

NEHA VYAS, PARTNER OPEN SKY LAW, PLLC

20415 72ND AVENUE SOUTH KENT, WA 98032

PROFILE

- Representation in over 100 hearings;
- 15 years of experience in the area of immigration law representing immigrants in the areas of asylum, VAWA I-360 petitions, U visas, family-based & employment-based petitions, citizenship, consular processing; applications in removal proceedings; mandamus actions; appeals before EOIR & Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals;
- Invited Guest Lecturer at University of Washington School of Law & Western Washington University;
- Language Lab Instructor, Meredith College;
- Led CLE presentations on cultural competency, ethics, asylum, and overview of immigration law for students and judges;
- Over 15 press and media appearances;
- Track record in productive business; budgeting and organizational development as Legal Director of NGO;
- Secured over \$500K in financial grants both private and governmental;
- Proficient in Hindi and Spanish;

LEGAL EMPLOYMENT

- 03/19-Present** **Open Sky Law PLLC, Partner**
Private Immigration law practice including representation of asylum seekers, victims of crime, survivors of domestic violence; family based petitions, naturalization Ninth Circuit practice; removal defense; non-immigrant visas and employment based petitions.
- 08/06-03/2019** **Gibbs Houston Pauw, Senior Attorney**
Private Immigration law practice including representation of asylum seekers and survivors of domestic violence; federal district court litigation; Ninth Circuit practice; removal defense; family and employment based petitions.
www.ghp-immigration.com/attorneys
- 11/02-07/06** **Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Legal Director**
Directed supervision of legal workers including attorneys, accredited representatives and legal advocates; delivered high-quality legal services; community education and advocacy; consulted, advised, and mentored on substantive and procedural legal issues in the area of immigration law; developed and maintained good legal practices;

worked on organizational development, budgeting, and grant writing.

08/99-11/02

Law Office of Neha V. Chandola, Solo Practitioner

Represented clients in the following areas of immigration law: asylum; Torture-Convention; VAWA; TPS; NACARA; non-immigrant visas; family-based petitions; adoption; LPR Cancellation of Removal; citizenship; adjustment of status; consular processing.

7/98-7/99

Tucson Ecumenical Council for Legal Assistance, Staff Attorney

Managed over 200 cases in the areas of asylum, NACARA, family-based petitions and TPS; represented clients before the INS, Immigration Court, and Board of Immigration Appeals; supervised a staff which included an accredited representative, legal secretary, law graduates, law students, and volunteers.

6/93-8/93

Farm Worker's Legal Services, Translator/Office Assistant

Worked as an intermediary between attorneys and Spanish-speaking farmers; responsible for correspondence with & maintaining of client records; provided "Know Your Rights" presentations to migrants.

LIBERAL ARTS EMPLOYMENT

08/90-6/91

Meredith College, Foreign Language Dept, Spanish Lab Instructor

Taught over 150 students up to intermediate levels; emphasized written, verbal and conversational skills.

Meredith College, Writing Center, Spanish Tutor

Tutored all levels of Spanish students; emphasized written and grammar skills.

PUBLICATIONS

"Immigrant Rights" entry in Jeanne Armstrong and James Loucky, Eds., *Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Immigration* Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, Inc. (2006)

"Beyond the Fear: Facing up to the Procedural Challenges in Asylum and Refugee Law"; CLE article discusses dealing with dependents in the asylum context and termination of asylum status and was distributed in a handbook of other articles written by speakers at the AILA Northwest Regional Conference. (2006)

"Immigration Law in the Midst of Family Matters"; CLE article discusses the interdisciplinary nature of immigration law and how immigration law and family law impact each other. (2005)

LEGISLATIVE/POLITICAL

Testified before the State Senate in opposition of bill 5081 which would have required proof of lawful immigration status to DMV to obtain drivers licenses; the bill did not pass.

Testified before the King County Council in opposition to proposed ordinance 2004-0230; the ordinance would authorize the county executive to enter into an agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement allowing the sheriff's office to participate in a joint task force; vote to pass ordinance postponed.

Justice Advocacy Network Member of JAN broad based coalition of attorneys, immigrant rights groups, unions, faith based organizations and government agencies including representatives from king county government formulated to address attacks on immigrant rights and civil liberties of all citizens; participant and key drafter of King County Ordinance: 2017-0487, a national model law designed to enhance public safety, protect civil rights, and uphold basic constitutional principles of justice and fairness regardless of one's immigration status.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Presentations at approximately 100 outreach and educational events to community groups including parents of K-12 students, as well as social service providers on know your rights, overviews of immigration law, advocacy issues related to immigration rights and issues facing immigrants today, 1999-2009. Volunteered at Citizenship Day, sponsored by One America, City of Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs 2012-2018.

INVITED LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

Access to Justice Conference

Presenter on panel at the annual conference for local attorneys on the "Interdisciplinary Nature of Immigration Law", June 2005.

American Immigration Lawyers NW Conference

Presenter 2018: *Fraud issues: Oh what tangled webs we weave.*
Presenter 2019: *Identifying the standard of care for scrutinizing your clients - FOIAs, background checks and lie detectors, how much is too much.*

Advocates and Social Workers

Presentation to Domestic Violence Agencies and Advocates on collaboration with attorneys on immigration cases titled: "The Holistic Approach to Survivor Centered Advocacy" (2015, 2016)

Continuing Legal Education

Key organizer of symposium on issues related to asylum and the

sanctuary movement of the 1980's event sponsored by the Asylum Program of Southern Arizona; moderator of a panel of experts presenting the historical and political conditions in the Middle East and South Asia, March 2002

Immigration Conference

Moderator and Presenter at the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Northwest Regional Conference; presented on advanced asylum panel, "Beyond the Fear: Facing up to the Procedural Challenges in Asylum and Refugee Law," February 2004.

Presenter American Immigration Lawyers Association, Northwest Regional Conference; presented on advanced family/removal panel: Fraud issues: "Oh what tangled webs we weave." (March 2018).

Immigration Training

CLE instructor at the National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women 2003 Office on Violence Against Women on Grantee Training and National Network Conference; presented at the Advanced VAWA workshop on "Options in Proceedings", November 2003.

Judicial Training

Cultural awareness training for the King County Unified Family Court Judicial Officers who preside over domestic violence and family law cases, May 2007.

KCBA

Guest Speaker at a continuing legal education event sponsored by the King County Bar Association; presented on "Preserving Immigration Status in the Midst of Family Matters", March 2005.

Medical Legal Partnership

Presentation to Social Workers at Harbor View Medical Hospital (2018)

Presentation

Presenter at a half-day seminar Sponsored by SCCAA Volunteer Lawyer Program to local attorneys on "Immigration Law and the Family", May 2004.

University Of Washington

Lectured to Attorneys on: "Ethics and Immigration Law", 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009; 2010, 2012 Lecture to law students on, "Introduction to Immigration Law", October 2003, 2004, and 2005; Lecture on: "Cultural Competency and Law Practice", December 2009; Lecture on working Law Students (IFAP program) 2016,2017, 2019

Western Washington University

Lectured at Woodring College of Education to prospective teachers and human services students on an overview of immigration law and

issues facing immigrants, February 2004.

World issues forum

Lectured on the "U.S. Patriot Act", 2006;

WSBA

Program Chair: "Current Issues in Immigration Law CLE Seminar";

PRESS & TELEVISION APPEARANCES

CNN

Article: "Attorneys: travel ban fight is a marathon with no end in sight.", March 07, 2015;

NPR KUOW 94.9FM

Story on the "Real ID", June 2005;

NPR KUOW 94.9FM

Story on Expedited removal, August 2004;

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

"Border agents' powers to grow: They will get authority to deport many illegal aliens without hearings", August 2004;

ACLU Monthly Television Program

Guest speaker on a panel to address recent "raids" being conducted by DHS officials in WA;

Spanish Radio Show "Viva Mexico"

Program sponsored by the Mexican Consulate about recent "raids" by DHS officials in local shopping centers and apartment buildings, August 2004;

Spanish Radio Show

Program sponsored by Hermanos Unidos in order to address recent raids by DHS official;

Seattle Times

"Immigration Rule divides Portland Couple", March 2004;

NPR KUOW 94.9FM

Story on new detention center built in Tacoma, WA March 2004;

Arizona Republic

"Confusion Rampant over Bush proposal", January 2004;

Seattle Times

"Foreign-visitor rules will be added to land crossings", July 2004;

Seattle Times

"New Tacoma facility to house people targeted for deportation,"

February 2004;

Seattle Channel 21/28

“Declaration of Independence Road Trip”, August 2003;

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

“Immigrant’s complaint brings action on officer’s rude behavior”, June 2003;

El Mundo“

TPS”, March 2003;

Tucson Citizen

“Dubious of Elian’s case, experts say it helps others”, April, 2000;

KGUN 9 Television-ABC

Segment on special immigrant juvenile visa and plight of children that flee to the United States, 2000;

Tucson Citizen

“Seminar aids Mitch refugees”, March 1999.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & MEMBERSHIPS

CHAYA

A non-profit Asian Women’s domestic violence support chapter
Elected Co-Chair for 2006; Board member 2006-2009;

CITY OF SEATTLE

2018 MODVSA RFP Raters Committee; 2017 member of panel of reviewers that includes City, County and community representatives for Legal Defense Fund;

IFAP

A partnership between Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) and the University of Washington School of Law, the Immigrant Families Advocacy Project (IFAP) trains and matches law students with pro bono attorneys and immigrant survivors of domestic violence.
Board of Directors 2007-2009;

WASCLA

Washington State Coalition for Language Access is an organization consisting of legal professionals, advocates, law enforcement personnel, interpreters/translators, and court personnel who are dedicated to assisting state and local agencies within the State of Washington to understand and comply with their obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
Member and Lead Organizer 2005-2006;

AILA CLE

Organizes annual CLE event on behalf of WA and OR chapters
Committee Vice-Chair 2004, Member 2003;

APSA	Asylum Program of Southern Arizona Tucson, Arizona 2002; <i>Secretary, Executive Member of Board of Directors</i>
AILA	American Immigration Lawyers Association; <i>Active Member;</i>
NIP	National Immigration Project <i>Active Member;</i>
ISSA	Indian Society of Southern Arizona <i>Board of Director 2000;</i>
WHO'S WHO	Kingston's National Registry of Who's Who <i>Life member # 201577;</i>

ACHIEVEMENTS

Award for Outstanding Dedication to Battered Immigrant Women, Southeastern Arizona Behavior Health Service, 3rd Annual Luncheon for Women's Awareness Month, 2001;

E. Michael Berger Memorial Scholarship, Scholarship to American Immigration Lawyers Association Conference, 1999;

First Place Winner, Director's Award and Dance Award: Cultural Dance Competition, 1992;

EDUCATION

05/97 **Juris Doctorate**, Campbell University, School of Law, Raleigh, NC

- **Calhoun Advocacy Award**, Best performance in trial and appellate advocacy, 1997;
- **Scholarship** to Mexico to study immigration law, Campbell University, 1996;
- **Client Counseling Competition**, 2nd Round, Campbell University, 1996;

07/93 **BA Speech Communication & Spanish**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

- **Award**, 1st place, persuasive speech contest, Meredith College, 1990;

LANGUAGES

Hindi and Spanish (Conversational)