

Melissa Chua

Melissa Chua has worked as an immigration advocate for over a decade, specializing in defense from deportation, post-order practice, and asylum. She is currently the Director of the Immigrant Protection Unit at the New York Legal Assistance Group, where she provides legal and programmatic oversight to a team of attorneys and advocates providing free immigration legal services to New York City immigrants experiencing poverty. In that role, she also represents detained non-citizens with final orders of removal, who face detention and immediate deportation.

Carmen Maria Rey Caldas

Carmen Maria Rey Caldas is an experienced attorney and advocate who works as Senior Counsel at CoCounsel, a nonprofit that partners with community organizations to address the legal needs of immigrant communities throughout New York City, and as Supervising Attorney in the Immigration Justice Clinic at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. Prior to these roles, Carmen served as an Immigration Judge with the U.S. Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) at the Stewart, Georgia, and New York City, 26 Federal Plaza Immigration Courts. Before joining EOIR, Carmen spent over 16 years working as an immigration lawyer and advocate for immigrant communities in a variety of roles, including as the U.S. Legal Director at the International Refugee Assistance Project, which provides legal advocacy for refugees and displaced people around the world, as Legal Director of Sanctuary for Families' immigration unit, which defends and works to expand the rights of immigrant survivors of gender-based violence, and as Assistant Professor of Clinical Law and Co-Director of the Safe Harbor Immigration Clinic at Brooklyn Law School.

Alexandra Rizio

Alexandra Rizio is the Supervising Immigration Attorney for Make the Road NY's Westchester office. An advocate with almost 15 years of immigration experience, Alex focuses on removal defense, humanitarian immigration relief, and federal litigation. Prior to joining Make the Road, Alex was the Managing Attorney at Safe Passage Project. There, she ran the organization's pro bono lawyer and volunteer interpreter program, and developed training materials for attorneys new to the practice of immigration law. In 2023, she was the Training Director for New York City's Asylum Application Help Center, which helped almost 60,000 people apply for asylum and other forms of immigration relief, and which won the American Bar Association's Hodson Award for Public Service. Alex has also served as the clinical professor for immigration law at New York Law School.