About the Faculty

PATRICIA J. BAKER is a senior policy analyst at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute in Boston, a statewide support center for legal services programs that provides litigation and legislative and administrative rulemaking advocacy on behalf of low-income persons in Massachusetts. Ms. Baker has over thirty years of legal services experience and has worked extensively on poverty and anti-hunger issues that affect immigrants, persons with disabilities, children, teen parents, and homeless persons. In addition to her legislative work, agency rulemaking negotiations, and presentations at countless statewide and regional training events, she is the co-author of numerous publications on benefits issues, including the MCLE-published SNAP Advocacy Guide and the EAEDC Advocacy Guide. (May 2021)

IRIS D. GOMEZ is a nationally-recognized expert on asylum and immigration law. She is the director of the Immigrants Protection Project at Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, a statewide nonprofit poverty law and poverty center. Ms. Gomez is responsible for impact litigation and legal and policy advocacy on behalf of low-income immigrants and provides training and technical assistance on immigration issues that affect low-income people throughout Massachusetts. Previously, she taught immigration law at Boston University School of Law and other area law schools. She currently serves as a Trustee of The Hyams Foundation, a Boston-based foundation that funds racial equity projects on behalf of low-income people, and has played leadership roles in bar associations and on the boards of numerous local, state, and national organizations. Her professional work and community service have earned her numerous awards, including the Las Primeras Award for Latina trailblazers in Massachusetts, a Women of Justice award from two leading women lawyers’ organizations, awards from the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the National Lawyers Guild, the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys, the Boston Bar Association, the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, and several other local and national organizations. Ms. Gomez is a graduate of the Boston University School of Law. She is also an award-winning novelist. (May 2017)

KATIE CONDON GRACE is the Medical-Legal Partnership attorney at MetroWest Legal Services. In 2014, Katie started MetroWest Legal Services’ Medical-Legal Partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center in Framingham, and she currently runs the day-to-day operations of the MLP. The MetroWest Legal Services MLP allies health care providers with legal advocates, combining the strengths of both professions in order to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable individuals in the metro west area. Katie represents health center patients in several different substantive areas, including immigration, insurance access, family law, public benefits, education, and housing. She also trains health care providers in substantive areas of law and on how to identify health-harming legal needs in their patients. Katie received her law degree from Boston College Law School and her undergraduate degree from Boston College.

JUDITH LIBEN is the senior housing attorney at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute in Boston. Her clients include statewide advocacy and tenant groups such as the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless and the Massachusetts Union of Public Housing Tenants. She started
her legal services practice in Lowell Massachusetts in 1976 - when vacancy rates were high, rents were low, the Section 8 program had just started, new public housing was still being built, and foreclosures were not a big problem. Judith’s current works includes: protecting tenants after foreclosure; challenging demolition of public housing and unlawful relocation of public housing residents; challenging state and local housing practices that discriminate against racial and ethnic minorities, and advocacy to broaden access for homeless families to affordable housing programs. (2013)

NAOMI A. MEYER is a Senior Attorney in the Welfare Law Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services, where she has worked since 2002. She represents clients in cash welfare, Food Stamps/SNAP, and subsidized child care cases, often representing those facing problems with immigrant eligibility and language access barriers. She also engages in systemic advocacy to improve these programs throughout Massachusetts, including legislative advocacy through the Lift Our Kids Coalition. Before coming to GBLS, she advocated for access to state-sponsored health insurance and patients’ rights in managed care at Consumers Union in San Francisco. Ms. Meyer holds a J.D. and a Master of Public Policy from the University of California at Berkeley. (March 2022)

MARIO PAREDES currently serves as a staff attorney and a Bart J. Gordon Fellow with the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute and Prisoners’ Legal Services on their Immigration Detention Conditions Project. Before pursuing a career in legal advocacy, Mr. Paredes spent several years working with various community-based organizations, schools, and nonprofits. He is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the Massachusetts Bar Association, and the Boston Bar Association, and sits on the board of the local immigrants’ rights non-profit Centro Presente. He is a graduate of Boston University School of Law, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, and Lehigh University. (May 2021)

VICTORIA PULOS is a senior staff attorney with Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI), having joined MLRI in 2000 as a health law attorney. Her work concentrates on assuring low-income people access to health care, through policy advocacy, training, technical support, and litigation. Prior to joining MLRI she did children’s health work at Families USA in Washington D.C. and prior to that worked as a managing attorney at New Hampshire Legal Assistance. She is the author of MLRI's MassHealth Advocacy Guide. She has also worked extensively on immigrants'; eligibility for health care programs. She received both her law degree and a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University. (March 2022)