

Sara A. Lynch

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law

Villanova, PA

Assistant Professor of Law

June 2026 – Present

Director of the Interdisciplinary Mental and Physical Health Law Clinic (Health Law Clinic)

- Teach the Health Law Clinic seminar focusing on lawyering skills, professional identity, cultural and structural competencies, and professional collaboration.
- Supervise certified legal interns in direct legal representation of low-income clients in Medicaid appeals and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) applications and appeals.
- Supervise advanced clinic students.

Rutgers University School of Law

Camden, NJ

Assistant Clinical Professor

August 2024 – June 2026

Director of the Housing Advocacy Clinic

- Directed the Housing Advocacy Clinic, in which law students represented low-income South Jersey residents in eviction defense and affirmative housing litigation under state, federal, and local law.
- Managed a diverse docket, resulting in successful outcomes, including preventing eviction in numerous matters, securing money judgments, vacating default judgments, advocating for the reinstatement of Section 8 vouchers, and negotiating favorable settlements in security deposit disputes.
- Designed and executed a curriculum incorporating seminar, casework supervision, and assessment, in which students acquired lawyering skills, developed cultural and structural competencies, and fostered a reflective practice.
- Supervised advanced clinic students on casework.
- Mentored public interest and first-generation students, including providing fellowship application review and interview preparation.

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School,

Philadelphia, PA,

Juris Doctor, cum laude

May 2018

Honors: Toll Public Interest Scholarship (2015-2018)

Thomas N. O'Neill Prize for commitment to providing legal services to disadvantaged clients

Activities: Journal of Law and Social Change (JLASC), *Executive Articles Editor*

Youth Advocacy Project (YAP), *Co-Director*

School Discipline Advocacy Service (SDAS), *Director*

Equal Justice Foundation (EJF), *Co-Vice President*;

Justice at Work, *Wharton Non-Profit Board Fellow*

Fordham University

Bronx, NY

Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude

May 2011

Honors: *Phi Beta Kappa*, Dean's Scholarship, Rigoberta Menchu/Bernardo Vega Award for excellence in Latin American Studies, Fordham Club honor society and dean's advisory group, Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honor Society for academic achievement and public service

Abroad: School of International Training, Cochabamba, Bolivia, Spring 2010

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

U.S. District Court Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Law Clerk, Hon. Timothy J. Savage

Philadelphia, PA

August 2022 – August 2024

- Wrote memoranda and drafted judicial opinions on a broad spectrum of substantive law on motions for summary judgment and motions to dismiss.
- Drafted orders and coordinated pretrial conferences and oral arguments.
- Prepared bench material for trials, and attended civil jury trials, criminal trials, hearings, and sentencings.
- Directly supervised three legal interns.

Community Legal Services, SSI Unit

Staff Attorney

Philadelphia, PA

November 2019 – August 2022

- Represented adults and children with disabilities in Supplemental Security Income (SSI) initial applications, administrative law hearings, and federal court appeals.
- Drafted prehearing and federal court briefs in SSI appeals.
- Advocated for fairness and equity in SSA programs by engaging wide range of stakeholders, including clients, disability advocates, community members, congressional representatives, media, and agency leadership.
- Supervised paralegal and four certified legal interns.

Juvenile Unit, Defender Association of Philadelphia,

Toll Public Interest Fellow

Philadelphia, PA

September 2018 – September 2019

- Partnered with defense attorney to advocate for education rights of children in juvenile placement and upon reentry.
- Collaborated with legal organizations to prepare impact litigation to challenge abuse, neglect, and denial of education for children in juvenile placement.
- Challenged the use of restraints and solitary confinement in juvenile placements.
- Represented Defender Association client in expulsion hearing before the School District of Philadelphia.

Criminal Defense Clinic, Defender Association of Philadelphia

Certified Legal Intern

Philadelphia, PA

January 2018 – May 2018

The Legal Aid Society

Certified Legal Intern

New York, NY

June 2017 – August 2017

Interdisciplinary Child Advocacy Clinic

Certified Legal Intern

Philadelphia, PA

January 2017 – May 2017

Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project (YSRP)

Legal Extern/Pro Bono Co-Director Youth Advocacy Project (YAP)

Philadelphia, PA

September 2016 – May 2018

Education Law Center of Pennsylvania

Legal Intern

Philadelphia, PA

June 2016 – August 2016

Sanctuary For Families, Brooklyn Family Justice Center
Family Law Project Assistant

Brooklyn, NY
October 2014 – August 2015

New York City Department of Education
Leaders for Education Equity Summer Fellow

New York, NY
June 2014 – August 2014

The Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program
Fulbright English Teaching Fellow

Medellín, Colombia
June 2013 – June 2014

Stratford High School Spanish
Teach For America (TFA) Corps Member and Teacher

Nashville, TN
August 2011 – May 2013

POLICY PAPERS

Co-author, “Preventing Wasteful and Inequitable Consultative Examinations in Social Security Disability Claims: A Position Paper,” March 2022, <https://clsphila.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/IMA-CE-Report.pdf>

Co-author, “Racial Disparities in Access to Supplemental Security Income Benefits for Children,” Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, December 2020, <https://clsphila.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Racial-Disparities-in-Access-to-SSI-for-Children-1.pdf>

PRESENTATIONS AND COMMENTARY

Co-organizer, *Housing Justice Summit*, Rutgers Law School, Camden, NJ, October 24, 2025

Moderator and panelist, “Architecture of Inequality: Building Systemic Solutions for Housing Justice,” *Housing Justice Summit*, Rutgers Law School, Camden, NJ, October 24, 2025

Panelist, “Breaking Down the One Big Beautiful Bill,” hosted by the Social Justice Scholars, Rutgers Law School, Camden, NJ, September 22, 2025

Co-presenter, “Building Trust with Clients,” Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, May 24, 2022

Co-presenter, Training for case managers and social workers about SSI eligibility for refugees and asylees, HIAS Pennsylvania, May 13, 2022

Co-presenter, Training for social workers on applying for SSI and proving disability, PHMC Medical Legal Partnership, Philadelphia, PA, March 31, 2022.

Co-presenter, Presentation on SSI initial applications for the Incarcerated Women’s Working Group, Philadelphia, PA, March 28, 2022

Co-presenter, Training on advocating before the Bureau of Disability Determinations, *Disability Advocacy Project (DAP) Training Series*, Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN), 2021

Co-presenter, Presentation on long-term COVID-19 symptoms and inequity with the Social Security Administration (SSA), *National Legal Aid and Defender’s Association (NLADA) Annual Conference*, November 10, 2021

Co-presenter, Presentation on the Child Tax Credit, Dominican Hairdressers Association, August 9, 2021

Co-presenter, “Supporting Parents Navigating Medical Assistance, SNAP, TANF, WIC, and Social Security SSI,” Family Center / MATER, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, September 30, 2020

Co-presenter, Training on representing clients in initial SSI applications for attorneys, paralegals, and social workers, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, September 28, 2020

“Opinion: Where is the City of Philadelphia’s urgency in response to racism?” *Generocity*, August 27, 2020, <https://generocity.org/philly/2020/08/27/opinion-where-is-the-city-of-philadelphias-urgency-in-response-to-racism/>

LANGUAGES

Proficient in Spanish

ADMISSIONS

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania

State of New Jersey