

MAUREEN A. SWEENEY, Esq.
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Academic Positions

University of Maryland Carey School of Law, Baltimore, Maryland, Fall 2004 to present.

Law School Professor

Faculty Director, Chacón Center for Immigrant Justice, 2021 to present

Director, Immigration Clinic, 2004 to present

Responsible for the Immigration Clinic in which students represent individuals in immigration removal proceedings (in cases involving criminal convictions, asylum, and challenges to abusive enforcement) and participate in Access to Justice projects. Also teach Immigration Law survey course and Asylum Law Seminar.

Adjunct Clinical Faculty, 1996 to 2001, Summer 1995

Education

Yale Law School, New Haven, Connecticut, Juris Doctor, 1989

Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization; Student Funded Fellowships; The Initiative for Public Interest Law at Yale, Board Member; Yale TRO Project for Battered Women, Director

Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, Bachelor of Arts, Romance Languages and Literature, 1984

Phi Beta Kappa, June 1984

Publications

Crimmigration in a Nutshell, with Emily Torsveit-Ngara and Jenny R. Hernandez, West Academic Publishing (forthcoming 2025).

Enforcing / Protection: The Danger of Chevron in Refugee Act Cases, 71 Admin. L. Rev. 127 (2019). Available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3228530.

Shadow Immigration Enforcement and its Constitutional Dangers, 104 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 227 (2014). Available at <http://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc/vol104/iss2/1>.

Penalty and Proportionality in Deportation for Crimes, 31 St. Louis U. Pub. L. Rev. 11 (2011), with Hillary Scholten. Available at http://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/fac_pubs/1196/.

Where do we go from Padilla v. Kentucky? Thoughts on Implementation and Future Directions, 45 New England Law Review 353 (Spring 2011). Available at http://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/fac_pubs/1166/.

Fact or Fiction: The Legal Construction of Immigration Removal for Crimes, 27 Yale Journal on Regulation 47 (2010). Available at http://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/fac_pubs/708/.

Reviewed, "Article: Courts Should Reject The Direct/Collateral Distinction When Dealing With Crimmigration Issues," The crImmigration.com Blog (4/26/10). Available at <http://crimmigration.com/2010/04/26/article-courts-should-reject-the-directcollateral-distinction-when-dealing-with-crimmigration-issues.aspx>.

A Check on the Real Realities of Immigration: A Reflection, The Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender and Class, Vol. 5, No. 2 (Spring 2006). Available at http://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/fac_pubs/818/.

Occupational Injuries Among North Carolina Migrant Farmworkers, with Steven Ciesielski and S.P. Hall, American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 81, No. 7 (July 1991). Available at <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.81.7.926>.

Between Sorrow and Happy Endings: A New Paradigm of Adoption, 2 Yale J.L. & Feminism 329 (1989-1990). Available at http://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/yjfem2&div=20&g_sent=1&collection=journals. Reprinted in *Family Law in Action: A Reader*, ed. by Margaret F. Brinig, Carl E. Schneider, and Lee E. Teitelbaum, Anderson Publishing, 1999.

Practice-oriented writing and work

Brief of *Amicus Curiae* American Immigration Lawyers Association, *Patel v. Garland*, No. 20-979, United States Supreme Court, 2021 (in support of Petitioner and arguing for appellate jurisdiction of eligibility determinations under 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(2)(B)(i)), co-authored with Romy Lerner and Rebecca Sharpless.

Abbreviated Chart for Criminal Defense Practitioners of the Immigration Consequences of Criminal Convictions Under Maryland State Law (updated June 2021). Available at <https://www.law.umaryland.edu/media/SOL/pdfs/Programs/Clinic/Immigration/Md%20Imm%20Conseq%20Chart%204%209%202021%20revision%20FINAL.pdf>.

Brief of *Amici Curiae* Maureen A. Sweeney, Carrie L. Rosenbaum, Richard H. Frankel, *Matter of A-M-R-C-*, 28 I. & N. Dec. 7 (A.G. 2020) (challenging the Attorney General's overturning of a BIA decision nearly 14 years after it became final, as violating the INA, due process and principles of *res judicata* and repose of agency decisions, as well as the AG's interpretation of the "serious nonpolitical crime" bar to asylum).

Enforcing/Protection: Arguing Against Chevron Deference in Asylum and Withholding of Removal Cases, AILA Law Journal, Vol. 2, No. 1 (2020).

Brief of *Amici Curiae* and oral argument, *Maricela Leyva-Martinez v. Sessions* (892 F.3d 655, 4th Cir. 2018) (holding Maryland theft offense is not a crime involving moral turpitude that can trigger deportation under the Immigration and Nationality Act).

Contributed to Brief of *Amici Curiae* American Immigration Lawyers Association, et al., *Mathis v. United States*, 136 S.Ct. 2243 (2016).

Brief and Reply Brief of Respondent, *Matter of Chairez and Sama*, I. & N. Dec. 796 (A.G. Sept. 6, 2016) (divisibility of offenses under the categorical analysis in *Descamps v. United States* and *Mathis v. United States*).

Abbreviated Chart for Criminal Defense Practitioners of the Immigration Consequences of Criminal Convictions Under Maryland State Law (updated August 2015). Available at <http://www.law.umaryland.edu/programs/clinic/initiatives/immigration/articles.html>.

Amicus brief, *Matter of Sama*, Board of Immigration Appeals, April 2015 (indivisibility of Maryland theft offense under the categorical analysis in *Descamps*).

Instructional video, *Divisibility of Criminal Statutes and the Modified Categorical Analysis of Immigration Consequences*, April 2015.

Instructional video, *Categorical Analysis of Immigration Consequences*, July 2014. Both videos available at <http://www.law.umaryland.edu/programs/clinic/initiatives/immigration/>

Brief and Reply Brief of Petitioner, *Martinez v. Holder*, 740 F.3d 902 (4th Cir. 2014).

Amicus brief, *Rivera v. State*, 409 Md 176 (2009) (whether plea was knowing and voluntary when based on erroneous information about immigration consequences).

Work in Progress

Maintaining Hope in a Long-Term Social Justice Struggle

Classes offered

Immigration Clinic (2004 to present)
Immigration Law (Fall 2016 to present)
Immigration Law – 1L elective (Spring 2024)
Asylum Law Seminar (Fall 2023)
Practicing Law in Spanish (Fall 2014 to 2021)
Human Rights in US Law Legal Theory and Practice (Spring 2018)
Immigration Law and Policy Seminar: Criminalization of Immigration (Spring 2016)
Crimmigration LTP: Strategies and Solutions for Non-Citizens Charged with Crimes (Spring 2014)

Research Interests

The balance of *Chevron* deference and international legal obligations
Agency deference and the Refugee Act of 1980
Interpretive questions in the application of the exclusionary clauses of the 1951 Refugee Convention
Duress in the application of the exclusionary clauses
The intersection of criminal and immigration law, including
The overlap of criminal and immigration enforcement
The immigration consequences of convictions
Practical implementation of the right to counsel recognized in *Padilla v. Kentucky*
The role of the Constitution in immigration law and enforcement, including The Fourth Amendment and the exclusionary rule in immigration The Eighth Amendment and proportionality in criminal deportation
The Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination in immigration enforcement and proceedings

Academic conferences and presentations

Panelist, *Collaboration Between Law and Social Work Programs*, Mid-Atlantic Clinical Conference (Baltimore, MD), February 2024.

Coordinator and presenter, *Practices to Build, Sustain and Teach Resilient Hope in a Long-Term Social Justice Struggle*, 2023 AALS Clinical Conference (San Francisco CA), April 2023.

Participant, *Beyond Resistance: Rebuilding Community and the Future of Immigration Law*, Immigration Law Teachers & Scholars Workshop 2022 (Los Angeles, CA), June 2022.

The Whitewashing of Immigration and Nationality Law: Why We Should All Become Historians, Participant in online Balkinization blog symposium on Nackenoff and Novkov, *American By Birth: Wong Kim Ark and the Battle for Citizenship*, <https://balkin.blogspot.com/2021/11/the-whitewashing-of-immigration-and.html>, November 12, 2021.

Panelist, *Intersections of Criminal and Immigration Law*, Justice Along Borders: Social Justice and Its Intersection with Law, Immigration, and Human Rights symposium, William & Mary Journal of Race, Gender, and Social Justice (remote), February 27, 2021.

Moderator, The Network for Public Health Law Conference, *Immigration and Public Health* panel, University of Maryland Carey School of Law (Baltimore, MD), February 13, 2019.

Participant, Immigration Law Scholars and Teachers Workshop, presenting *Enforcing / Protection*, Thomas R. Kline School of Law, Drexel University (Philadelphia, PA) May 2018.

Presenter, Chasing Liberty: Family Detention symposium, David A. Clarke School of Law, University of the District of Columbia (Washington, DC), February 3, 2017.

Participant Clinical Law Review Writers' Workshop, presenting *Fair Measure of Deference*. New York University (New York, NY) September 2016.

Works-in-Progress discussion facilitator, Association of American Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education (Baltimore, MD), May 2016.

Junior Faculty Exchange, University of North Carolina, presenting *Tied to the Mast of Refugee Protection: Separation of Powers when Chevron meets Charming Betsy*, October 8, 2015 (work in progress).

Moderator, *The World According to Padilla v. Kentucky: The Importance of Immigration Advice in the Criminal Justice System*. University of Maryland Carey School of Law (Baltimore, MD), July 16, 2012.

Panelist, *Racial Profiling Hiding Behind Lopez-Mendoza*. Border Patrols: The Legal, Racial, Social and Economic Implications of United States Immigration Policy; Symposium of the Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development; St. John's University School of Law (Queens, NY), March 16, 2012 (with Liliana Yanez, CUNY School of Law).

Discussion facilitator, *Immigration Working Group*, Association of American Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education (Los Angeles, CA), May 1-3, 2012.

Panelist, *Where do we go from Padilla v. Kentucky? Thoughts on Implementation and Future Directions*. Crossing the Border: The Future of Immigration Law and Its Impact on Lawyers; Symposium of the New England Law Review (Boston, MA), November 12, 2010.

Panelist, *What Do We Expect From Faculty and Law Students When Faced With a Student Who Lacks the Competency or Ethical Commitment to Practice Law?* Association of American Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education (Baltimore, MD), May 5, 2010.

Panelist, *Supreme Court Preview: Collateral consequences and juvenile incarceration*, University of Maryland School of Law, October 12, 2009.

Selected Presentations, Trainings and Media

Presenter, *Complexities of Immigration: Supporting Our Clients in Challenging Times*, Association of Healthcare Social Workers of Metro DC, May 31, 2025

Keynote Presenter, Baltimore Immigration Summit, *Hot Topics in Immigration Law and Policy*, May 30, 2025

Panelist, *Conversations that Matter: Immigration and Human Flourishing at the Southern Border*, The McGrath Institute for Church Life, <https://mcgrath.nd.edu/conferences/academic-pastoral/conversations-that-matter-immigration-and-human-flourishing-at-the-southern-border/>, April 24, 2025

Quoted, *Can the US return man deported to El Salvador? Immigration lawyers think so*, BBC News, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx27gzdzqrgo>, April 9, 2025

Quoted, *Bracing for the worst, Maryland's immigrant families take stock of their lives*, The Baltimore Banner, April 2, 2025

Quoted, *Maryland immigrants voice fear over threats to legal protections amid Trump crackdown*, The Baltimore Banner, April 2, 2025

Participant, Debate on Birthright Citizenship, University of Maryland-College Park Federalist Society Chapter, March 4, 2025

Co-author, *Ordo Amoris: Wisely Extending Love*, Church Life Journal, with Frederick Bauerschmidt, <https://churchlifejournal.nd.edu/articles/ordo-amoris-wisely-extending-love/>, February 06, 2025

Presenter, *The Categorical and Modified Categorical Approach*, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild CLE, Chicago, IL, June 11, 2024.

Presenter, *Supporting Forced Migrant Survivors Through the Asylum Process: Clinical Considerations*, Intercultural Counseling Connection, June 7, 2024

Presenter, *Emerging Issues in Prosecution: Championing Economic Justice, Reproductive Justice, and Immigrant Justice*, Color of Change, Annual Prosecutor Accountability Convening, Washington, DC, November 9, 2023.

Presenter, UMAB Forensic lecture to psychiatry residents, *Immigration Law and Psychiatric Care or Testimony*, University of Maryland Medical School, March and October, 2023.

Moderator, *The Reality and Future of Refugee Law and Protection*, Law School Anchor Event, Maryland Carey Law School, Baltimore MD, August 29, 2022.

Trainer, *Bond Hearings and Bond Appeals*, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild CLE, remote training, October 13, 2022.

Panelist, *Immigration-informed mental health care for clients, lawyers and clinicians*, Immigrant Justice Idaho Fall Immigration Skills Conference, Boise, Idaho (remote), October 7, 2022.

Trainer, *The Categorical Approach and Recent Developments*, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyer's Guild CLE, remote training, June 14, 2022.

Panelist, *Representing Clients in Criminal and Immigration Proceedings*, Partners for Justice Conference, Baltimore, MD, May 26, 2022.

Presenter, *Crimmigration: Crossing the Border Between Criminal Law & Immigration Law*, University of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore MD, April 12, 2022.

Trainer, *Immigration Legal Process and the role of the psychological evaluation*, Intercultural Counseling Connection, Baltimore, MD, September 10, 2021.

Blog post, *Fight Back Against Chevron Deference in Asylum and Withholding Cases*, www.ThinkImmigration.org, June 18, 2020.

Co-author, *Let Immigration Judges Speak*, Slate.com, <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2019/10/immigration-judges-gag-rule.html>, October 24, 2019. Cited by the Knight Institute in a First Amendment challenge to a policy of the Executive Office for Immigration Review that imposes an unconstitutional prior restraint on the speech of immigration judges.

Trainer, *Psychological Evaluation in Support of the Asylum Application for Survivors of Torture and Inhumane Treatment*, Intercultural Counseling Connection co-sponsored with Inspirit Counseling Services, Inc., Baltimore, MD, September 27, 2019.

Presenter, *Immigration and Healthcare*, Healthcare for the Homeless, Baltimore, MD, November 15, 2018.

Panelist, *Board of Immigration Appeals and Circuit Court Litigation*, American Immigration Lawyers Association DC Chapter Fall 2018 Conference, Rockville, MD, November 7, 2018.

Panelist, *Effective Use of the Categorical Approach in Motions to Dismiss*, American Immigration Lawyers Association Annual Conference 2018, San Francisco, CA, June 15, 2018.

Presenter, *Immigration Enforcement and Health Access*, Digestive Disease Week, Washington, DC, June 3, 2018.

Panelist, DACA and Beyond, University of Maryland Schools of Law and Social Work and JHU Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 30, 2017.

Panelist, *Immigration Values and History*, League of Women Voters, Baltimore County Library, Towson, MD, October 2017.

Presenter, *Advanced Issues in Challenging Evidence of Alienage*, National Immigration Project National Lawyers Guild annual CLE, Washington, DC, August 2, 2017.

Webinar panelist, *How to do a Motion to Suppress in Immigration Court*, Immigration Advocates Network, June 20, 2017.

Panelist, *The Peculiarities of Immutability, Particularity, and Social Distinction: Asylum for Members of Particular Social Groups*, American Immigration Lawyers Association Asylum CLE Conference, San Antonio, Texas, February 8, 2016.

Instructor, *Immigration and Criminal Defense Institute*, Baltimore, Maryland, September 26, 2015.

Coordinator, keynote speaker and workshop presenter, *Immigration Law in Maryland Courts*. Keynote (with the Honorable John F. Gossart, Jr.): *Overview of U.S. Immigration Law and Special Considerations with Non-Citizens in the Courtroom*; Workshop: *Maryland Judges in the Criminal/Immigration Context*. Judicial Institute of Maryland, October 17, 2013.

Maryland Judges in the Criminal/Immigration Context, 2013 Maryland Judicial Conference, Cambridge, Maryland, May 10, 2013.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration in a Law School-Based Immigration Clinic, National Organization of Forensic Social Work (NOFSW); Baltimore, MD; April 16, 2012 (with Rebecca Bowman-Rivas, L.C.S.W.).

Immigration Consequences of Criminal Convictions,

Maryland Office of the Public Defender: Numerous trainings from 2005 to present.

Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys Association, Annapolis, MD, June 15, 2010. Maryland Partners for Justice Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, May 3, 2007.

Criminal Practice and Procedure: Winning in District Court; Maryland Institute for Continuing Professional Education of Lawyers, August 11, 2006.

Montgomery County (Maryland) Bar Association Criminal Section, April 25, 2006. Maryland Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, September 20, 2005.

Other Legal Employment

Associated Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, Baltimore, Maryland

Staff attorney, 1995 to 2001. Provided legal assistance to low income refugees and immigrants in a variety of cases including asylum, family and domestic violence related applications.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Baltimore, Maryland

Interim staff attorney: March - May 2004

Migrant Legal Action Program, Washington, DC

Staff attorney, 1994 to 1995. Represented migrant farmworkers in legislative and administrative advocacy on environmental and occupational safety and health issues.

Farmworker Legal Services of North Carolina, Raleigh, North Carolina

Staff attorney, 1990 to 1994. Director, Worker Safety and Health Project, 1989 to 1990. Represented farmworkers in federal civil legal practice, with emphasis on employment and safety and health law.

Texas Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance, Houston, Texas

Paralegal and coordinator of Central American refugee program, 1984 to 1986.

Selected Memberships and Awards

- Board Member, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NIPNLG), September 2020 – present, Executive Committee and Secretary
- Member, Baltimore Advisory Committee, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), May 2021 – present
- 2020 University of Maryland, Baltimore, Public Servant of the Year Award
- 2019 USM Board of Regents Faculty Award for Excellence in Public Service, April 2019
- Public Service Award, Maryland Hispanic Bar Association, September 2017
- Benjamin L. Cardin Distinguished Service Award, Maryland Legal Services Corporation, December 2015
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Special Diversity Recognition Award 2016, for participation in planning the course “Freddie Gray’s Baltimore: Past, Present and Moving Forward”
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Special Diversity Recognition Award 2015, for supervising student response to Central American minor crisis
- Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Immigration Working Group, 2009 - 2016
- Public Service Award, Maryland Hispanic Bar Association, September 2010
- Maryland Immigrant Rights Coalition, Inc., founding Board of Directors, 2008-2015
- Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma, Board of Directors, member, 1996-2012
- Maryland State Bar Association, member, 2008-present
 - Academic Representative, Immigration Section Council, 2008-2015
- American Immigration Lawyers Association, member, 1997-2001, 2004 – present
 - DC Chapter Pro Bono Award, Fall 2007
- Mayor’s Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee, Multi-ethnic Workgroup, Baltimore, Maryland, member, 2000-2001
- Society for American Law Teachers, member, 2012

Bar Memberships

Maryland

North Carolina (inactive status)

United States District Court for the District of Maryland

United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina

United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

United States Supreme Court

Languages

Fluent in Spanish and French, proficient in Dutch and Italian