

SHANTEL VACHANI

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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, Los Angeles, CA **May 2008**

Juris Doctor

David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy (PILP) program
California Bar Member # 260334

University of California, Los Angeles, School of Social Welfare, Los Angeles, CA **June 2007**

Masters of Social Welfare (MSW)

Concentration in Social Work in Organizations, Communities, and Policy Settings

University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA **December 2000**

Bachelor of Arts (BA), International Development Studies & Bachelor of Arts (BA), Psychology

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

USC School of Social Work **August 2011-present**

Adjunct Lecturer

Teach foundation policy courses (Social Work 534 and 535) to first year USC MSW students.

Public Counsel Law Center, Los Angeles, CA **June 2010-present**

Transition Age Foster Youth Advocate/Staff Attorney

Provide intensive advocacy, case management and legal and social work assistance for 30 current/former transition age foster youth. Attend and advocate for youth at dependency and delinquency court hearings. Provide community trainings and technical assistance for stakeholders on issues related to education, special education, rights of court-involved youth, and transitional services. Supervise law, social work and high school interns. Participate in relevant county/statewide task forces concerning foster youth policy and legislation.

California State University Northridge, Masters in Social Work **August 2010-August 2011**

Part-Time Lecturer

Taught foundation year Macro Social Work Practice/Theory courses to first year CSUN MSW students.

El Nido Family Services, Pacoima, CA **April 2010-June 2010**

Gang Reduction Youth Development (GRYD) Education Consultant

Provided technical training and capacity building to El Nido GRYD case managers and parents of El Nido clients in all areas related to general and special education advocacy. Attend IEP's as necessary to provide additional educational support to El Nido case managers and parents.

Valley Community Clinic, Teen Clinic, North Hollywood, CA **February 2010-June 2010**

Youth Empowerment Group Co-facilitator

Co-facilitated youth empowerment group designed to develop leadership and community organizing skills for at-risk high school youth in the San Fernando Valley. Group met weekly and culminated in a mental health workshop put on by group members which was presented at the June 2010 Youth Summit.

Learning Rights Law Center, Los Angeles, CA **September 2008- March 2010**

Soros Justice Fellow/Education Attorney/Director of School-to-Prison Pipeline Reversal Project

Developed, secured funding and implemented multi-disciplinary juvenile justice project entitled the School-to-Prison Pipeline Reversal Project, aimed at preventing special needs youth from being pushed out of schools and into the juvenile justice system. Project effectively collaborated with the Department of Mental Health (DMH), Probation, Los Angeles Unified (LAUSD)/ Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), community-based agencies, minor's attorneys and delinquency judges.

- **Community training/presentations/services-** provided trainings to therapists, case managers, probation officers, youth, parents, delinquency judges and graduate students on education law, navigating the juvenile justice system, advocating for court-involved youth and accessing evidence-based mental health programs..
- **Collaboration with UCLA Juvenile Justice Project-** wrote and awarded Community Partnership Grant for collaboration between UCLA School of Law and Learning Rights Law Center to develop Juvenile Justice Project (<http://la.ucla.edu/grants/2008/learninglaw.shtml>).

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

California Teachers Association, Santa Fe Springs, CA August 2007 – May 2008

Teacher's Union Law Clerk

Conducted legal research, drafted memoranda, and created policy Power Point presentations regarding education, labor and employment law for labor attorneys, union representatives, and school districts.

New Way of Life Prisoner Reentry Clinic, Los Angeles, CA August 2007 – December 2007

Legal Clinic Volunteer

Provided legal support services to formerly incarcerated women/youth, including assisting with expungements, reduction of felonies to misdemeanors, certificates of rehabilitation, and sealing of juvenile records.

Legal Aid Society, Employment Law Center (ELC), San Francisco, CA May 2007-July 2007

Law Clerk

Assisted low-income clients with employment discrimination and wage and hour claims.

California Institute of Mental Health (CIMH), Los Angeles, CA March 2006- April 2007

Interviewer/Resource Advocate, CalWORKS Homelessness Project

Conducted extensive interviews with former CalWORKS Homelessness Project female participants.

Center for Civil Society, University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban, South Africa June 2006 - September 2006

Social Worker MSW Intern

Spearheaded Restorative Justice Prison Project focusing on prisoner rehabilitation and alternative sentencing. Established and implemented psycho-social-legal assessments and protocol for participants, which included on-going individual counseling in the prison, program progress reports to judges, attorneys and family members, community outreach to client family members and victims of crimes committed by clients, and direct advocacy with social service providers and educational institutions for clients with minor children.

Korea Town Youth and Community Center, Los Angeles, California September 2005 - June 2006

Clinical Therapist MSW Intern

Conducted psycho-social assessments. Provided individual and group therapy to probation/foster youth at DCFS/DMH contracted agency. Conducted parenting classes. Advocacy included collaborating with schools to ensure provision of mental health services and with probation to monitor compliance with probation terms.

California Survey Research Services, Van Nuys, CA June 2003-June 2004

Human Resources Supervisor

Recruited, interviewed, hired, conducted employee trainings and managed staff of 50 employees for survey research firm. Managed all employee paperwork. Conducted sexual harassment and labor law trainings for staff.

Child Care Links, Oakland, California

December 2001 - January 2003

CalWORKS Program Manager

Directly managed 10 CalWORKS case managers for county contracted agency providing childcare benefits to welfare recipients. Resolved client problems and liaised between clients and County welfare department.

FIELD WORK

Robert Chartoff International Development Fellowship, Bihar, India November 2000 - August 2001
Village Social Worker/Teacher

Worked as social worker and K-12 teacher with non-profit organization committed to rural educational development in lower caste (Untouchables) region in Bihar, India. Created and served on “justice tribunal”, an ad hoc tribunal comprised of village leaders, teachers, parents and members from local nonprofits, designed to hear criminal cases and offer community solutions. Wrote extensive 120-page case study and recommendations for donor to enhance sustainability of non-profit organization.

UCLA Field Research Program, Hocaba Village, Yucatan, Mexico **August - December 1999**
Field Researcher

Conducted fieldwork as part of undergraduate thesis, “*Psychological and Social Implications of Foreign-Owned Sweatshops on the Indigenous Mayan People.*” Fieldwork included living with factory workers for 5 months, visiting factories, and interviewing workers about impact of working conditions and policies on their lives. Produced 45-page research study highlighting findings.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

College Summit-Writing Coach, Volunteer

Garment Workers Center- Workers Right Clinic, (wage claims), Clinic Volunteer

LANGUAGES

Fluent in written and spoken Spanish
