

SONYA CRISTINA GARZA
Assistant Professor
Gonzaga University School of Law
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

GONZAGA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Spokane, WA

Assistant Professor of Law

August 2026 –

Courses: Family Law, Professional Responsibility, Constitutional Law I

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law

August 2025 – August 2026

Courses: Drafting for Litigation, Professional Responsibility, Constitutional Law I, Comparative Women's Rights

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS, CECIL C. HUMPREYS SCHOOL OF LAW, Memphis, TN

Assistant Professor of Law

July 2022 – July 2025

Courses: Constitutional Law, Family Law, Race and the Law, Contracts, Conflict of Laws

Faculty Advisor: International Law Society

Faculty Committees: Dean's Search Committee, Faculty Recruitment Committee, Admissions Committee, ABA Site Visit Committee, Teaching Assignments Committee, Outcomes and Assessments Committee

Service: Faculty Note Advisor for select law review student notes; Mentor for student note and seminar paper scholarly publication; Provided one-on-one sessions with students after the *Memphis Law Review* blackface incident; Moderator for *Memphis Law Review's* internal discussion of the blackface incident; Moot Court judge for multiple teams and practice rounds each semester

Awards: Class of 2025 Professor of the Year

Other: Unanimous Vote – Mid-Tenure Review

BARRY UNIVERSITY DWAYNE O. ANDREAS SCHOOL OF LAW, Orlando, FL

Assistant Professor of Law

August 2019 – June 2022

Courses: Constitutional Law, Family Law, Professional Responsibility, Gender and the Law, Florida Constitutional Law, Children and the Law

Faculty Advisor: Barry Child and Family Law Journal, Hispanic Law Students Association, Family Law Society, Counsel for Children

Faculty Committees: Mission Effectiveness Committee (Chair), Law School Advisory Council, Library and Technology Committee

Service: Faculty Note Advisor for approximately seven student notes per year; Faculty Upper-Level Writing Requirement Advisor for approximately seven student papers per year

Awards: 2021-2022 Upper-Level Professor of the Year

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY**Adjunct Professor**

May 2018 – May 2019

Courses: Legal Research, Legal Writing (Department of Political Science), Legal Environment of Business (Department of Finance and Economics)

ELON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Greensboro, NC**Assistant Professor of Law**

August 2009 – July 2013

Courses: Constitutional Law I and II, Family Law, Children and the Law, Gender and the Law, Criminal Law, Civil Procedure I

Faculty Advisor: Women's Law Association, Family Law Society

Coach: Child Welfare National Moot Court Competition hosted by Capital University School of Law

Faculty Committees: Admissions Committee, Hiring Committee, Orientation Committee

NEW ENGLAND SCHOOL OF LAW, Boston, MA**Assistant Professor of Law, Associate Professor of Law**

Co-Director, Women and Children's Advocacy Project, The Center for Law and Social Responsibility

August 2005 – July 2009

Courses: Constitutional Law, Family Law, Child Abuse and Neglect, Women and the Law, Ethics (Professional Responsibility), Family Law Clinic Seminar

Faculty Advisor: Women's Law Caucus, Children's Law Society

Coach: Child Welfare National Moot Court Competition hosted by Capital University School of Law

Faculty Committees: Hiring Committee, Admissions Committee, Centennial Planning Committee, Moot Court Board

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Lubbock, TX**Assistant Professor of Law**

July 2004 – July 2005

Interviewed for Visiting Assistant Professorship and offered Assistant Professorship

Courses: Civil Practice Clinic Seminar, Family Law

Civil Practice Clinic: Operated and supervised students; Acted as lead counsel in all cases.

OTHER EMPLOYMENT**TRAVIS COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICE, VISITATION SERVICES PROGRAM****Attorney/Friend of the Court/Department Supervisor**

May 2015 – June 2019

Mediated visitation and custody cases; represented the domestic relations office in motions to enforced and clarified visitation and custody orders; taught seminars and assisted the family court services program (guardians ad litem) on legal issues.

THE LAW OFFICES OF SONYA C. GARZA, Austin, TX

Solo Practitioner

September 2013 – March 2015

Represented clients in divorces, child custody, child support (establishment and enforcement), premarital agreements, and domestic violence matters; appeared as lead counsel (first chair) in hearings and negotiations/settlement conferences; drafted petitions and various additional pleadings.

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P., Houston, TX

Associate, Family Law Section and Litigation Section

October 2001 – January 2004

Participated in document review for large scale litigation; represented clients in divorce, child custody, paternity, child support (establishment and enforcement), adoption, pre/post marital agreement and domestic violence/protective order matters; appeared as lead counsel (first chair) in pretrial hearings, contested motion hearings, negotiations/settlement conferences, mediations, and trials; drafted legal memoranda, petitions, motions, briefs, and various additional pleadings; trained and certified guardian and attorney ad litem by Children's Friend in Court; trained and certified in collaborative law at the *29th Annual Advanced Family Law Course*; represented children as attorney ad litem in custody cases; served as guardian ad litem in custody and abuse/neglect cases.

AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P., Washington, DC and Austin, TX

Associate, Labor and Employment Section and Litigation Section

September 2000 – September 2001

Wrote legal memoranda, motions, and briefs on various state and federal labor law and employment law (Title VII, ADA, FMLA) issues; prepared cases for administrative hearings before the National Labor Relations Board; served as assistant counsel during negotiations/settlement conferences in employment law cases.

AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P., Washington, DC

Summer Associate

May – July 1999

Completed research and drafted pleadings in the areas of labor law and employment law.

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P., Houston, TX

Summer Associate

June – August 1998, July – August 1999

Completed research and drafted pleadings in the areas of ERISA, employment law, and family law.

EDUCATION

STANFORD LAW SCHOOL, J.D., May 2000

- Honors:** *Stanford Law Review*, Volume 51, Staff
 Stanford Law Review, Volume 52, Note Editor
 Research Assistant, Professor Michael Wald
 Student Attorney, Education Clinic, East Palo Alto Community Law Project
- Activities:** Stanford Latino Law Students Association, Board Member
 Women of Stanford Law, Board Member
 Stanford Public Interest Law Foundation Auction, Committee Member

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS – AUSTIN, B.A. Government and Sociology, May 1997

- Honors:** High Honors (magna cum laude)
 Phi Beta Kappa
 Dean’s List (all semesters)
 Liberal Arts Honors Program
 Junior Fellow in the College of Liberal Arts
- Activities:** Child Development Intern, University of Texas – Austin Child Care Center
 CEDEN Volunteer Prenatal Educator, Americorps
 Latino Leadership Opportunity Program, Center for Mexican-American
 Studies
 University of Texas Judicial Service Organization

OXFORD UNIVERSITY, Brasenose College, English Summer Program, England, Summer 1996

PROFESSIONAL HONORS

NATIONAL DATA ARCHIVE FOR CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, CORNELL UNIVERSITY Research Fellow May – June 2008

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health and Its Aftermath: Two Years into the Modern-Day Fight for Reproductive Rights, 29 U.C. DAVIS SOC. JUST. L. REV. 1 (2025) (lead article)

The Troxel Aftermath: A Proposed Solution for State Courts and Legislatures, 69 LA. L. REV. 927 (2009)

Common Law Marriage: A Proposal for the Revival of a Dying Doctrine, 40 NEW ENG. L. REV. 2 (2006)

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

Co-Author, *Same-Sex Marriage Measure a Travesty*, GREENSBORO NEWS-RECORD, September 23, 2011 at H1 (with Andy Haile and Michael Rich).

With Sotomayor, Justice is Served, GREENSBORO NEWS-RECORD, August 9, 2009 at H1.

Co-Author, *Perceptions of Favoritism in Constitutional Law*, THE LAW TEACHER, Spring 2009 (with Lawrence Friedman).

Harvard Prof., Ex-SJC Judge Expounds, Opines on Liberty, MASS LAWYERS WEEKLY, March 26, 2007 (reviewing CHARLES FRIED, MODERN LIBERTY (2007)). *Harvard Prof., Former Judge Expounds, Opines on Liberty*, THE DAILY RECORD, March 28, 2007 (reviewing CHARLES FRIED, MODERN LIBERTY (2007)).

Author, *Common Law Marriage in Texas*, THE TEXAS DOCKET, April 2003 at 12.

Co-Author, *What to Do with the NCM Client*, 28th ANNUAL ADVANCED FAMILY LAW COURSE, STATE BAR OF TEXAS (2002).

Co-Author, *Statutory and Common Law Reimbursement*, 28th ANNUAL ADVANCED FAMILY LAW COURSE, STATE BAR OF TEXAS (2002).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

The USAG Scandal: A Cautionary Tale of Sexual Abuse and a Criminal Failure to Protect

Under the Guise of Free Exercise: Christian Nationalism and the Destruction of Fundamental Rights

PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

Solo Presentation, “How to Publish Your Law Review Note,” Memphis Law Review (April 2024)

Panelist, “The Future of Reproductive Rights,” IGNITE, Rhodes College (April 2024)

Moderator, *Memphis Law Review* Internal Discussion – Blackface Incident (November 2023)

Presentation, Memphis Law Review Volume 54 Presentation – “How to Write a Student Note,”
(August 2023)

Panelist, “What Next? Reflecting on the Supreme Court’s *Dobbs* Decision,” Rhodes College (September 2022)

Panelist, “Being Transgender in America,” Discussion of ACLU Movie Series, hosted by OUTLaw at Barry University School of Law (April 2021)

Speaker, “Judicial Bypass: Undue Burden or Absolute Ban,” American Constitution Society Conference at Barry University School of Law (March 2021)

Panelist, Discussion of “I Am Not Your Negro” for Black History Month, hosted by Caribbean Law Students Association at Barry University School of Law (February 2021)

Panelist, Discussion on the Documentary “13th,” hosted by Caribbean Law Students Association at Barry University School of Law (November 2020)

Speaker, “When Is a Parental Right to Care, Custody, and Control Absolute,” American Constitution Society Conference at Barry University School of Law (February 2020)

Moderator, “Racial Equality in Law School and the Legal Profession” co-hosted by the Black Law Students Association and the American Civil Liberties Union (student chapter) at Elon University Law School (November 2012)

Panelist, “Action Panel on Marriage Equality” co-hosted by the student chapters of the Law School Democrats, the American Civil Liberties Union (student chapter), the American Constitution Society (student chapter), and OUTLaw at Elon University School of Law (October 11, 2011)

Moderator, “The Obama Administration’s Mid-Term Environmental Marks: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly?”, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, Hilton Head, South Carolina (July 2010).

Moderator, “The Past, Present, and Future of State Constitutional Law”, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, West Palm Beach, Florida (July 2010).

Panelist, “The Future of the First Amendment” hosted by the School of Communications at Elon University (September 29, 2009).

Moderator, “Breaking through the Glass Ceiling: Solutions to Women’s Attrition in the Legal Profession” co-hosted by the Center of Law and Social Responsibility and the Women’s Law Caucus at New England School of Law (March 30, 2009).

Moderator, “Safety Takes a Back Seat: How the Current Immigration Climate Affects Domestic Violence Victims” co-hosted by The Center of Law and Social Responsibility and the student chapter of the National Lawyers Guild at New England School of Law (Thursday, April 3, 2008).

Moderator, “Same Sex Adoption” co-hosted by The Center for Law and Social Responsibility and three New England Law and the student chapters of the National Lawyers Guild chapter, the Children's Law Society, and OUTLaw at New England School of Law (March 27, 2007).

Panelist, “What’s at Stake in the Upcoming Supreme Court Term?” hosted by the American Constitution Society, New England School of Law (September 27, 2005).

Speaker, “What to Do with the NCM Client,” 28th Annual Advanced Family Law Course, State Bar of Texas Dallas, Texas (August 2002).

BAR ADMISSIONS

Texas

OTHER

working knowledge of Spanish