

SAMEER MAHENDRA ASHAR

401 E. Peltason Drive
Irvine, California 92697
949-824-3710
sashar@law.uci.edu

ACADEMIC
APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE SCHOOL OF LAW

Clinical Professor of Law, 2011-18, 2020-present
Faculty Director, Workers, Law, and Organizing Clinic, 2021-present
Associate Dean for Equity/Senior Leadership, 2021-2024
Founding Faculty, UCI Labor Center, 2022-23
Founder and Co-Director, Immigrant Rights Clinic, 2011-18
Courses: Workers and Tenants Law and Organizing Clinic; Toward
Abolition Democracy: Law, Lawyers, and Social Movements; Legal
Profession; Labor Law

UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW

Vice Dean for Experiential Education/Senior Leadership, 2018-20
Professor of Law, 2018-20
Courses: Immigrant Family Legal Clinic; Workers, Law, and Organizing
Clinic

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK SCHOOL OF LAW

Associate Dean for Clinical Programs/Senior Leadership, 2008-11
Associate Professor of Law, 2003-11
Director, Immigrant and Refugee Rights Clinic, 2003-08
Courses: Immigrant and Refugee Rights Clinic

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF LAW

Assistant Professor of Law & Co-Director, Civil Rights Clinic, 2002-03

NYU SCHOOL OF LAW

Acting Assistant Professor of Clinical Law & Co-Director, Immigrant
Rights Clinic, 2001-02

EDUCATION

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

J.D., *cum laude*, 1993-96
Irving Kaufman Public Service Fellow
Lead Articles Editor, *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

B.A., *High Honors*, 1987-91
Political Science, Economics, and Religion
Ivy Award for Leadership, Scholarship, and Contributions to the
Community

PUBLICATIONS

The Futures of Law, Lawyers, and Law Schools: A Dialogue (with Benjamin H. Barton, Michael J. Madison, and Rachel F. Moran), 84 UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH LAW REVIEW (2024).

Introduction and Chapter 4 - Advocacy (with Jennifer Chacón, Susan Bibler Coutin, and Stephen Lee) in LEGAL PHANTOMS: EXECUTIVE ACTION AND THE HAUNTING FAILURES OF IMMIGRATION LAW (2024).

Imperatives Emanating from Life Work, 90 TENNESSEE LAW REVIEW 726 (2023).

Pedagogy of Prefiguration, 132 YALE LAW JOURNAL FORUM 869 (2023).

What Movements Do to Law (with Amna Akbar and Jocelyn Simonson), BOSTON REVIEW (Apr. 26, 2022).

Movement Law (with Amna Akbar & Jocelyn Simonson), 73 STANFORD LAW REVIEW 821 (2021).

Race, Ethnicity, and the Legal Profession (with Hilary Sommerlad, Meera Deo et al.), in RICHARD L. ABEL ET AL. (EDS.), LAWYERS IN 21ST-CENTURY SOCIETIES, VOL. 2: COMPARISONS AND THEORIES (2021).

Shapeshifting Displacement: Notions of Membership and Deservingness Forged by Illegalized Residents (with Susan Bibler Coutin (lead author), Jennifer Chacón, Stephen Lee, and Jason Palmer), 12 HUMANITY 339 (2021).

Critical Theory and Clinical Stance (with Wendy A. Bach), 26 CLINICAL LAW REVIEW 81 (2019).

Democratic Norms and Governance Experimentalism in Worker Centers (with Catherine Fisk), 82 LAW & CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS 141 (2019).

DACA, Government Lawyers, and the Public Interest (with Stephen Lee), 87 FORDHAM LAW REVIEW 1879 (2019); reprinted in IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY LAW REVIEW (2020) and BENDER'S IMMIGRATION BULLETIN (2019).

Access to Power (with Annie Lai), 148 DÆDALUS 82 (2019).

Case Study 1: Movement Groups with Flat, Innovative Governance Structures (with Meena Jagannath), 47 HOFSTRA LAW REVIEW 19 (2018).

Citizenship Matters: Conceptualizing Belonging in an Era of Fragile Inclusions (with Jennifer Chacón (lead author), Susan Bibler Coutin, and Stephen Lee), 52 UC DAVIS LAW REVIEW 1 (2018).

Movement Lawyers in the Fight for Immigrant Rights, 64 UCLA LAW REVIEW 1464 (2017); excerpted in *LATINOS AND THE LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS* (2nd ed. 2021).

Deferred Action and the Discretionary State: Migration, Precarity, and Resistance (with Susan Bibler Coutin (lead author), Jennifer Chacón, and Stephen Lee), 21 CITIZENSHIP STUDIES 951 (2017).

Deep Critique and Democratic Lawyering in Clinical Practice, 104 CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 201 (2016); excerpted in *CRITICAL JUSTICE: SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY IN LAW AND SOCIETY* (2021).

Fieldwork and the Political, in SUSAN BRYANT, ELLIOTT MILSTEIN, ANN SHALLECK (eds.), *TRANSFORMING THE EDUCATION OF LAWYERS: THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF CLINICAL PEDAGOGY* (2014).

Advancing Low Wage Organizing Through Legal Representation, 47 CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW: JOURNAL OF POVERTY LAW AND POLICY 313 (2013).

Review Essay, 47 LAW & SOCIETY REVIEW 982 (2013), reviewing RUBEN J. GARCIA, *MARGINAL WORKERS: HOW LEGAL FAULT LINES DIVIDE WORKERS AND LEAVE THEM WITHOUT PROTECTION* (2012).

Review Essay, 62 JOURNAL OF LEGAL EDUCATION 193 (2012), reviewing FRANK S. BLOCH (ed.), *THE GLOBAL CLINICAL MOVEMENT: EDUCATING LAWYERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE* (2011).

Law Clinics and Collective Mobilization, 14 CLINICAL LAW REVIEW 455 (2008); excerpted in *PUBLIC INTEREST LAWYERING: A CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVE* (2012) and *CLINICAL ANTHOLOGY: READINGS FOR LIVE CLIENT CLINICS*, 2nd Ed. (2011).

Public Interest Lawyers and Resistance Movements, 95 CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 1879 (2007).

Immigration Enforcement and Subordination: The Consequences of Racial Profiling After September 11, 34 CONNECTICUT LAW REVIEW 1185 (2002); reprinted in 23 *IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY L. REV.* 545 (2003).

Justice O'Connor's Blind Rationalization of Affirmative Action Jurisprudence: Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Pena (with Lisa Opoku), 31 *HARVARD CIVIL RIGHTS-CIVIL LIBERTIES LAW REVIEW* 223 (1996).

OTHER WRITING

Movement Law Under Fascism (with Amna Akbar and Jocelyn Simonson), *Law and Political Economy Blog* (Oct. 15, 2025).

The Assault on Campus Protests, Academe Magazine and Law and Political Economy Blog (Mar. 27, 2025).

Toward Prefigurative Lanyering, Law and Political Economy Blog (July 3, 2023).

Law Clinics and Racial Capitalism (with Renee Hatcher and John Whitlow), Law and Political Economy Blog (Nov. 7, 2022).

Movement Visions for a Renewed Left Legalism (with Amna Akbar and Jocelyn Simonson), Law and Political Economy Blog (Mar. 5, 2019).

Movement Visions for a Renewed Left Politics (with Amna Akbar and Jocelyn Simonson), Law and Political Economy Blog (Mar. 4, 2019).

Teaching, Guerrilla Style (with Amna Akbar and Jocelyn Simonson), Law and Political Economy Blog (Oct. 23, 2018).

The Political Economy of Immigration Enforcement (with Amna Akbar), Law and Political Economy Blog (Jun. 6-7, 2018).

The Critical Responsibilities of South Asian American Leadership, THE AEROGAM (Nov. 16, 2017).

Centering Justice in Legal Education Reform Discourse, Best Practices for Legal Education Blog (Mar. 8, 2016).

Executive Report, Russell Sage Foundation, *Navigating Legal Liminalities Along Pathways to Citizenship: Immigrant Vulnerability and the Role of Mediating Institutions* (with Edeline Burciaga, Jennifer Chacon, Susan Coutin, Alma Nidia Garza, and Stephen Lee) (2015).

White Paper, UCI Immigrant Rights Clinic, *Misplaced Priorities: The Failure of Secure Communities in Los Angeles County* (with Edgar Aguila-socho and David Rodwin) (2012).

GRANTS

UC Workers Rights Policy Initiative, *UCI Labor Center Proposal* (with Virginia Parks and Walter Nicholls), 2022-25

AAUW, *Southern California Low-Wage Worker Legal Services Project*, 2022-23, 2024-25

National Science Foundation, *Executive Relief and the Roles of Mediating Institutions in Immigration Law and Policy* (with Susan Bibler Coutin, Jennifer Chacón, and Stephen Lee), 2016-19

Russell Sage Foundation, *Navigating Legal Liminalities Along Pathways to Citizenship: Immigrant Vulnerability and the Role of Mediating Organizations* (with Susan Bibler Coutin, Jennifer Chacón, and Stephen Lee), 2014-15

UCLA Institute for Research on Labor & Employment, *Assessing the Impact of Wage Theft in Orange County*, 2014-15

UC Center for Collaborative Research for an Equitable California, *Wage Theft and Health Care Access Among Warehouse Workers in Southern California* (with UC Riverside and UCLA Labor Center), 2013-14

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Four Lessons for the Field of Law and Social Movements from Risk and Resistance, Book Launch Conference, American University Washington College of Law Health Law and Policy Program, Washington, D.C. (October 3, 2025).

Racial Capitalist Subjectivities, Summer Research Residence: Conceptual Innovation, Methods, and Law, King's College Dickson Poon School of Law, London, UK (June 23, 2025).

The Migrant Worker as Interloper, Law and the Interloper Workshop, American Bar Foundation, Chicago, IL (May 26, 2025).

Wage Labor and the Abolitionist Disruption (with T.J. Mertikas), Law and Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (May 24, 2025).

Race, Labor, Extraction: Toward Movement Legal Imaginaries, Society for Advancement of Socio-Economics Conference, Limerick, Ireland (June 29, 2024).

Discussant, *Racial Equality Scholarship*, Law & Society Annual Meeting, Denver, CO (June 6, 2024).

Transformative Advocacy, AALS Clinical Conference, St. Louis, MO (May 4, 2024).

Faculty Workshop, *Race, Labor, Extraction: Toward Movement Legal Imaginaries*, Fordham Law School, New York, NY (March 7, 2024).

Author Meets Reader, *How to Set Up and Run a Law Clinic*, University of Miami, Miami, FL (March 6, 2024).

Five Themes from Insurgent Labor Organizing, ClassCrits Conference, Los Angeles, CA (February 10, 2024).

Critical Immigration Law, AALS Section on Immigration Law, Washington, DC (January 6, 2024).

Racialized Hierarchies of Labor, Law, Regions, and Ports: Toward Imagining Alternative Futures, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (December 8, 2023).

Pedagogy of Prefiguration, Law and Social Movements Colloquium, Georgetown University Law Center (November 7, 2023).

Radical Imagination, University of Maryland Law Clinical Program 50th Anniversary (October 27, 2023).

Colloquium, *Contract Theory and Marginalized Workers*, Berkeley, CA (October 20, 2023).

Pedagogical Tools for Client-Centered Lawyering in a Movement Context: Examples from Immigrant Rights Advocacy, AALS Clinical Section Conference, San Francisco, CA (April 30, 2023).

Pedagogy of Prefiguration, Modern Legal Education and the Unmaking of American Lawyers, Pittsburgh, PA (April 20, 2023).

Panelist, *Law and Power Building*, New York, NY (April 7, 2023).

Pedagogy of Prefiguration, UC Law SF Center for Race, Immigration, Citizenship, and Equality (April 6, 2023).

Pedagogy of Prefiguration, Law and Political Economy Conference, Cambridge, MA (April 1, 2023).

Integrating Critical Pedagogies to Fulfill Revised ABA Standard 303, Association of American Law Schools, Section on Civil Rights, San Diego, CA (January 5, 2023).

Pedagogy of Prefiguration, Labor Law Group, San Diego, CA (December 9, 2022).

Pedagogy of Prefiguration, POLIMA Conference on Political Imagination, Turku, Finland (June 12, 2022).

Panelist, *Advancing Workers Rights*, More Just Podcast (June 5, 2022).

Participant, *Poverty Law, Racial Justice, and Movement Building*, Karsh Center for Law and Democracy, University of Virginia School of Law, Charlottesville, VA (May 25, 2022).

Law Clinics and Racial Capitalism, Association of American Law Schools Clinical Section Conference (May 10, 2022).

Panelist, *Movement Lawyering*, University of Minnesota School of Law, Minneapolis, MN (March 25, 2022).

Migration as Extractivism: Race, Labor, and Enforcement, CUNY School of Law, New York, NY (March 16, 2022).

Panelist, *Critical Immigration Law*, LatCrit Conference (October 8, 2021).

Law and Policy in the Biden-Harris Era – Immigration Law, Webinar, UCI Law (June 8, 2021).

Respondent, Ming Hsu Chen, *Pursuing Citizenship in the Enforcement Era*, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting (May 29, 2021).

Teaching Movement Lawyering, New Clinicians Conference (May 16, 2021).

Collaboration and Coalition Building between Asian Americans and African Americans, UCI Korea Law Center (April 14, 2021).

Guest Lecturer, Leti Volpp, *Crimmigration*, UC Berkeley Law (April 13, 2021).

Respondent, *Movement Law*, Theory Talks, Max Planck Institute (April 8, 2021).

Moderator, Practice Panel, UCI Labor and Employment Law Society (April 6, 2021).

Migration as Extractivism: Race, Enforcement, and Labor, Tulane Law (March 30, 2021).

Respondent, Ifeoma Ajunwa, *The Paradox of Automation as Anti-Bias Intervention*, UCI Colloquium on Law and Artificial Intelligence (March 29, 2021).

Migration as Extractivism: Race, Enforcement, and Labor, UCI CLS Race Proseminar (March 3, 2021).

Moderator, *Moving Forward Post-Insurrection*, Texas A&M Law (February 11, 2021).

Respondent, Shirin Sinnar, *Hate Crimes, Terrorism, and the Framing of White Supremacist Violence*, UCI Law Intellectual Life Workshop (January 27, 2021).

Movement Lawyering, Skadden Fellowship (September 9, 2020).

Movement Law, Mapping U.S. Law and Political Economy, Law and Political Economy (July 22, 2020).

Respondent, Swethaa Ballakrishnen, *Invisible Institutionalisms: Collective Reflections from the Shadows of Legal Globalization*, UCI Law Intellectual Life Workshop (July 15, 2020).

Migration as Extractivism: Race, Enforcement, and Labor, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting (May 30, 2020).

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS AND AWARDS

King's College London Dickson Poon School of Law
Scholar-in-Residence, June 2025

University of Toronto Faculty of Law
Distinguished Visitor, January 2025

Labor Law Group
Member, 2023-present

The Action Lab
Advisory Board, 2023-present

Mesa Refuge
Howard and Phyllis Friedman Inclusive Economy Fellow, April/May 2022

University of Denver School of Law
Scholar-in-Residence, April 2022

Grassroots Law and Organizing for Workers
Board, 2022-present

AALS Section on Clinical Education Awards Committee
2021-2023

Harbor Institute for Immigrant and Economic Justice, Orange County
Advisory Board, 2020-present

Association of American Law Schools, Section on Clinical Education
Inaugural *Stephen Ellmann Memorial Clinical Scholarship Award*, 2020

Orange County Justice Fund
Board of Directors, 2017-21; Chair, Bond Fund Committee, 2019-20

CLINICAL LAW REVIEW
Board of Editors, 2012-25; Chair, Rebellious Lawyering Symposium
Committee, 2015-17

Clinical Legal Education Association
Board of Directors, 2010-13; Chair, Election Committee, 2011-13

Law and Society Association
Board of Trustees, 2008-11

Section on Poverty Law, Association of American Law Schools
Chair, 2009

Committee on Public Interest Lawyering, Association of American Law
Schools Clinical Education Section, 2006-08

South Asian Bar Association, New York
Selection Committee for Public Interest Fellowship, 2005 & 2007

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, New York
Board Member, 2002-05

Swarthmore College
Board of Managers, 1993-97

PEER REVIEW

CITIZENSHIP STUDIES
Cambridge University Press
JOURNAL OF LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY
LAW AND SOCIAL INQUIRY
SOCIAL PROBLEMS
University of California Press

American University, Washington College of Law, Promotion & Tenure
Boston University School of Law, Promotion & Tenure
CUNY School of Law, Promotion & Tenure
Duke University School of Law, Promotion & Tenure
Georgetown University School of Law, Promotion & Tenure
Rutgers University School of Law, Promotion
Texas A&M School of Law, Promotion & Tenure
Tulane Law School, Promotion & Tenure
UCLA School of Law, Promotion & Tenure
University of California, Berkeley School of Law, Promotion
University of California College of Law, San Francisco, Promotion &
Tenure
University of Miami School of Law, Promotion & Tenure
University of Minnesota, Promotion & Tenure
University of South Carolina, Promotion & Tenure
Vermont Law School, Promotion