

Laurie Takiko Izutsu, JD, LMSW

Vermont Law School
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Legal Experience

Vermont Law School, South Royalton, Vermont

Staff Attorney/Associate Professor, South Royalton Legal Clinic July 2017 – Present
Serve as project coordinator for the Vermont Veterans Legal Assistance Project. Provide consultation and representation to veterans in civil legal matters in Windsor and Orange counties and on a statewide basis to veterans on veteran-specific matters such as discharge upgrades and appeals from the denial of VA benefits. Provide training on veterans law and pro bono opportunities to the local bar. Collaborate with community partners and staff a monthly legal clinic at the White River Junction VA Medical Center. Provide instruction for classroom component of clinic and supervise student clinicians. Attend faculty meetings and participate in VLS committees and working groups.

Vermont Judiciary, Counties of Caledonia, Essex, Orange, Washington, and Windsor, Vermont
Senior Law Clerk December 2014 – July 2017

Assisted trial court judges in the Civil, Criminal, Family, and Probate divisions. Researched legal issues and advised judges with written or oral analysis. Drafted, edited, and revised legal memoranda, judicial opinions, and jury instructions. Trained and mentored new law clerks.

Brooklyn Legal Services, Brooklyn, New York

Staff Attorney April 2009 – November 2014
Provided representation, advocacy, legal counsel, and pro se assistance to a diverse population of low-income clients, including veterans. Wrote legal memoranda, conducted legal research, and engaged in all aspects of litigation on matters pertaining to foreclosure prevention and family law. Provided consultation on immigration issues. Prepared and filed applications for immigration benefits. Provided foreclosure prevention training to *pro bono* attorneys through the City Bar. Performed community outreach and education, as well as legislative advocacy. Supervised interns and volunteer attorneys. Served as Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow, 2009—2010.

United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, New York, New York

Immigration Staff Attorney

September 2005 – September 2008

Provided substantive legal analysis and recommended disposition of petitions for review in immigration cases involving asylum and other claims for relief from removal. Wrote over 550 bench memoranda. Prepared training seminars, advised peers and assisted supervisors in editing peers' bench memoranda. Received Sustained Excellence Award in 2007 and 2008.

Other Professional Experience

Gracie Square Hospital, New York, New York

Director of Social Work Services

November 2001 – July 2002

Supervised the social work department of a psychiatric facility serving 160 adult and adolescent patients. Managed all social work staff and interns. Performed all social work duties. Addressed concerns of privacy, guardianship, advance directives, and quality assurance. Prepared applications for public assistance, SSI, SSD, and other benefits and entitlements. Participated in interdisciplinary team meetings. Ensured compliance with state and federal regulations.

District Council 37 Health & Security Plan, New York, New York

Social Worker, Personal Service Unit

February 2001 – November 2001

Conducted intake, provided supportive counseling, and advocated on behalf of union members. Supervised volunteers. Assisted clients in obtaining entitlements.

Gracie Square Hospital/American Psych Systems, New York, New York

Program Director

February 1999 – January 2001

Provided oversight of psychiatric, dual diagnosis, and eating disorder partial hospitalization programs for adults and teens. Performed both management and social work duties, including supervision of psychiatrists and social workers, crisis intervention, program planning, facilitating interdisciplinary team meetings, recruitment, and hiring.

Community Behavioral Health, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Child and Adolescent Service Manager

March 1998 – October 1998

Assessed mental health patients on Medicaid for appropriate level of care at progressive, non-profit HMO. Assisted in treatment and discharge planning. Developed adolescent substance abuse assessment tool.

JFK Community Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Social Worker

August 1996 – March 1998

Performed all social work duties and provided coverage for clinical director.

Education

Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, New York

Juris Doctor, June 2005

Carswell Scholar, 2002-2005

Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellow, 2004-2005

Yeshiva University, Wurzweiler School of Social Work, New York, New York
Seminar in Field Instruction, 1999-2000

University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
Master of Social Work, Health/Mental Health concentration, June 1996
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, August 1992
Bachelor of Arts, Communications, August 1992

Publication

Note, *Applying Atkins v. Virginia to Capital Defendants with Severe Mental Illness*, *Brooklyn Law Review* (Spring 2005)

Presentations

Organizer, coordinator, *Promoting Justice for Military Service Members and Veterans*, Vermont Law School, South Royalton, Vermont, March 2018

Panelist, *Beyond Law Reform: Building a Practice that Meets the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Clients*, Panelist, NYSBA Partnership Conference, Albany, New York, September 2014

Presenter, *Introduction to HAMP and Foreclosure Settlement Advocacy*, New York City Bar Association, New York, New York, October 2010

Presenter, *Introduction to HAMP and Foreclosure Settlement Advocacy*, Brooklyn Bar Association, Brooklyn, New York, April 2010

Media

The Herald, December 21, 2017, featured in “SoRo Legal Clinic Guides Residents Through Red Tape,” by Dylan Kelley

Valley News, November 11, 2017, quoted in “VLS Opens Veterans Center,” by Matt Hongoltz-Hetling

Memberships and Affiliations

Member, Vermont Bar

Member, New York Bar

Member, Vermont Bar Association

National Organization of Veterans Advocates

Coordinator/Volunteer, Group 112, Amnesty International USA, Brooklyn, NY, 2001-2014

Coordinator/Volunteer, Group 26, Amnesty International USA, Philadelphia, PA, 1996-1998