must Include Mental Health*, National Campaign for Police Free Schools, Spring 2024 (several presentations)

Organizer, *Decarcerating Care: The Pathologizing of Resistance*, Institute for the Development of Human Arts, April 25, 2024

Panelist, *Examination of School Discipline and Exclusionary Practices*, Georgetown Journal of Law and Modern Critical Race Perspectives 2024 Symposium, March 7, 2024

Presenter, *School Policing and Mental Health*, Education Law Association Annual Conference, October 28, 2023

Expert Testimony, Virginia House of Delegates Committee on Education, January 22, 2020

Presenter, *No Stigma, No Shame: Supporting Latina Mental Health in Schools*, National Education Association Conference on Racial and Social Justice, July 1, 2019

Presenter, *School Discipline Reform*, 2018 Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association (Toronto), June 7-10, 2018

Expert Testimony, Federal Commission on School Safety, June 6, 2018

Speaker, *The Importance of Visibility for Youth*, Philly Bi Visibility Day, September 23, 2017

MEDIA ACTIVITY

44 Years After Plyler v. Doe, The Right to a Public Education Demands Liberatory Mental Health in Schools, ADVANCEMENT PROJECT – PERSPECTIVES (June 11, 2026), <https://advancementproject.org/perspective/44-years-after-plyler-v-doe-the-right-to-a-free-public-education-demands-liberatory-mental-health-in-schools/>

These Teachers Tried to Give Palestinian Students a Safe Haven—And it Cost them Their Jobs, THE INTERCEPT (December 3, 2024), <https://theintercept.com/2024/12/03/philadelphia-school-district-palestine/>

Baldi Middle School Teachers File Potentially ‘Precedent-Setting’ Civil Rights Complaint, AL-BUSTAN (June 12, 2024), <https://www.albustanseeds.org/news/baldi-middle-school-teachers-file-potentially-precedent-setting-civil-rights-complaint-over-anti-palestinian-discrimination>

After being bullied, a student was threatened with deportation by his principal. Here’s what happened next, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (Dec. 12, 2023), <https://www.inquirer.com/education/philadelphia-school-district-taggart-principal-settlement-20231212.html>

How the Stop Woke Act threatens my education (ghostwritten for youth organizer), ORLANDO SENTINEL (March 8, 2022), <https://www.orlandosentinel.com/2022/03/08/how-the-stop-woke-act-threatens-my-education-commentary/>

For LGBTQ students of color, being safe at school means more than wearing a mask, THE HILL (Aug. 11, 2020), <https://thehill.com/changing-america/opinion/511115-for-lgbtq-students-of-color-being-safe-at-school-means-more-than>

We Need More Than Suicide Prevention for Latina Girls, REMEZCLA (September 20, 2019), <https://remezcla.com/features/culture/op-ed-we-need-more-than-suicide-prevention-for-latina-girls/>

One in 7 Latina girls has attempted suicide, yet their struggles often remain invisible, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (May 6, 2019), <https://www.inquirer.com/health/latina-girls-suicide-mental-health-depression-hispanic-20190506.html>

“No somos locas”: 1 de cada 5 estudiantes latinas ha contemplado el suicidio. Ahora defienden su derecho a ser escuchadas, UNIVISION (Apr. 18, 2019), <https://www.univision.com/noticias/salud/no-somos-locas-1-de-cada-5-estudiantes-latinas-ha-contemplado-el-suicidio-ahora-defienden-su-derecho-a-ser-escuchadas>

Her Body is Not School Property, NATIONAL WOMEN’S LAW CENTER BLOG (Jan. 25, 2019), <https://nwlc.org/blog/her-body-is-not-school-property/>

Have also written for and been quoted in print and radio outlets including Refinery29, The Lily, Telemundo, Teen Vogue, NBC Latino, Generocity, and WHY (Radio Times, The Why).

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Various community youth organizations

Advisor (2024 - Present)

Provide education, research, and strategic support to several youth organizations across the country organizing for improved student mental health supports in their K-12 school districts.

- **Publication:** YOUTH HEALING CHI: A CALL TO ACTION FOR MENTAL HEALTH LIBERATION IN CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS (May 2026). Analysis of Chicago Public Schools crisis response policies and demands for reform written in partnership with youth organizers, https://drive.google.com/file/d/14WVIBACSD24tAAZ89zOL5sDezi4l_auQ/view?usp=drive_link.

Norris Square Neighborhood Project, Philadelphia, PA

Youth Program Leader: Making Change in Our Schools, October 2024 – Present

As a volunteer, developed and implemented a youth advocacy curriculum incorporating both know your rights components and skill-building for advocacy and organizing. Met monthly with Latinx and Black high schoolers in North Philadelphia to address multiple concerns in their schools in a

youth-led process. Culminated with preparing the youth for School Board testimony. Hold regular “office hours” to talk through youth education law concerns.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association of American Law Schools: Sections on Children and the Law, Civil Rights, Education Law, Law and Mental Disability, Law Professors with Disabilities and Allies, Legislation and Law of the Political Process, Minority Groups, Pro Bono

BAR ADMISSION

Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. (both active)

LANGUAGE

Spanish heritage speaker