

KRISTEN E. SHEPHERD  
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## EDUCATION

**Mitchell Hamline School of Law, Juris Doctor** **2013**

*Awards:* Minnesota Justice Foundation’s Achievement in Public Service Award (600+ volunteer hours logged during law school) 2013

*Certificates:* Certificate in International Negotiation 2012

*Study Abroad:* BPP University Law School, London, United Kingdom 2011

*Advocacy:* Chinese Law Intercollegiate Moot Court (3L)

*Activities:* International Law Student Association (Chair 2L, Co-President 3L)  
Street Law (1L)

**Arizona State University, Bachelor of Science, Political Science and Spanish (minor)** **2010**

*Study Abroad:* University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom 2009  
Mérida, Mexico 2008

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**University of Georgia School of Law—Athens, Georgia** 2020—Present

*Staff Attorney and Adjunct Instructor*

*Community Health Law Partnership Clinic*

Alongside the Clinic’s Director, supervise law students as they engage in a variety of interdisciplinary services focused on the intersection of immigration status and health, including direct client representation, federal litigation, and project-based advocacy. Assist the Clinic’s Director in teaching seminar. Manage the clinic’s docket and assume primary responsibility for casework that exceeds student capacity. Contributed to the “Irwin County Detention Center Project” which won the 2021 Clinical Legal Education Association Award for Excellence in a Public Interest Case or Project.

*Adjunct Instructor*

Teach Legal Spanish I and Legal Spanish II.

**Socheat Chea, P.C.—Duluth, Georgia** 2019—2020

*Associate Attorney*

Represented noncitizens in removal defense matters before the Executive Office for Immigration Review; including asylum, bonds, cancellation of removal, adjustments in court, and motions; drafted appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals; drafted mandamus complaints to the Northern and Middle Districts of Georgia; and represented individuals in affirmative matters before USCIS, including family petitions, adjustments of status, waivers, naturalization, U petitions, U adjustments, VAWAs, and I-751s. Represented clients at hearings, check ins, and interviews before immigration agencies located throughout the southern US.

**Latin American Association**—Atlanta, Georgia 2017—2019

*Staff Attorney*

Represented low-income, noncitizen clients in petitions for special immigrant juvenile status, asylum, cancellation of removal, U and T petitions and adjustments, naturalization, family petitions, consular processing, adjustment of status, and other related relief. Represented clients in hearings and interviews before immigration agencies in Georgia and Alabama. Organized and participated in citizenship drives in collaboration with other nonprofit organizations. Conducted Know Your Rights presentations in English and Spanish. Provided supervision and support to new attorneys, DOJ accredited representatives, paralegals, administrative staff, and interns.

**Northwest Immigrant Rights Project**—Seattle, Washington 2014—2017

*Staff Attorney, VAWA Unit*

Managed high volume caseload with a focus on humanitarian relief for survivors of violence, including U and T petitions and adjustments, VAWA petitions, I-751 petitions, cancellation of removal, and asylum. Represented clients in hearings and interviews in Washington and Oregon. Worked in close partnership with domestic violence agencies. Provided training and support to community partners and the public. Trained volunteer attorneys and law students as part of a pro bono collaboration project designed to increase representation of noncitizen survivors of crime. Provided supervision and support to new attorneys, DOJ accredited representatives, legal advocates, and interns.

**Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid**—Willmar, Minnesota 2013—2014

*Staff Attorney*

Practice was divided between immigration and family law matters. Immigration representation primarily consisted of refugee adjustments, citizenship, DACA, U petitions, and family petitions. Family representation was limited to divorce, child custody, and special findings for special immigrant juvenile status. Represented clients before state courts and administrative agencies throughout Minnesota. Provided advice and brief services on housing and consumer law issues.

**Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota**—Saint Paul, Minnesota 2011—2013

*Law Clerk*

Primarily assisted crime survivors with applications for humanitarian relief. Helped train new interns, including the development of materials to facilitate interns' work, and assisted with community events for naturalization and DACA. Recipient of ILCM's 2013 "Volunteer of the Year" Award.

**William Mitchell Immigration Clinic**—Saint Paul, Minnesota 2012—2013

*Student Attorney*

Represented clients in a variety of immigration matters, including an individual seeking asylum on the basis of her political opinion against female genital mutilation. Screened and represented detained individuals appearing for their initial master calendar hearings before the immigration court.

**Internships and Externships**—Saint Paul, Minnesota 2009—2013

- Extern for the Honorable Judge Lezlie Ott Marek of the Second Judicial District Court of Minnesota (2013);
- Immigration Law Clerk for Kowski Law Office, PLLC (2013);
- Risk Management Intern for Mano a Mano International (2012);
- Nonprofit Organization Law Clerk for Attorney Rinal Ray (2011); and
- Intern to the Revisor of Statutes for the Minnesota State Legislature (2009).

## **BAR ADMISSIONS AND LANGUAGES**

*Admissions:* Georgia, 2019  
Georgia Supreme Court, 2019  
Minnesota, 2013 (resigned)  
U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia, 2020  
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, 2020  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, 2020

*Languages:* English and Spanish

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND PRO BONO WORK**

American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), 2013-present.

- AILA National:
  - VAWAs, Us, and Ts Committee, 2023-2024
- Georgia Alabama Chapter:
  - Co-Chair of Citizenship Day Committee, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020
  - Member of EOIR Committee, 2019-2020
  - Member of Asylum Committee, 2018-2019
- Washington State Chapter:
  - Vice Chair, U Visa Committee, 2015-2016

Georgia Immigration Collaborative Working Group, 2020-present.

Immigration Law Section of the Georgia Bar, 2019-present.

Asylum Border Volunteer, Al Otro Lado, Tijuana, México, 2019.

Border Volunteer, Diocesan Migrant Refugee Services, El Paso, Texas, 2018.

Volunteer, Center of Excellence (Asylum collaboration effort between the Center for Gender Refugee Studies, Innovation Law Lab, and Catholic Legal Immigration Network), Atlanta, Georgia, 2017-2019.

## **CLE PRESENTATIONS**

Panelist, “How to: Inadmissibility and Deportability” and “Inadmissibility and Deportability Workshop”, AILA Georgia Alabama Chapter Annual Conference – Lawyers at Work: Building a Stronger Immigration Bar, March 2022, Atlanta, Georgia.

Panelist, “Strategies for VAWA & Self Petitions”, AILA Georgia Alabama Chapter Conference for Family, Naturalization, Removal, and Asylum, August 2020, Atlanta, Georgia.

Panelist, “Alternative Petitions to Complete Adjustment of Status in the United States when the Petitioner is no Longer Available to Continue or Initiate the Immigrant Process”, Georgia State Bar Conference on Family Immigration Law, October 2019, Atlanta, Georgia.

Presenter, “Working with Immigrant Survivors of Violence”, Immigrant and Family Advocacy Project Pro Bono Training, Fall 2015 and 2016, Seattle, Washington.