

## RACHEL E. LÓPEZ

215.571.4704 | 3320 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 | [rachel.e.lopez@drexel.edu](mailto:rachel.e.lopez@drexel.edu)

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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**DREXEL UNIVERSITY, THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW**, Philadelphia, PA

*Associate Professor of Law*, August 2016 – present (*tenure awarded in 2019*)

*Assistant Professor of Law*, August 2013 – August 2016

*Director of the Andy and Gwen Community Lawyering Clinic*, August 2014 – present

Teach courses on international human rights law and social justice. Launch, direct, and teach the Stern Community Lawyering Clinic, a six credit, year-long clinic focused on increasing access to justice and building community capacity in the West Philadelphia neighborhoods surrounding Drexel's campus.

**YALE LAW SCHOOL**, New Haven, CT

*Schell Visiting Human Rights Fellow*, January 2017 – August 2017

Granted this research fellowship to expand and workshop scholarship on transitional justice.

**UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS**, Guatemala City, Guatemala

**AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF MADRID**, Madrid, Spain

*Fulbright Scholar*, June 2016 – November 2016

Awarded a Fulbright Global Scholar Award, which funds multi-country, trans-regional projects, to research the complementarity of various transitional justice mechanisms aimed at addressing the human rights abuses that occurred during Guatemala's 36-year internal armed conflict.

**SETON HALL UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF LAW**, Newark, NJ

*Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor*

August 2012 – July 2013

Supervised law students in a five credit, semester long clinic which worked on cases from the international human rights docket of the Center for Constitutional Rights, including Freedom of Information Act litigation, a petition for a thematic hearing on the human rights consequences of the Iraq War before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), and a lawsuit under the Alien Tort Statute seeking accountability for persecution on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in Uganda. Also represented victims of state-sanctioned massacres in Grand Ravine, Haiti before the IACHR and co-authored a report on medical repatriation, the extrajudicial deportation of sick and critically injured immigrants by U.S. hospitals.

*Clinical Teaching Fellow*, August 2010 – July 2012

Co-taught the Immigrants' Rights/International Human Rights Clinic and the Equal Justice Clinic, including creating curricula for seminars and supervising law students on a wide range of cases involving human rights, immigration, the death penalty, prisoners' rights, family law, and civil rights in both domestic and international forums. Established the Guatemala Rule of Law Program and coordinated the Haiti Rule of Law Program, which included creating legal projects with local human rights attorneys and leading delegations of students and faculty to Guatemala and Haiti.

### EDUCATION

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**UNIVERSITE PARIS 1, PANTHEON-SORBONNE**, Paris, France

**LL.M.**, French and European Law (dual degree with J.D.), May 2008

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, SCHOOL OF LAW**, Austin, TX

**J.D.**, May 2008

*Honors*: Dean's Achievement Award; Public Interest Graduate Award; Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) Scholarship; Presidential Scholarship; and Human Rights Scholar.

*Activities*: President of the Human Rights Law Society. Assisted in the representation of detainees held indefinitely at Guantanamo Bay and two prisoners on death row through clinics.

**UNIVERSIDAD RAFAEL LANDÍVAR**, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

**Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar**, December 2004 - August 2005

Completed coursework in public international law. Researched indigenous land rights that were under threat due to the extractive industries in Guatemala.

**NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY**, Evanston, IL

**B.A.**, June 2003

*Majors*: Political Science, International Studies, & Sociology

*Honors/Activities*: Dean's List; Leadership & Achievement Award from the Latino Alumni Association; Student Body President; Executive Board of Alianza.

**PUBLICATIONS**

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*The Law of Gravity* (forthcoming in COLUM. J. TRANSNAT'L L.).

[\*The Duty to Refrain: A Theory of State Accomplice Liability for Grave Crimes\*](#), 97 NEB. L. REV. 101 (2018).

[\*Post-Conflict Pluralism\*](#), 39 U. PA. J. INT'L L. 1 (2018).

[\*The \(Re\)Collection of Memory after Mass Atrocity and the Dilemma for Transitional Justice\*](#), 48 NYU J. INT'L L. & POL. 799 (2015) (featured as the subject of an [Opinio Juris symposium](#))

[\*Designing a Clinic Model for a Restorative Community Justice Partnership\*](#) (with Susan L. Brooks), 46 WASH. U. J. L. & POLY 139 (2015).

[\*The Judicial Expansion of American Exceptionalism\*](#), 6 DUKE F. ON L. & SOC. CHANGE 1(2014) (lead article of the symposium issue).

[\*Legalizing Collective Remembrance after Mass Atrocity\*](#) (book chapter), in SERIES ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE (Stephan Parmentier et al. eds., Intersentia Publishers 2014).

THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSPARENCY IN CAMEROON, CITIZEN GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES (2010).

[SERVING UP SOLUTIONS](#), CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY ADVOCATES AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (2004).

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT**, Santa Fe, NM

*Law Clerk to Chief Justice Petra Jimenez Maes*, September 2009 – August 2010

**CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS**, New York, NY

*Cooperating Attorney*, August 2012 – July 2013

Wrote briefs for a class action lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of NYPD's stop and frisk policy and a case challenging the constitutionality of National Security Agency's warrantless surveillance programs.

**OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS**, Istanbul, Turkey

*Law Instructor*, July 2015

Taught a three-week long, intensive course on comparative human rights law to attorneys from South Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Peru, Colombia, and Azerbaijan who received scholarships to complete LL.M. programs in human rights.

*Instructor*, July 2012

Taught a week long, intensive course on human rights to undergraduate students from Eastern Europe who received scholarships to study at universities in the United States.

**OPEN SOCIETY JUSTICE INITIATIVE**, New York, NY

**CITIZEN GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES**, Yaoundé, Cameroon

*University of Texas/Helton Fellow*, September 2008 – August 2009

Researched legal issues and completed extensive fact-finding for prospective RICO case. Conducted field research in all regions of Cameroon. Interviewed Cameroonian government officials, local advocates, hospital and school administrators, and citizens about access to information. Co-authored report on the freedom of information and extractive industries. Attended the 46th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

**WINSTON & STRAWN LLP**, Paris, France

*Avocate Stagiaire* (equivalent of summer associate), April 2008 – August 2008

Worked with arbitration, corporate, and environmental departments. Drafted legal memoranda on environmental law in European Union. Drafted letters to shareholders. (work conducted in French)

**INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA**, United Nations, Arusha, Tanzania

*Legal Intern*, May 2007 – August 2007

Researched joint criminal enterprise and prosecution of rape as a violation of international criminal law. Edited closing brief for prosecution team. Completed fact-finding in Rwanda.

**INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**, Washington, DC

*Raport Summer Fellow*, May 2006 – July 2006

Worked with the Office of the Rapporteurship on Indigenous Peoples. Evaluated petitions alleging human rights violations and requests for precautionary measures. Wrote admissibility report. (work conducted in Spanish)

**CONGRESSIONAL HUNGER CENTER**, Los Angeles, CA and Washington, DC

*Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow*, August 2003 – August 2004

*Field placement:* Interviewed low income individuals in Los Angeles County. Authored report on strategies and reforms to improve participation in the food stamp program. Presented findings at local and national anti-hunger conferences. Conducted trainings for civil servants.

*Policy placement:* Wrote report on the development of the native arts economy. Co-managed grant-making for a million dollars in rural entrepreneurship development funded by the Ford Foundation.

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

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Speaker from Call for Papers, “the Law of Gravity,” New Voices in Human Rights and International Law, AALS Annual Meeting, Washington DC, January 3, 2020.

Speaker, “The Law that Governs Nursing Homes Behind Bars,” Criminal Justice, Family and Juvenile Law, Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation, and Immigration Law: Emerging Issues in Elder Law, AALS Annual Meeting, Washington DC, January 3, 2020.

Panelist and Lead Organizer, “Global Community Lawyering and Sustainable Development: Drawing on Cross-Border Collaborations to Address Vexing Social Justice Concerns,” 10<sup>th</sup> Worldwide GAJE Conference, Bandung, Indonesia, December 5, 2019.

Speaker, “the Law of Gravity,” ASIL Research Forum, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, NY, November 9, 2019.

Enrichment Speaker, “The Law of Gravity,” Faculty Workshop, University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law, Tucson, AZ, September 19, 2019.

Presenter, “The Law of Gravity,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, June 1, 2019.

Presenter, “The Law of Gravity,” Women in International Law Workshop, Duke University, School of Law, Durham, NC, May 18, 2019.

Panelist (with Alicia Alvarez, Renee Hatcher, Gowri J. Krishna, and Camille Pannu), “What’s Economic Inequality Got to Do with It? Everything! Strategies for Teaching Economic Inequality in Clinics,” AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education, San Francisco, CA, May 5, 2019.

Presenter, “The Law of Gravity,” International Human Rights Clinicians Conference, University of Pennsylvania, School of Law, Philadelphia, PA, April 28, 2019.

Discussant, “Rule of Law in the Integration of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law,” authored by Nino Guruli, International Human Rights Clinicians Conference, University of Pennsylvania, School of Law, Philadelphia, PA, April 28, 2019.

Presenter, “The Law of Gravity,” Faculty Workshop, Seton Hall University, School of Law, Newark, NJ, April 24, 2019.

Panelist, Symposium entitled *Common Cause: Synthesizing the Work of Human Rights and Civil Rights Scholars and Practitioners*, Northern Kentucky University, Chase College of Law, Highland Heights, KY, April 12, 2019.

Panelist, Conference entitled *Human Rights and the Politics of Solidarity*, Human Rights Institute at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, April 4, 2019.

Presenter, “The Law of Gravity,” Junior International Law Scholars Conference, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, NY, January 11, 2019.

Discussant, “Realizing Human Rights Locally: The Role of Cities,” authored by Tamar Ezer, Junior International Law Scholars Conference, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, NY, January 11, 2019.

Presenter, & Discussant, “The Law of Gravity,” Post-Conflict Justice Roundtable, Washington and Lee University, School of Law, Lexington, VA, October 22, 2018.

Faculty Organizer, “Times of Reckoning: Confronting the Legacies of Mass Abuse through Transitional Justice,” Drexel Law Review Symposium, Philadelphia, PA, October 12, 2018.

Presenter, “The Duty to Refrain: A Theory of State Accomplice Liability Theory for Grave Crimes,” Law and Society Association International Meeting, Toronto, Canada, June 7, 2018.

Presenter, “Post-Conflict Pluralism,” LatCrit South-North Exchange Conference, Antigua, Guatemala, May 18, 2018.

Panelist, “Teaching International Law in an Age of Global Retreat from International Agreements,” American Society of International Law Annual Meeting, Washington DC, April 5, 2018.

Presenter, “Post-Conflict Pluralism,” Rights of Indigenous Peoples Working Group, American Society of International Law Annual Meeting, Washington DC, April 6, 2018.

Commentator, *Atrocity’s Archives: The Role of Archives in Transitional Justice*, Oxford University, Faculty of Law, Oxford, UK, March 27 – 28, 2018.

Presenter, “The Duty to Refrain: A Theory of State Accomplice Liability Theory for Grave Crimes,” Junior International Law Scholars Conference, American University, Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C, January 12, 2018.

Discussant, “Inter-American Constitutionalism and Human Rights Resistance,” (author: Jorge Contesse), Junior International Law Scholars Conference, American University, Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C, January 12, 2018.

Discussant, Session on Democracy, Transition and Legal Institutions, Law and Society Association International Meeting, Mexico City, June 21, 2017.

Presenter, “The Complementarity of Transitional Justice Mechanisms,” Session on Democracy, Transition and Legal Institutions, Law and Society Association International Meeting, Mexico City, June 21, 2017.

Lead Organizer & Moderator, “Clinical Community Town Hall: Building Our Collective Response and Vision of Social Justice in Tumultuous Times,” AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Denver, CO, May 8, 2017.

Panelist (with Caitlin Barry, Jennifer Lee, Sarah Paoletti, and Emily Robinson), “Advocacy on Behalf of Communities in Light of Post-Election Needs,” AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Denver, CO, May 7, 2017.

Panelist (with Jaribu Hill, Carly Fox, and Maureen Taylor), “Collaboration and Movement Building Across Communities and Clinics,” International Human Rights Clinicians Conference: Human Rights Clinics in an Age of Authoritarianism, Cornell Law School, Ithaca, NY, April 29, 2017.

Presenter in Scholarship Workshop, “Post-Conflict Pluralism,” International Human Rights Clinicians Conference: Human Rights Clinics in an Age of Authoritarianism, Cornell Law School, Ithaca, NY, April 28, 2017.

Panelist, Panel discussion following film screening of “Finding Oscar”, Yale Law School, New Haven, CT, April 10, 2017.

Guest Lecturer, “Post-Conflict Pluralism,” Accountability for Human Rights in Syria Reading Group, Yale Law School, New Haven, CT, March 28, 2017.

Presenter, “Post-Conflict Pluralism,” Faculty Workshop, Villanova University, Charles Widger School of Law, Villanova, PA, February 22, 2017.

Presenter, “The Complementarity of Transitional Justice Mechanisms,” Junior International Law Scholars Conference, University of Washington, School of Law, Seattle, WA, January 27, 2017.

Discussant, “Radical Dissents,” (author: Neha Jain), Junior International Law Scholars Conference, University of Washington, School of Law, Seattle, WA, January 27, 2017.

Presenter, “La complementariedad de los mecanismos de justicia transicional,” Autonomous University of Madrid, Law School, Madrid, Spain, October 18, 2016.

Moderator, “Movement Lawyering 101: Strategies for Advancing Social Justice and Making a Lasting Impact,” 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference for Integrating Spirituality, Law and Politics, Philadelphia, PA, June 4, 2016.

Presenter (with Brittany Stringfellow Otey, Monica Wallace, and Bernadette Gargano) at Concurrent Session on “Taking the Law School into the Community: Embedded Legal Clinics,” AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Baltimore, MD, May 1, 2016.

Presenter (with Jennifer Lee), “The Pedagogy of Project Planning,” Delaware Valley Clinicians Group Gathering, Philadelphia, PA, February 5, 2016.

Co-Organizer of Drexel Law Review Symposium on Crime, Community and Public Health, and Moderator of Panel on Community Participation in Crime Prevention, Philadelphia, PA, October 16, 2015.

Moderator of the Public Interest Section Panel on “It's Not All Bad: Examining the Delivery of Legal Services and the Administration of Justice to Low Income Communities from a Strengths-Based Perspective,” 2015 Philadelphia Bar Association’s Bench Bar & Annual Conference, Atlantic City, NJ, October 16 – 17, 2015.

Presenter on “The Human Rights Implications of International Patient Dumping” at a training of medical residents in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA, September 10, 2015.

Co-organizer (with Amna Akbar, Sameer Ashar, and Nicole Smith Futrell) and Presenter of Four Session Workshop, “Teaching Justice,” AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education, May 2015.

Presenter of Concurrent Session on “Exploring Strategies for Accountability, Democracy, and Transparency in Community-Clinic Collaborations,” AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education, May 2015.

Panelist (with Richard Frankel and Emily Zimmerman), “Getting Started: Moving Beyond Good Intentions,” Bringing Outside In: Social Justice Collaborations in the Legal Writing Curriculum Workshop, Thomas R. Kline School of Law, Philadelphia, PA, June 29, 2014.

Presenter, “The Judicial Expansion of American Exceptionalism,” Duke Law School, Durham, NC, March 21, 2014.

Guest Lecturer, “Advancing Human Rights in Haiti: Utilizing Regional and International Mechanisms,” L'École Supérieure Catholique de Droit de Jérémie, Haiti, March 7, 2012.

Presenter, “Getting Away with Murder: The False Choice between Peace and Justice in Post-Conflict Society,” at Violence, Memory, and Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Conference, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, January 30, 2012.

Guest Lecturer, “The Human Rights of Child Soldiers during Armed Conflict: The Case of Omar Khadr,” Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY, May 31, 2011.

## **SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

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Legal Committee, ACLU of Pennsylvania, (2020 – current)

Executive Committee, AALS Section on Human Rights (2019 – current)

Executive Committee, AALS Section on Civil Rights (2019 – current)

Member, Intellectual Life Committee, Kline School of Law (2019 – current)

Member, Gender Equity Committee, Kline School of Law (2019 – current)

Co-Founder and Co-Organizer, Transitional Justice Collaborative Research Network, Law and Society Association (2018 – current)

Advisor to Philadelphia Bar Association’s Chancellor, Rule of Law Committee (2019)

Commissioner, Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, appointed by Governor Tom Wolf (2015 – 2019)  
Member, Curriculum Committee, Kline School of Law (2018 – 19)  
Member, Bar Passage Committee, Kline School of Law (2017 – 18)  
Member, Admission Faculty Committee, Kline School of Law (2014 – 15; 2017 – 18)  
Member, Faculty Colloquium Committee, Kline School of Law (2015 – 17)  
Member, Committee on Social Justice Cross-Curricular Collaborations, Kline School of Law (2013 – 14)  
Member, Council of International Programs Committee, Drexel University (2015 – 16)  
Member, Community Advisory Council for Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships, Drexel University (2013 – 17)  
Member of the Accreditation and Long-Term Planning Faculty Committee, Kline School of Law (2014 – 15)

## MEDIA

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Op-ed, [\*Pompeo's controversial plan to make human rights "great again."\*](#) THE HILL, July 25, 2019.

[\*Grit and Gravity in International law\*](#), GRAVITY FM, July 17, 2019.

Op-ed, [\*How a TV Star Triggered a Slow Motion Constitutional Crisis\*](#), AMERICAS QUARTERLY, February 21, 2019.

Featured as part of Drexel's 2017-2018 Capital Campaign, [\*The Future is a Place We Make\*](#).

[\*Cosby Unraveled\*](#), WHYY (local NPR affiliate), discussing alternative mechanisms to address crime, May 4, 2018, available at

[\*Atrocity's Archives: The Role of Archives in Transitional Justice\*](#), Oxford University, Faculty of Law, March 27 – 28, 2018.

[\*A Philadelphia Story: No Running Water For Eight Years\*](#), CIRCLE OF BLUE, December 13, 2017.

[\*He stole a \\$1 lemonade, smoked pot - then nearly had to die in prison\*](#), THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, September 27, 2017.

[\*'Ban the box' rights perk up ears at Drexel legal aid forum\*](#), PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE, September 15, 2017.

[\*A Dignified Death\*](#), Penn Program on Documentaries and the Law, February 10, 2017.

[\*Seven Years No Water for Senior\*](#), NBC 10 (local NBC affiliate), April 8, 2016.

[\*Drexel's Kline School of Law Opens Free Community Legal Clinic\*](#), CBS Philly, October 4, 2014.

[\*Drexel offers free law clinic to West Phila. Area\*](#), PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE, September 30, 2014.



Television Debate on Fresh Outlook, discussing “The Iraq War: Ten Years Later,” EBRU, March 23, 2013.

[Television Interview on Ebru Today](#), discussing the United States Supreme Court’s decision on Arizona immigration law, June 27, 2012.

## **CLINIC REPORTS**

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[\*Zoning Matters: An Introductory Handbook for Understanding the Zoning Process in Your Neighborhood\*](#), Stern Community Lawyering Clinic (2018).

[\*Increasing Alternative Care Options for Terminally and Chronically Ill Prisoners\*](#), Stern Community Lawyering Clinic (2017).

[\*Do it Yourself \(DIY\) Philadelphia: A Guide for How to File an Employment Discrimination Claim\*](#), Stern Community Lawyering Clinic (2016).

[\*Needless Drought: The Water Deficit for Low Income Philadelphians\*](#), Stern Community Lawyering Clinic (2016).

[\*Fatal Force in Philadelphia\*](#), Stern Community Lawyering Clinic (2015).

[\*Discharge, Deportation, and Dangerous Journeys: A Study on the Practice of Medical Repatriation\*](#), Center for Social Justice at Seton Hall and New York Lawyers in the Public Interest (2012).

## **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

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Fluent in written and spoken Spanish and French.

## **BAR ADMISSION**

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Admitted to the State Bars of New York and Pennsylvania.