

Michele R. Pistone

Professor of Law,
Director, Clinical Program &
Director, Clinic for Asylum, Refugee and Emigrant Services
Villanova University School of Law
299 N. Spring Mill Road
Villanova, PA 19085
610.519.5286
pistone@law.villanova.edu

EXPERIENCE

Villanova University School of Law (1999 - present)

Professor of Law

Director, Clinical Program

Director, Clinic for Asylum, Refugee and Emigrant Services (CARES)

Directed expansion of Clinical Program comprised of four in-house clinics with four full-time professors, three full-time fellows and three staff members; oversaw hiring of three professors, five fellows, and four staff members; founded CARES clinic to represent asylum seekers in immigration and administrative proceedings; conceptualized and drafted clinic's website; developed clinic's promotional materials; work closely with administrative staff; revised registration procedures for clinical courses; revised curriculum for clinical courses; oversee fund-raising and grant reporting; manage clinic staff and law clinic office; developed inter-disciplinary program between Clinical Program and Modern Languages Department; developing inter-disciplinary program between Clinical Program and Counseling Department; assisted alumni and career services offices in development of pro bono Lawyering Together Program; assisted in development of Public Interest Scholars Program; serve(d) on law school Curriculum, Clinical Advisory and Public Interest Committees and on the Bar Passage Task Force; chaired Mission Task Force; serve on University-Catholic Relief Services Working Group; co-chair Villanova University-Catholic Relief Services Committee on Counter-Trafficking

University of Malta (February-July 2006)

Fulbright Scholar

Taught law courses on immigration and refugee law and advocacy skills. Collaborated with members of the law faculty, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to develop a legal clinic for the representation of refugees and asylum seekers. Trained JRS volunteer lawyers on refugee adjudication and advocacy skills. Consulted U.S. Embassy officials and Maltese government officials on migration and refugee issues and on clinical education.

Mediterranean Journal of Human Rights

International Advisory Board

Special Editor, Volume on Migration in the Mediterranean Region

American Law Institute-American Bar Association (2002 - 2005)

Consultant

Created CLE video entitled: [*Best Practices in Representing Asylum Seekers: A Video Resource for Pro Bono Attorneys*](#). Duties include: conceptualizing the project; developing a client fact pattern; drafting a storyboard; creating the roles; drafting a script; drafting written training materials based on the fact pattern, such as a sample affidavit, brief, direct examination, and closing argument; overseeing production; and narrating the video. Introduction by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Committee to Elect Rachael-Scala Pistone as Town Commissioner of Highland Beach, Florida
(January 2001 - present)
Campaign Manager & Consultant

Center for Applied Legal Studies (CALs), Georgetown University Law Center (1997-1999)
Advocacy Fellow

Recipient of two-year teaching fellowship at clinic handling asylum and removal cases before immigration judges and appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals. Responsibilities include: teaching classes on substantive law relevant to students' cases and lawyering and writing skills; supervising 2nd and 3rd year students in client representation; developing instructional materials; selecting students; grading; conducting client intake; and overseeing clinic administration.

Willkie Farr & Gallagher (1989-1997)

Telecommunications Associate, Washington, D.C. (1991-1997)

Senior Associate in general telecommunications regulatory practice. Responsibilities included: developing regulatory strategies on numerous communications matters for companies providing domestic and international satellite, wireless, cable, and common carrier services; drafting and reviewing contracts; advising clients on foreign ownership and transfer of control issues; drafting pleadings and filings before the Federal Communications Commission and the International Telecommunications Union; developing and implementing government relations strategies; meeting and corresponding with government officials; advising clients on regulatory implications of emerging communications technologies; and supervising and training junior associates. Other duties included membership on the Professional Personnel Committee, which is responsible for conducting attorney and summer associate recruitment and hiring, organizing summer associate program, and responding to associate grievances.

Corporate Associate, New York (1989-1991)

General corporate and securities practice. Responsibilities included: drafting and reviewing contracts, partnership agreements, incorporation documents, and public offering memoranda; conducting due diligence reviews; and preparing and reviewing corporate governance documents.

Human Rights First (formerly Lawyers Committee for Human Rights)

Acting Legal Director, Washington, D.C. (Nov. 1995-May 1996, July 1996-September 1996)
(full-time *pro bono* opportunity while at Willkie Farr & Gallagher)

Directed Congressional and regulatory advocacy on asylum and refugee issues.

Responsibilities included: meeting and corresponding with members of Congress and their staffs, and Department of Justice and INS officials concerning immigration legislation; drafting

proposed legislation; developing organization's position on proposed legislation and regulations; monitoring legislative and INS developments; and organizing and leading the Committee to Preserve Asylum, a nationwide coalition of human rights organizations and other non-governmental organizations to develop and implement government relations strategies and nationwide outreach to lawyers, law professors and bar associations concerning legislative initiatives.

Oversaw human rights projects and asylum representation program. Responsibilities included: evaluating asylum cases; training and supervising volunteer lawyers; editing reports, briefs and affidavits prepared by volunteer lawyers; and advising lawyers about human rights, immigration law and litigation strategies.

Volunteer Lawyer (1991-1997)

Represented indigent clients seeking asylum and withholding of deportation. Supervised and trained junior and summer associates in same. Responsibilities included: drafting applications for asylum and client and witness affidavits; preparing asylum applicants for interviews with INS officials; representing clients in exclusion proceedings before immigration judges; drafting petitions for review, motions and appeals to Board of Immigration Appeals and federal district court; arguing motions in federal district court; and securing the release of detained clients.

Amnesty International, USA

Consultant (September 1996-September 1998)

Conducted legislative and administrative advocacy on immigration legislation, expedited removal, and refugee detention issues; drafted report and memoranda on INS implementation of expedited removal procedures and its impact on asylum seekers.

New Yorkers Helping the Homeless

Founder and Chairperson (1989-1993)

Organized twenty-five member committee to host fund-raisers (raised \$20,000 - \$30,000/year) for not-for-profit organizations in New York. Participants included business executives, lawyers and law firm summer associates.

Developed and organized "Spirit of Giving" program, through which lawyers and corporate executives answered more than 300 letters written to Santa by homeless children. Solicited participants, distributed letters and collected gifts responding to the children's holiday wishes.

Women in Need

Member of Board of Directors (1990-1993)

Board member for not-for-profit organization (annual budget of more than \$5 million) that provides services and shelter to homeless women and their children.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center

LL.M. in Advocacy, October 1999

St. John's University School of Law

J.D. 1989, *Cum Laude*
Member, St. John's Law Review
Class Rank: Top 7%
American Jurisprudence Award for Excellence in Contracts, Dean's List

New York University, College of Business Administration

B.S. 1986, *Cum Laude*, Economics and International Business
Dean's List, University Honors Scholar
Studies Abroad: Sanno Institute of Business Administration, Tokyo, Japan; Luigi Bocconi University of Commerce, Milan, Italy; Universidad de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

PUBLICATIONS

Books

[STEPPING OUT OF THE BRAIN DRAIN: APPLYING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN A NEW ERA OF MIGRATION \(Lexington Books 2007\) \(with John Hoeffner\)](#)

Book Chapters

An Overview of United States Immigration Law, in MARRIAGE OF UNDOCUMENTED RESIDENTS (Canon Law Society of America, ed.) (2006)

Articles

The Acceptance of Immigrants: Lessons from the Past and Questions for the Future, 10 Mediterranean J. of Hum. Rts. 7 (2006) (with John Hoeffner) (peer reviewed)

"In All Things Love": Immigration, Policy-Making, and the Development of Preferential Options for the Poor, __ J. Catholic Social Thought __ (with John Hoeffner) (forthcoming 2007)

Rethinking Immigration of the Highly-Skilled and Educated in the Post-9/11 World (with John Hoeffner) __ Geo. J. Law & Pub. Policy __ (forthcoming 2007)

No Admissions: Bureaucratic Denial and the Expansion of Expedited Removal, 11 Bender's Immigr. Bull. 771 (2006) (with John Hoeffner)

Perspectives on the Content of the Church's Social Message: Should the Church Sound its Voice in the Tower of Babel? 5 *Orbis* 4 (summer 2006)

Religion And Public Affairs: Should the Church Sound its Voice in the Tower of Babel? 6 *Orbis* 4 (fall 2006)

Bringing Clinical Legal Education to Europe: The Challenges Faced and Lessons Learned from Creating a Refugee Law Clinic at the University of Malta (work in progress)

[*Rules Are Made To Be Broken: How the Process of Expedited Removal Fails Asylum Seekers* \(with John Hoeffner\), 20 Geo. Immigr. L.J. 167 \(2006\)](#)

Making the Department of Homeland Security's Senior Asylum Officer Position Count (with John Hoeffner), 10 Bender's Immigr. Bull. 1789 (Dec. 1, 2005)

[*The Devil in the Details: How Specific Should Catholic Social Teaching Be?*, 2 J. Catholic Social Thought 507 \(2004\)](#)

A Times Sensitive Response to Professor Aleinikoff's Detaining Plenary Power, 16 Geo. Immigr. L.J. 391 (2002)

[*The New Asylum Rule: Improved but Still Unfair*, 16 Geo. Immigr. L.J. 1 \(2001\) \(with Philip G. Schrag\)](#)

Teaching International Law -- The Visible College of International Law Clinicians: Making a Real Difference in Law School and in the World, in American Society of International Law Proceedings of the 95th Annual Meeting (2001)

[*Assessing the Proposed Refugee Protection Act: One Step in the Right Direction*, 14 Geo. Immigr. L.J. 815 \(2000\)](#)

[*Justice Delayed is Justice Denied: A Proposal for Ending the Unnecessary Detention of Asylum Seekers*, 12 Harv. Hum. Rts. J. 197 \(1999\)](#)

[*New Asylum Laws: Undermining an American Ideal*, CATO Institute, Policy Analysis No. 299 \(1998\), reprinted in 3 Bender's Immigration Bulletin 496 \(1998\)](#)

The New Asylum Rule: Not Yet a Model of Fair Procedure, 11 Geo. Immigr. L.J. 267 (1997), reprinted in 2 Bender's Immigration Bulletin 385 (1997) and as *Asylum Changes and Expedited Removal* in UNDERSTANDING THE 1996 IMMIGRATION ACT (Federal Publications ed. 1997) (with Philip G. Schrag) (expanded version of *The 1996 Immigration Act: Asylum and Expedited Removal Provisions--What the INS Should Do*, [infra](#))

Asylum Filing Deadlines: Unfair and Unnecessary, 10 Geo. Immigr. L.J. 95 (1996)

The 1996 Immigration Act: Asylum and Expedited Removal Provisions--What the INS Should Do, 73 Interpreter Releases 1565 (1996) (with Philip G. Schrag)

Asylum and Exclusion Provisions in New and Pending Legislation: A Summary and Practical Guide, 73 Interpreter Releases 993 (1996)

[*Revisiting APSO: Improving the System for Releasing Genuine Asylum Seekers from Detention*, Refugee Reports, August 30, 1996, at 11 \(with Beth Lyon\)](#)

Somalia, in CRITIQUE OF 1994 STATE DEPARTMENT REPORTS 223 (Lawyers Committee for Human Rights ed., 1994)

Somalia, in CRITIQUE OF 1993 STATE DEPARTMENT REPORTS 326 (Lawyers Committee for Human Rights ed., 1993)

Developments in the Law -- The Effect of Court Imposed Jurisdiction on Arbitration, 62 St. John's L. Rev. 377 (1988)

PRESENTATIONS

Woodstock Theological Center: Reflection on Migration, Fairfield University, July 19, 2007

Immigration Reform in America, "Which Side of the Fence Are You On?" Debate at Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA, March 28, 2007

It's Your Call with Lynn Doyle, interviewed during one-hour live television show on Human Trafficking, March 14, 2007 (show nominated for Emmy Award, Mid-Atlantic region)

Human Trafficking Panel, organized and moderated panel, Villanova University School of Law, February 22, 2007

Presented work in progress -- "Bringing Clinical Legal Education to Europe: The Challenges Faced and Lessons Learned from Creating a Refugee Law Clinic at the University of Malta," Mid-Atlantic Clinical Theory and Practice Workshop, Catholic University, Columbus School of Law, Washington, DC, Nov. 10, 2006

Presented work in progress -- "Bringing Clinical Legal Education to Europe: The Challenges Faced and Lessons Learned from Creating a Refugee Law Clinic at the University of Malta," New York Law School Clinical Theory Workshop, New York, Nov. 3, 2006

"Options for Poor Migrants: Catholic Social Teaching on Migration," The Meaning of the Preferential Option for the Poor for Law and Policy Symposium, Villanova University, Oct. 26, 2006

"Rethinking Catholic Social Thought on Skilled Migration," Immigration and the Plight of Immigrants: Politics, Policy, Morality Symposium, Duquesne University, Sept. 21, 2006

"Migration to Malta," presentation to former Humphrey and Fulbright grantees, Residence of Molly Bordonaro, U.S. Ambassador to Malta, June 12, 2006

"Integration of Immigrants in Europe," European Integration Conference, Universita Kore di Enna, Italy, May 30, 2006

“International Collaborative Teaching: An Asylum Clinic in Malta,” (with Marisa Cianciarulo), Global Alliance for Justice Education Regional Conference, May 4, 2006, Fordham University Law School, New York, New York

“How Should the Church Sound Its Voice in the Tower of Babel? Perspectives on the Content of the Catholic Social Message,” Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, March 23, 2006, Phoenician Hotel, Valletta, Malta

“Rules are Made to Be Broken: Asylum Seekers and Expedited Removal,” Faculty Colloquia and Distinguished Speakers Series, St. John’s University School of Law, October 24, 2005, Jamaica, New York

“Human Trafficking: Victimization of Women and Children,” Vincentian Chair for Social Justice Conference 2005, October 22, 2005, St. John’s University, Jamaica, New York

“Can Skilled Emigration Help Countries Develop Economically?” Strangers No Longer: Immigration Law & Policy in the Light of Religious Values Conference, February 2005, Fordham University School of Law, New York.

“Stepping Out of the Brain Drain: A New Vision on Migration,” Immigration Law Teachers’ Workshop, June 5-6, 2004, Baltimore, Maryland.

“Advanced Asylum Law Training,” Mennonite Central Committee, Lancaster, PA, February 18, 2004

“Globalization and the Migration of Skilled Workers,” Catholic Social Thought and Globalization Symposium, Villanova University, November, 2003

“Careers in Human Rights Law,” Peace and Justice Center, Villanova University, November 2003.

“Expedited Removal,” Migration Policy Institute and U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Roundtable, October 10, 2003

“Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration,” Symposium on Catholic Social Thought and the Law, Villanova Law School, October 4, 2003

“The Lawyer’s Role in Pursuing Social Justice,” PLUS Program, Lincoln University, May 2003

“Speech and Presentation of 2003 Shanara Gilbert Emerging Clinician Award to Beth Lyon,” Association of American Law Schools, Conference on Clinical Education, 2003 Award Luncheon, Vancouver, Canada, May 2003

“Catholic Social Teaching on War and Peace: 40 Years After *Peace on Earth*,” Villanova University, March 20-21, 2003 (panel organizer and presenter)

“Human Trafficking: A Modern Form of Slavery,” AALS Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., (January 2003) (Program Chair and presenter)

“The Law of the Holocaust: A Lecture and Tour of the United States Memorial Holocaust Museum,” AALS Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. (January 2003) (Program Chair)

“Using Rights Presentations and Legal Volunteers to Handle High Volume Legal Services in Detention,” Detention Watch Network, Washington, D.C., (September 2002) (presenter)

“Liberty v. Security Post-September 11th,” at “A World at Odds: Conscience in a Time of Terror,” Villanova University, (September 11, 2002) (presenter)

“Immigration Law after 9/11,” Pennsylvania Bar Association, Pro Bono Annual Meeting, Hershey, PA (May 1, 2002) (presenter and panel organizer)

“Detention of Immigrants,” Catholic Legal Immigration Network Annual Convening, Atlanta, GA (May 2002)

“Impact of the USA Patriot Act,” Villanova University School of Law (Mar. 2002)

“Asylum Seekers in Detention,” at Thank You Pennsylvania for Welcoming and Protecting Refugees: An Educational and Cultural Forum, Harrisburg, PA (Feb. 2002) (panel organizer and presenter)

“Working For Justice For All,” Teach-in and Town Hall, Villanova University School of Law (Jan 2002)

“The Supreme Court and Immigration Law,” Georgetown University Law Center (Nov. 2001)

“Immigration and Criminal Law,” Criminal Law Society, Villanova Law School (Nov. 2001)

“International Refugee Clinics,” AALS Clinical Section, International Law Committee (May 2001)

“The Visible College of International Law Clinicians: Making a Real Difference in Law School and in the World,” at the American Society of International Law Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. (April 2001)

“Defining and Applying the ‘Best Interest of the Child’ in the case of Refugee Children,” Detention Resource Project Training (Nov. 1999)

“On the Detention of Asylum Seekers,” Immigration Law Teachers’ Workshop, University of California, Boalt Hall School of Law (May 1998)

“A Safe Haven No More? Fixing U.S. Asylum Law,” The CATO Institute (March 1998)

“Reforming the Administrative Naturalization Process: Reducing Delays While Increasing Fairness,” Georgetown Immigration Law Journal Symposium (March 1996)

Panel on U.S. Asylum Law Reforms, International Law Symposium, The National Law Center, George Washington University and Georgetown University Law Center (1996)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Co-Chair, ABA Committee on Clinical and Skills Education of ABA Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar (2006-present)

Member, Planning Committee for the Joint ABA, AALS and CLEA Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Council on Legal Education for Professional Responsibility (CLEPR)

2004-05 Co-Chair, Pro Bono Committee, American Immigration Lawyers Association, Philadelphia Chapter

Member, ABA Committee on Clinical and Skills Education of ABA Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar (2001-present)

2004-05 Chair, AALS International Human Rights Law Section

2003-04 Chair-Elect, AALS International Human Rights Law Section

2003 Program Chair, AALS International Human Rights Section

Chair, Bar Examinations Sub-committee, ABA Committee on Clinical and Skills Education of ABA Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar (2001-2003)

American Immigration Law Association, Legislative Committee (2001-2002)

Chair and Organizational Committee, Pennsylvanians for Refugee Protection (May 2001)

Board Member, Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (2000 - present)

Executive Committee, St. John’s Alumni Association, Washington, D.C. Chapter (1996-1999)

HONORS & AWARDS

City of Philadelphia issued Proclamation recognizing my contribution to protection of refugees in Philadelphia region.

Selected to receive scholarship to attend week-long Curriculum Development Seminar entitled Catholic Social Teaching: Issues of Justice in the Marketplace, May 2002, Villanova University

Granted first ever Award from Human Rights First (formerly Lawyers Committee for Human Rights) for “extraordinary contribution to the Committee” and “important work to preserve rights of refugees to seek and enjoy asylum in the United States” (1996)

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Interviewed as an expert on immigration and refugee law on Visions (ABC News), Pittsburgh Post Gazette, CNN, KYW/CBS News, Fox News, BET, and WNYC Radio regarding human rights and immigration law. Interviewed by and quoted in articles in The Washington Post, Boston Globe, New York Newsday, Legal Intelligencer, Sun Sentinel, Associated Press, and The Baltimore Sun regarding same.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member of PA, DC, NY and CT bars; ABA; American Immigration Lawyers Association; Philadelphia Bar Association; Pennsylvania Bar Association; D.C. Bar Association

