

MATTHEW S. BOAZ

University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, Lexington, KY

Assistant Professor of Law

August 2024 – Present

- Courses: Criminal Law, Immigration Law, Torts, Seminar on the Intersection of Immigration Law and Criminal Law (“Crimmigration”)

Washington & Lee School of Law, Lexington, VA

Professor of Practice

July 2019 – July 2024

Acting Director, Immigrant Rights Clinic

July 2023 – July 2024

Visiting Director, Immigrant Rights Clinic

July 2021 – June 2023

Visiting Assistant Director, Immigrant Rights Clinic

July 2019 – June 2021

- Immigrant Rights Clinic: Directed and supervised in-house, live-client ten-credit clinic where law students provide direct representation to noncitizens in proceedings before immigration judges and administrative agencies
- Additional Courses: Criminal Law (Spring 2024), Crimmigration Seminar (Fall 2021, Spring 2023); Law, Justice, and Society Experiential Capstone (Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024) (incorporating senior undergraduates into law school clinics)

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC

J.D., *Certificate in Refugees and Humanitarian Studies*, May 2015

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX

B.A., *summa cum laude*, John V. Roach Honors College, Political Science, May 2010

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, Chancellor’s Scholarship (full-tuition merit scholarship)

LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP

Third Country Removals and Counterfeit Due Process in Immigration Enforcement, 101 TUL. L. REV. __ (2026-2027) (forthcoming)

The Political Economy of Mass Deportation, 19 N.U.L.R. __ (2026-2027) (forthcoming)

The Migration of Abolition Theory, 103 N.C. L. REV. 385 (2025).

Speculative Immigration Policy, 37 GEO. IMMIGR. L.J. 183 (2023).

Practical Abolition: Universal Representation as an Alternative to Immigration Detention, 89 TENN. L. REV. 199 (2021).

SHORTER PUBLICATIONS

The Odyssey of Third Country Removal, __ ST. LOUIS U. L.J. __ (forthcoming 2026) (invited symposium essay).

Due Process in Third Country Removals, Lawfare (Dec. 11, 2025)

Narrative Drip and Other Metaphors for Data-Resistant Immigration Enforcement, 47 UALR L. J. 1 (2025) (invited symposium essay).

Why is Kentucky's attorney general supporting Trump's unconstitutional deportations?, Opinion, Louisville Courier-Journal (May 9, 2025)

Could You Be Deported?, Opinion, Newsweek (Apr. 17, 2025)

How to Lose a Green Card, Lawfare (Mar. 12, 2025)

Book Review: César Cuauhtémoc García Hernández's Welcome the Wretched: In Defense of the "Criminal Alien", University of Oxford Border Criminologies Blog (Sep. 27, 2024)

A Practical Immigration Decarceration Approach for the New Biden Administration, University of Oxford Border Criminologies Blog (Mar. 19, 2021)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Sending Migrants Elsewhere (comparatively analyzing the United States' use of third country deportations with practices in the U.K., EU, and Australia, arguing for attention to be paid to local communities within those larger national and supranational entities that desire migration to help combat depopulation)

Abolition on the Right (critiquing the ideological bounds of decarceration practices by considering whether policies pursued by the Trump administration, and conservatives more broadly, fits within the ambit of traditional abolition theory, and, in finding that it does not, arguing for a more capacious view of abolition politics)

The Terror of Migration (raising the specter of an executive with near limitless powers emerging out of a regime of judicial deference with regard to the treatment of noncitizens particularly under the guise of national security concerns)

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

- *Le Camp des saints: enquête sur le roman français qui obsède la Maison-Blanche*, Le Grand Continent, France (Feb. 21, 2026)
- *Could the Abolish ICE Movement Succeed?*, Newsweek (Jan. 22, 2026)
- *ICE Detains Family of Suspected Colorado Attacker*, The Wall Street Journal (Jun. 3, 2025)
- *UK immigration law professor discusses Rubio's threat to revoke Chinese student visas*, WEKU, NPR affiliate (Jun. 2, 2025)
- *Amid free speech concerns, pro-Palestinian students take caution on Kentucky campuses*, Louisville Courier-Journal (May 9, 2025)

- *Donald Trump cherche-t-il à detenir ou expulser du pays ses adversaires?*, Le Devoir, Montreal (May 2, 2025)
- *What Green Card and Visa Holders Need to Know About Recent Deportations*, The Wall Street Journal (Mar. 19, 2025)– Fluent/ Full Professional Proficiency
- *Lawfare Live: Trials of the Trump Administration*, Lawfare Podcast (Mar. 14, 2025)
- Trump's immigration executive orders: Is Kentucky seeing an impact?, WKYT (Jan. 22, 2025)

SELECTED LEGAL AND SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Third Country Removals and Due Process

- CINETS/ Border Criminologies Bi-annual Conference, Leiden University, Netherlands (Jul. 2026)
- Invited Faculty Exchange, Vanderbilt Law School, Nashville, TN (Feb. 2026)
- American Association of Law Schools (AALS) Annual Meeting, Immigration Law Panel, New Orleans, LA (Jan. 2026)
- Childress Lecture and Annual Symposium, St. Louis University School of Law, St. Louis, MO (Oct. 2025)

The Political Economy of Mass Deportation

- Invited Faculty Lecture, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA (Oct. 2026)
- Immigration Professors Conference, Duke University School of Law, Durham, NC (Jun. 2026)
- Midwest Migration Scholars Workshop, Keough School of Public Affairs, Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN (Apr. 2026)
- Association for Law and Political Economy Conference, Richmond, VA (Feb. 2026)

Abolition on the Right

- Decarceration Conference (virtual), (Jun. 2025)

The Terror of Migration

- Emerging Immigration Law Scholars Conference, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Columbus, OH (May 2025)
- Crimmigration Workshop, University of Oregon School of Law, Eugene, OR (Apr. 2025)
- Symposium, UALR William H. Bowen School of Law, Little Rock, AR (Apr. 2025)
- University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, Louisville, KY (Jan. 2025)

The Migration of Abolition Theory

- University of Michigan Law School Junior Scholars Conference, Ann Arbor, MI (Apr. 2024)
- AALS New Voices in Immigration Law, Washington, DC (Jan. 2024)
- UCLA Emerging Immigration Scholars Conference (Oct. 2023)
- George Washington University School of Law, Emerging Immigration Scholars Conference (Jun. 2023)
- Richmond University School of Law Junior Faculty Forum (May 2023)
- NYU Clinical Law Review Writers' Workshop (Oct. 2022)
- ImmProf Conference, Loyola Law School (Los Angeles) (Jun. 2022)

Speculative Immigration Policy

- Law, Culture, and Humanities Annual Meeting, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C. (Jun. 2025)
- AALS Annual Meeting, Panel on Critical Storytelling – Criminal Law Section, San Francisco, CA (Jan. 2025)
- The Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities Conference – “Unsettling Law”, Emory Law School (Virtual) (Jun. 2022)
- Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, University of Waterloo (Virtual) (Oct. 2021)
- Biennial Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, Mercer University (Virtual) (Jul. 2021)

Practical Abolition: Universal Representation as an Alternative to Immigration Detention

- Acacia Center for Justice (virtual) (Apr. 2024)
- Global Borderlands Conference – CINETS (Crimmigration Control International Net of Studies), University of Leiden, Netherlands (Virtual) (Sep. 2021)

Selected Panels

- Panelist, *Sixty Since the Sixties: Civil Rights Yesterday, Tomorrow, and Today*, Washington and Lee Law School Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice – Symposium (Nov. 2022)
- Panelist, *Fourth Circuit Asylum Law Conference*, William and Mary Law School (Virtual) (Mar. 2022)
- Panelist, *Race and the Pandemic: Inequity in Protecting Civil Liberties*, Washington and Lee Law School Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice – Symposium, (2020)
- Panelist and presenter, *Understanding Asylum and Refugee Law*, CLE Course, with Immigration Judge Dorothy Harbeck (Oct. 2017 and Apr. 2018)
- Co-presenter, *An Overview of Detained Immigrant Representation for Pro Bono Attorneys*, Immigrant Justice Campaign and American Immigrant Representation Project, Hosted by Immigrant Justice Campaign (NYC) (May 2017)
- Presenter, *Representing Detained Immigrants in Bond Hearings*, Seton Hall Law School (Apr. 2017)

SELECTED COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

- Co-organizer and Presenter (w/ Raquel Wilson), Series - *How to Interact with ICE and the Police*, University of Kentucky (various locations) (Spring 2025)
- Presenter, *The Basics of DACA (in Spanish)*, Latinos Unidos de Rockbridge, Zoom presentation (May 2021)
- Organizer and moderator, *Martin Luther King Celebration: Building Bridges, not Barriers, DACA-mentary and panel*, screening of “The Unafraid” documentary and panel discussion, Washington & Lee University (Jan. 2020)
- Co-presenter, *The Expansion of Immigration Detention and its Impact on Communities in New Jersey*, SPEAR Conference, Princeton University (Sep. 2018)
- Regular presenter, *Current Developments in Supreme Court Case Law and Immigration Law*, Ramapo College, Prof. Sanghamitra Padhy (Oct. 2017, Oct. 2018)
- Co-presenter, *General Resources for Immigrants in the Climate of the New Administration*, Consulate of Ecuador (Nov. 2017)

LEGAL PRACTICE AND OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Detention Attorney

Feb. 2019 – Jun. 2019

American Friends Service Committee, Newark, NJ

- Supervised staff attorneys, *pro bono* attorneys, interns, and law students in their intake and representation of clients

Staff Detention Attorney

Oct. 2016 – Jan. 2019

American Friends Service Committee, Newark, NJ

- Represented over 100 individuals in removal proceedings before immigration judges at Elizabeth/Newark Immigration Courts (resulting in successful grants of asylum, withholding of removal, cancellation of removal, adjustment of status, and bond); provided representation in family court and criminal court
- Represented clients before the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. District Court of New Jersey
- Advocated for state-level funding with NJ legislators to provide universal representation to all immigrant detainees, resulting in \$2.1 million allocation for fiscal year 2018

Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow

Sep. 2015 – Sep. 2016

American Friends Service Committee, Newark, NJ

- Represented over 30 individuals in detained, non-detained, and non-removal immigration matters such as: asylum/withholding proceedings, U-Visas, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) status, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and in mental competency hearings
- Participated in a two-week representation project at Karnes Detention Center (Texas), reviewing negative Credible Fear Interviews, preparing clients for hearings with immigration judges and writing Requests for Re-interview

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Jessine A. Monaghan Fellowship (2021 & 2023) (recognizing innovation and excellence in experiential education)

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Harvard Law Review peer reviewer
- German Law Review peer reviewer
- Journal on Migration and Human Security peer reviewer
- Journal of Law and Political Economy peer reviewer
- Board chair, Neighbors Immigration Clinic (Lexington, KY), Mar. 2025 – present

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Supreme Court of the United States
- Third Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Court – District of New Jersey
- State Bar of New York
- State Bar of Virginia (associate status)

LANGUAGES: Spanish (Fluent/ Full Professional Proficiency), French (Intermediate/ Conversational), English (Native)