

ALBERTO MANUEL BENITEZ

- Admitted, Bar of the District of Columbia, June 2015
- Member, Bars of the United States Supreme Court, Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and Federal District Court, Northern District of Illinois

PUBLICATION

An Introduction to the United States Legal System: Cases and Comments, Published by Carolina Academic Press, 2006

EXPERIENCE

Professor of Clinical Law

The Jacob Burns Community
Legal Clinics of the
George Washington University
Law School
2000 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20052
(202) 994-7463
abenitez@law.gwu.edu

2000 - present. Full professor of clinical law. Granted clinical tenure in 2010.

1996 - 2000. Associate professor of clinical law.

1996 - present. Director of the Immigration Clinic.

Responsible for the operation of the Clinic including, but not limited to, establishment of its intake procedures, supervision of law students assigned to cases, and direct representation of noncitizens in immigration matters. Extensive litigation on behalf of noncitizens at the asylum office, at Citizenship & Immigration Services, in removal proceedings in

Immigration Court, at the Board of Immigration Appeals, and in federal court including the U.S. Supreme Court.

On June 17th, 2000, the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) awarded its Human Rights Award to the Immigration Clinic. The Award, which was established in 1983, is given in recognition of outstanding service in advancing the cause of human rights. The Immigration Clinic was the first law school clinical program to receive this or any AILA Award.

On October 18th, 2005, the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC) presented its Hugh A. Johnson, Jr., Memorial Award to the Immigration Clinic. The HBA-DC bestows the Award annually to a D.C.-based organization that best exhibits unwavering commitment and achievement in public service and dedication to the principles of equality, cultural respect, and social justice.

On April 21st, 2011, received the Distinguished Alumni Award by the Students of Color Recognition Dinner Committee, State University of New York at Buffalo Law School.

On October 19th, 2012, the Hispanic Heritage Committee of the D.C. Superior Court and D.C. Court of Appeals awarded its Community Agency Award to the Immigration Clinic, in recognition of its "commitment to providing services to the Latino community."

On November 10th, 2012, received the Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award, which "...recognizes current or former teachers, professors or instructors who have inspired their former students to create an organization or establish a concept, procedure, or movement which has demonstrably conferred a benefit on the community at large."

June 13th, 2024, received the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) 2024 Elmer Fried Excellence in Teaching Award.

October 29th, 2024, received an Outstanding Educator Award from the University of Chicago.

2018-present recognized as one of the best immigration lawyers in Washington, D.C., by the publication Best Lawyers.

1996 - present. Responsible for teaching one section of the survey Immigration Law I course in the fall semester.

Former faculty advisor to the Hispanic Law Students Association.

Member of various faculty committees, including the Faculty Appointments Committee and Academic Integrity Panels (chair).

Former director of the law school's North American Consortium for Legal Education (NACLE) program.

Taught summer law courses in Mexico City. Taught U.S. Immigration Law at the Universidad Panamericana as part of the University of Houston's Mexican Legal Studies Program. Taught Introduction to the US Legal System and U.S. Immigration Law at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM).

Spring of 2003. Visiting professor at the Boyd School of Law of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas assisting in the organization of that law school's Immigration Clinic.

**Assistant Professor
of Clinical Practice**

Law Offices of the
Chicago-Kent College of Law
565 West Adams Street, #600
Chicago, Illinois 60661
(312) 906-5050

August 1994 - May 1996. Sole responsibility for establishing and supervising the immigration law clinic of the Law Offices. Supervisory duties include training seven to nine law students in the substance and procedure of immigration law. Representing clients in Immigration Court and before the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Also responsible for lecturing in the lawyering skills component of the Law Offices model as well as evaluating and grading student simulation exercises. A member of the law school's admissions & financial aid and diversity committees. Faculty board member of the Kent Justice Foundation, a law student organization dedicated to raising money to fund internships for law students at public interest placements in the Chicago area. Faculty advisor to a law review student writing a note on economic

persecution as a basis for refugee status pursuant to the Immigration & Nationality Act.

Clinical Fellow

Northwestern School of Law
Legal Clinic
357 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611
(312) 503-8576

June 1991 - June 1994. Responsible for the maintenance of a caseload in the areas of housing, public benefits, and immigration law. Supervisory duties included training five to nine law students per semester in client counseling and interviewing, legal research and writing, negotiations, motion practice, direct and cross-examination, opening and closing statements, and appellate advocacy, with the subsequent application of these skills to the representation of clients in the Circuit Court, Immigration Court, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Spring of 1994. Co-taught, along with two other clinicians who were former legal services attorneys, the Law and the Public Interest seminar. This seminar familiarized the students with the law's impact on low-income clients, who tend to be persons of color and often don't speak English. The syllabus and materials were organized by the clinicians and included environmental justice, housing, access to legal services, etc.

August 1992 - July 1993. Director of the Pilsen Family Legal Services Project. The Project, in association with the 18th Street Office of the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, allowed students to carry out their clinical duties in Pilsen, a low-income, Spanish-speaking neighborhood on Chicago's West Side. The students concentrated on family law cases, including child snatching, spouse battering, and divorce.

Adjunct faculty member for the clinical trial advocacy course, a brief grader and judge for the moot court competition, and a judge for the negotiation competition.

June 1991. Graduate of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) Teacher training Session.

March 1993. Assistant Team Leader for the NITA Midwest Regional Session.

Staff Attorney

Chicago Lawyers' Committee for
Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.
100 North LaSalle Street, #600
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 630-9744

October 1990 - May 1991. Responsible for coordinating the work of the Committee in housing discrimination and related issues. Duties included screening and evaluating potential cases and the placement of cases with volunteer attorneys. Acting as co-counsel on specific cases as well as providing legal advice and backup for volunteer attorneys and the general public. Maintenance of contacts with organizations and public agencies concerned with housing discrimination and related issues. Gave testimony at public hearings. Planned training seminars for volunteer attorneys and the general public.

Staff Attorney

Legal Assistance Foundation
of Chicago
343 South Dearborn Street
7th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 341-1070

August 1987 - October 1990. Responsible for a caseload including the areas of public benefits, consumer, housing, domestic relations, public utilities, juvenile law, school law, and employment discrimination. Litigated bench and jury trials in the Circuit Court. Litigated Social Security Act Administrative Review Actions in the Federal District Court, Administrative Review Actions in the Circuit Court, as well as regular motion practice. Also conducted administrative hearings

before the Social Security Administration, Illinois Department of Employment Security, and Illinois Department of Public Aid.

Intern

Centro de Estudios Legales y
Sociales (CELS)
Rodríguez Peña 286, 1er piso
1020 Buenos Aires
República Argentina
(541) 40-9968

September 1986 - April 1987. Internship funded by the Institute for International Education; one of sixteen interns selected from a pool of 300 applicants worldwide. Researched and wrote a paper on police violence in the City of Buenos Aires and Province of Buenos Aires. Interviewed members of human rights organizations such as Madres de Plaza de Mayo. Observed trials prosecuted by CELS lawyers against military officers accused of human rights violations.

LEGAL EDUCATION

State University of New York at Buffalo
Amherst, New York 14260
- Juris Doctor received June 1986

ACTIVITIES

2005 - 2006. Hispanic Bar Association of D.C.
Advisory Council

2004 - 2006. Commissioner, American Bar Association
Commission on Immigration

2004. Volunteer, John Edwards for President Campaign,
Alexandria, Virginia

1997. Mentor, Comité Hispano de Virginia, Falls Church,
Virginia

1995 - 1996. Board of Directors, Midwest Immigrants Rights Center, Chicago

1993. Resource Person, National Conference of Christians and Jews, Conference on the Constitution, Chicago

1992 - 1993. Board of Directors, Fund for Justice of the Chicago Council of Lawyers

1992. Founding Committee member, Chicago Lawyers for International Human Rights

1991 - 1992. Board of Directors, Lakeview Tenants Organization, Chicago

1989, Civics/English Instructor, Por Un Barrio Mejor, Chicago