About the Faculty

Immigrants and Public Benefits

PATRICIA 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 coauthor of numerous publications on benefit issues including the MCLE published Food Stamp/SNAP Advocacy Guide and the EAEDC Advocacy Guide.

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.

DEIRDRE GIBLIN has specialized in immigration law for over 20 years, with a focus on asylum and refugee law. She joined MLRI in June 2018. She is active in the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), and has served on AILA New England’s Pro Bono Detention Bond project, the EOIR Immigration Court committee and the Asylum Office committee. She is also a member of the ABA International Law Section, the Boston Bar Association, the Massachusetts Women’s Bar Association Legislative Committee, as well as Greater Boston Legal Service’s Corporate Board, Amnesty International’s Leadership Circle and UNICEF USA’s Hepburn Society. Ms. Giblin was a Case Scholar at Boston University, a Parker Scholar at Columbia Law School, and earned her J.D. from Penn Law in 1993.

IRIS GOMEZ is a senior immigration attorney and Director of the Immigrants Protection Project at Massachusetts Law Reform Institute. She has written and edited numerous legal and community education articles and is the author of two poetry books and an immigrant coming-of-age novel, TRY TO REMEMBER (2010), which won an International Latino Book Award and praise from prominent national magazines such as O, The Oprah Magazine and Latina Magazine (for more information, see www.irisgomez.com.) She serves on the board of The Hyams Foundation and has been the recipient of awards from the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Boston Bar Association, the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition.
JUDITH LIBEN has been a housing attorney at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute since 1989. After graduating from Northeastern Law School, she worked at Merrimack Valley Legal Services from 1976-1987 and was Chief Counsel at Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services from 1987 to 1989. Judith is a “utility player” at MLRI — advocating with clients and allies on a broad range of housing issues such as tenants’ rights after foreclosure; preservation of public housing; stronger fair housing policies in state programs; fairer admissions practices; enhanced portability in the Section 8 program; and language access in the Emergency Assistance and housing programs.

NAOMI 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 helping lead the legislative campaign to Lift the Cap on Kids. 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 Masters of Public Policy from the University of California at Berkeley.

ANDREA M. PARK joined MLRI as a Housing and Homelessness staff attorney in 2016. Before that, Andrea served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights and Consumer Protection Divisions of the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office, worked at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau on a lawyering/ community organizing partnership, and was a staff attorney at Community Legal Aid (formerly Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts) working in housing, foreclosure, consumer and bankruptcy litigation. Andrea grew up in East Tennessee and is a lifelong musician.

VICKY PULOS has been a health law attorney at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI) since 2000. Her work concentrates on assuring immigrants, people with disabilities and other low-income people access to health care through policy advocacy, community education and training, and litigation. Prior to joining MLRI she managed children’s health work at Families USA in Washington D.C and before that practiced poverty law at New Hampshire Legal Assistance. She received both her law degree and a master’s degree in public administration from Harvard University.