

Ashley Feasley

EXPERIENCE

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Migration and Refugee Services (MRS), Washington DC
Director of Policy and Public Affairs, September 2016 – present

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- Serve as the primary liaison between the Catholic Bishops and the U.S. government on migration policy issues. In my role, I have been the primary consistent point of contact for engagement with the larger body of U.S. Bishops and the federal government. For example, in 2018, I organized the Bishops' border trip to examine the family separation crisis. From this engagement, I was able to work with HHS and DHS staff to facilitate the Bishops' and the Catholic Charities network assisting, pro bono, the Trump Administration to reunite families that were required to be reunited under the *Ms. L* litigation during the summer of 2018. From the last week of June 2018 to the first week of August 2018, USCCB and the Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services reunited approximately 1100 family units, with the Catholic network leading efforts for 900 of those families.
- Draft testimony, articles, and statements on migration on behalf of the Catholic Bishops. I drafted over 90 statements on behalf of the President of the USCCB and/or the Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration, including 40 from January 2019-August 2020. From 2016-2020, I drafted 18 Congressional testimonies on behalf of Bishops, Church leaders and myself for Senate and House Committees. I have written roughly ten articles on various aspects of migration policy, ranging from unaccompanied children, the Migrant Protection Protocol, to refugee resettlement.
- Lead staff on overseas delegations for advocacy trip reports on migration issues. In this capacity, I organized trips for the Bishops to the Northern Central American countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to look at the country conditions for Temporary Protected Status and also to look at gang recruitment of youth. I also organized the Bishops' delegation to the U.S./Mexico Border to examine the HHS/ORR shelters and CBP processing facilities during the family separation crisis in 2018.
- Testify before Congress and advocate before Congress on behalf of the Catholic Bishops on migration. I testified once before Congress, in the House of Representatives, and continuously advocate with Republican and Democratic lawmakers on migration legislation and appropriations affecting immigrants, refugees and the border. One victory that I was able to achieve was helping to ensure passage in the House and the Senate of the 2017 Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) without undermining protections for trafficking victims and without partisan controversy.
- Speak on national television, radio, newspapers and conferences on migration issues. I am regularly asked by the Catholic and religious press to give commentary on migration policy issues as well as to appear on television. In the past four years, I have been quoted in at least 35 articles from these publications. I have also given less frequent commentary to secular publications, such as CNN and the Wall Street Journal.
- Create, fundraise and enlist network partners on new pilot programs dealing with integration and immigration compliance. I created, secured funding, staffed and recruited national Catholic partners for a pilot program, Catholic Accompaniment and Reflection Experience (CARE) which enlists Catholic dioceses around the country to help immigrant children and families comply with their immigration court proceedings and integrate safely into their communities. The pilot is operational in Indianapolis, San Francisco, and Trenton, NJ. The CARE program is looking to on-board Lansing, Michigan, and Houston, Texas shortly.
- Coordinate Catholic service organizations federal advocacy and engagement on direct service work for refugee resettlement, unaccompanied children, case management within alternatives to detention, and services to foreign national and U.S. citizen trafficking victims. In my role, I serve frequently as a liaison between on the ground Catholic service providers and the U.S. federal government in any migration advocacy or technical policy matter. In this effort, I work to convene the Catholic direct service providers in online and telephonic forums to discuss general trends or individual issues and ensure that there is consistent, detailed and respectful communication on these issues between the service providers and the federal government. An example is a monthly meeting I convene of the Catholic service providers who are participating in the HHS/ORR unaccompanied children's' service programming. We meet and discuss issues and I work to establish communication with HHS/ORR to address issues as they arise.
- Oversee and implement administrative and appropriations strategy on USCCB MRS's direct service migration programming. One victory was achieving in the Fiscal Year 2019 Border Supplemental the ability for nonprofit border shelters to be reimbursed for their work in receiving asylum seeking families from ICE and CBP through a

FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) grant. Previously, no grant-making capacity had been utilized to assist nonprofits assisting DHS with arriving immigrants.

- Lead the Bishops' national grassroots migration coalition. In my role, I am charged with leading the Justice for Immigrants coalition, group of over 80,000 Catholic participants in 147 dioceses. In this role, I hold monthly national calls and webinars, monthly national advisory committee meetings, issue action alerts and highlight and distribute appropriate social media materials.
- Oversaw the roll-out of a new website. In late 2016, I oversaw the roll-out of the new Justice for Immigrants website. I helped to oversee the selection of images, design and materials and implement new protocols for timely updating materials, reviewing content, and increasing the use and popularity of the website. For example, in January 2017, when we went live with the new website, there was an over 500% increase in "views" of the website.
- Expand the budget and the staff of the USCCB MRS Policy office. I have expanded the staff capacity by 35% by applying for grant funding and receiving multi-year grants to bring on full time employees. I currently manage a team of seven and implemented and oversee an internship program which operates year-round. My operating budget was roughly \$1.2 million dollars, and I was able to expand our funding to approximately \$1.5 million dollars in the last four years.
- Prepare annual budget for the USCCB MRS Policy Office. Every year I have put together a budget for my office, based on existing revenue sources, proposed initiatives, staffing needs and expenses such as overhead.
- Lead Strategic Planning for the USCCB MRS Policy Office. As a senior staff member, I participate in all USCCB multi-year strategic planning initiatives by leading the office's engagement and reviewing the goals and objectives to ensure alignment with the plan in our activities.

Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC), Washington, DC
Director of Advocacy, August 2015 – September 2016

- Led CLINIC's administrative advocacy on immigration reform and access to legal services for vulnerable populations (asylum seekers, detainees, and unaccompanied children). CLINIC is the USCCB's technical service provider for the Catholic immigration legal service providers around the country. The advocacy work was focused largely on case work inquiries with USCIS, working with the Obama administration on the attempted roll out of their proposed legalization program and ensuring that there was robust access to legal immigration information to individuals in detention facilities as well as to legal services to unaccompanied children. For example, we worked with the Committee for Immigration Reform Implementation, (CIRI) a large coalition of immigration service providers to help ensure that immigration service agencies were ready to implement new administrative policies. CIRI had numerous committees. Given over 20 groups participating, it required administrative skill and coalition-building ability to engage in this effort.
- Create annual advocacy priorities, present priorities to the CLINIC board, and implement said policies. I was required to draft, socialize and build consensus on the annual CLINIC advocacy priorities as well as present them to the CLINIC board.
- Advocate individual case issues on behalf of CLINIC affiliates to federal agencies. I engaged in case work administrative advocacy on specific individuals' behalf. This required engaging DHS leadership in Washington on various issues.
- Promote the expansion and facilitation of legal access and legal information programs including the BIA Pro Bono Project, Legal Orientation Program, Legal Orientation Program for Custodians of Unaccompanied Children. I worked to ensure that these programs were robustly represented in federal appropriations bills that became law and advocated for expansions of these programs throughout the country.
- Manage and oversee the State Immigration Legal Project. This program was a grant-funded program to track and review state-level legislation on immigration and provide technical policy expertise and advocacy assistance. I was able to successfully present our improved materials and website to the funder and get a multi-year extension of the program, a positive improvement from the two-year agreements that CLINIC had previously.
- Expand the budget and the staff of the CLINIC Advocacy team. I was able to successfully ensure the addition of 1 new FTE to the CLINIC Advocacy team and expanded the overall budget from \$550,000 to \$700,000.

- Prepare annual budget for the CLINIC Advocacy team. I put together the budget for the CLINIC advocacy team. My expanded annual budget was initially approximately \$550,000.

USCCB, Migration and Refugee Services, Washington, DC
Immigration Policy Advisor, January 2013 – July 2015

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- Provided policy and legal analysis on immigration law, immigration enforcement and detention, international and domestic trafficking, unaccompanied children, and asylum
- Coordinated, prepared, and conducted national webinar calls on migration issues
- Researched and wrote extended trip delegation and position papers
- Drafted legislation for federal lawmakers on access to counsel, immigration reform, and migration protection issues

Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

Lecturer in Law, December 2013 – June 2015

Taught an international law skills class within the International and Comparative Law program

Fordham University School of Law, New York, NY

Legal Teaching Fellow, August 2012 - January 2012

Taught a self-designed class on international human rights, migration law, and corporate accountability

ECPAT International, Bangkok, Thailand

International Legal Fellow, January 2012 - June 2012

Legal Program Consultant, July 2012 - January 2013

Researched and drafted reports on the commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children

Open Society Institute, Justice Initiative, National Criminal Justice Reform, New York, NY

Legal Researcher, September 2011 - December 2011

Provided research related to pretrial detention conditions worldwide and juvenile access to justice programs

ADR Center, Rome, Italy

Research Fellow, January 2011 - June 2011

Researched ADR remedies and examined access to justice initiatives within the EU and globally

The Honorable Judge Evan Wallach, United States Court of International Trade (CIT), New York, NY

Judicial Law Clerk, 2008 – 2010

Drafted legal opinions for Judge Wallach at the CIT and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

SRA International Inc., Arlington, VA

Information Assurance Analyst, Security Clearance (Secret), 2002 – 2004

Supported the Director of Infrastructure Protection Coordination at the Department of Homeland Security

EDUCATION

Fordham University School of Law, New York, NY

LL.M. *magna cum laude*, International Law and Justice, [REDACTED]

University of Florida, Levin College of Law, Gainesville, FL

J.D., *cum laude*, [REDACTED]

Honors: Book Award in Land Use; Florida Bar Student Award; *Florida Journal of International Law*, Assistant Editor

Bar Admissions: Florida (2008); New York (2009)

Georgetown University, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Washington, DC

B.S., Foreign Service, [REDACTED]

LANGUAGES

- Italian: Intermediate Comprehension and Speaking
- Spanish: Intermediate Comprehension and Speaking

PAPERS & ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- Migrant Accompaniment by the Catholic Church, Forced Migration Review, Latin America and the Caribbean: Building on a Tradition of Protection, edition 56, October 2017, co-authored with Dr. Todd Scribner
- Eliminating Corporate Exploitation: Examining Accountability Regimes as Means to Eradicate Forced Labor from Supply Chains, Journal of Human Trafficking, Vol. 2 No. 1, 1-17 (2016)
- Deploying Disclosure Laws to Eliminate Forced Labor: Supply Chain Transparency Efforts of Brazil and the U.S., Anti-Trafficking Review, September 2015
- Panelist at 2015 International Studies Association Meeting, New Orleans, February 17-21, 2015 "Eradicating Trafficking in Global Supply Chains: Examining Corporate Social Responsibility Regimes as a Means to Create Slavery-Free Transparent Supply Chains"
- "Recognizing Education Rights in India and the United States: All Roads Lead to the Courts?" Pace International Law Review, 26 Pace Int'l L. Rev. 1 (2014)
- Book Review "Peacebuilding through Community-Based NGOs: Paradoxes and Possibilities" Max Stephenson Jr. and Laura Zanotti, Academic Council on the United Nations System, May 28, 2013
- "Time for A Tune Up: Retooling the U.S. TIP Report in Order to Better Meet International Legal Research Standards," Florida Journal of International Law, 25 Fla. J. Int'l L. 5-26 (2013)
- "Balancing the Right to Freedom of Expression in the Case of Child Pornography: Legal Precedent" in Root Causes Surrounding the Sexual Exploitation of Children, Journal Series No.5, ECPAT International, Jan. 2013
- Draft: Franciscans International's NGO Report Submission on Human Trafficking for the United States International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, (ICCPR) October 2013 Review,(drafted and submitted Dec. 2012)
- Panelist at Oregon State University's 2012 Sex Trafficking Conference, February 17, 2012, "Migrant Workers, Immigration Policy, and Sex Trafficking in the United States"
- Panelist at 2012 Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, October 13, 2012, "Greater Government Accountability for Human Trafficking"
- "Evaluating the Dream Act through Domestic and International Legal Perspectives," St. Thomas University Law Review, 24 St. Thomas L. Rev. 68 (Fall 2011)
- "Regulating Mediator Qualifications in the 2008 EU Mediation Directive: The Need for a Supranational Standard," Journal of Dispute Resolution, University of Missouri, 2011 J. Disp. Resol. 333 (2011)
- "For-Profit MFIs, Unscrupulous Predators or Political Prey? Examining the Indian Microfinance Credit Crunch and the UN Global Compact," Cornell InterUniversity Legal Conference, April 2011

BOOKS and REPORTS EDITED

- *25th Amendment: Its Complete History and Applications*, John Feerick, Fordham University Press, 13th ed., 2013.
- *Understanding the use of ICTs by children and young people in relation to their risks and vulnerabilities online specific to sexual exploitation: A youth-led study in Latin America*, Sergio Garcia de Diego, ECPAT Int'l, Sept. 2012