Denice Labertew, J.D., Master of Human Rights

Highlights

17 years of academic and teaching experience
30 years of domestic and international NGO, policy and advocacy experience
2008 Congressional Award Recipient from (then) Congresswoman Hilda Solis
International work on human rights and community mobilization in India, Scotland, Mexico and the United Nations (*Human Rights Council, Commission on the Status of Women, Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Committee*)
Media spokesperson and advisor on social justice and human rights issues for domestic and international print media, television and films including the Oscar Winning Film "The Hunting Ground"
Convener of statewide and national dialogues on violence and discrimination
Organized grass roots communities, domestically and internationally, to address violence, discrimination and human rights abuses
Founder of the first in house legal advocacy program within a rape crisis center in Southern California

Education

Degrees:

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology with a minor in Women's Studies (California State University, Northridge, 1998)

Juris Doctorate (People's College of Law, 2004)

Master of Human Rights (Curtin University, Western Australia, 2021)

Additional Course work and Certificates:

International Women's Health and Human Rights (Stanford University)*

Immigration and Globalization (Women's Labor Institute, UCLA Labor Center)

Women and Social Change, Spanish Language Immersion Program (Cuernavaca, MX)

Strengths Based and Trauma Informed Approaches to Addressing Domestic Violence and Mental Health (National Indigenous Women's Resource Center)

Summer Institute on Education, Equity and Justice (American University)

Women in Detention: U.N. Bangkok Rules in Practice (Penal Reform, International)

Additional Certifications:

Board of Immigration Appeals Representative
Board of Immigration Appeals, United States Department of Justice

Practical Training of Law Students Program
Certified Law Student, State Bar of California

Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Counselor Certification, California
Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women

Self Defense Instructor
Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women

Certification in Threat Assessment
Dana Picore and Associates

*coursework conducted via Massive Open Online Course Platforms

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Experience

Academic:

Criminology and Justice Studies Lecturer (2017-Present)

California State University, Northridge

Courses: Victimology, Gender and Criminal Justice, Gender and Crime (Criminal Justice), Advocacy in Criminal Justice*, Sexual Crimes*, Domestic Violence, Criminal Justice Systems, Intro to Criminology and Criminal Justice, Diversity and Crime, Intro to Criminal Law, Global Perspectives in Crime, Human Rights, Crime and Criminal Justice (including Field Experience) * (*courses personally developed and taught)

Curriculum Development: designed and implemented courses to be taught in Advocacy, Sexual Crimes and Human Rights. Work with other faculty to develop an Advocacy Minor track within the department, planned events and activities including Sexual Assault Awareness Month Events

Visiting Professor, Fulbrighter (2024)

National Law University, Odisha (India)

Courses: Gendered Justice: Understanding the Complex Implications of Gender, Sexuality and the Law, Gender and the Law, Gender Sensitization

Other duties: Advised PhD Scholars on dissertations, faculty and student engagements, support Centre for Women and the Law

Professor of Law (2006-2008)

People's College of Law

Courses: Women and the Law, Advanced Family Law Clinic, Independent Study (Faculty Advisor)

Sociology Adjunct/Lecturer (2007-Present)

Glendale Community College, Los Angeles Mission College, Los Angeles Valley College, California State University, Northridge

Courses: Introduction to Sociology, Sociology of Women, Sociology of Gender, Sociological Analysis, Sociology of Marriage and Family, American Social Problems, Sociology of Sex and Gender, Race Relations, Human Sexuality, Directed Study in Social Welfare, Criminology/Victimology, Sociology of Law

Faculty Advisor Feminist Club: Student organizing, event planning including Vagina Monologues, Take Back the Night and feminist speaking events.

Faculty Support: Undocumented Students, Trans and Queer Students, Veterans

Curriculum Development: work with a team of approximately 30 faculty to develop strategies to support student success in courses with high enrollment and low success. Included: Participating in training, revising existing curriculum, piloting newly designed courses, assessing success, revising and implementing new course design.

Publications

Creator/Contributor: Women Lead Network Podcast; "Let's Talk About Women and Labor"; "Let's Talk About Reproductive Justice"; "The Women are Unwell: Let's Talk About Wellness and Consumerism"

Author: Advocacy Toolkit: Justice Focused Advocacy for Migrant Women and Girls

Author (in progress): Human Rights Report on the Status of Migrant Women and Girls

Peer Reviewer: From Academic to Practitioner: Tips for Increasing Engagement with your Research (Essay on Best Practices), *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*

Peer Reviewer: Sex Crimes, Perkins, Sage Publications

Co-Author: Motherhood, Menstruation and Sexual Violence at the U.S.-Mexico Border: Women's Rights Violations in U.S. Immigration Detention United Nations Stakeholder Report UPR 2020

Contributor: Domestic Violence Service Provision in Los Angeles County: Perception and Reality in Survivors Access, A Needs Assessment in Partnership with the Mayor's Fund of Los Angeles and The Social Science Research Center of CSU, Fullerton.

Contributor/Organizer: CALCASA Student Summit Report 2014: Student Recommendations for a Safer Campus Climate

Contributor: A Painful Truth: A Retrospective of a Decade of Sexual Violence

Contributor/Reviewer: Beyond the Criminal Justice System: Using the Law to Help Restore the Lives of Sexual Assault Victims A Practical Guide for Advocates And Attorneys

Contributor: California Sexual Assault Response Team Manual

Contributor: Los Angeles County Standards and Protocols for SART Teams

Contributor and Drafter: Los Angeles County Sexual Assault Coordinating Council Governing Documents

Author: How Service Providers Can Provide Culturally Competent Services, Human Rights Attorney Advocacy Newsletter

Co-Author: Housing Authority Final Plan Comments of 2009

Conference Presenter:

NGO/CSW 65 & 67, United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (2021 & 2023)
Alquimia & Women Lead Network Parallel Event (65-*Refugee & Migrant Women, Detention and Human Rights Abuses*); WLN & CSUN CJS Student Interns (67-*Criminalizing Gender: Bodily Autonomy & Human Rights*)

American Criminological Society Annual Meeting Division on Women and Crime (2017) *("The Violence Against Women Act; Advocacy and Change")*

International Violence Abuse and Trauma Conference, Alliant University (2015)
(*Community Centered responses to Sexual Assault on College Campuses*)

Indian Law Institute (2013)
Tamil Nadu High Court, Chennai, India (*Violence Against Women: A Global Scenario and Victim's Rights*)

The Hindu Centre (2013)
Chennai, India *(Gender Based Violence: Challenges and Institutional Responses Panel*)

Statewide Leadership Conference on Sexual Assault California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014) (Multiple presentations including: *Civil Legal Options for Sexual Assault Survivors & Understand Confidentiality for Advocates*)

Victim's Rights Conference (2015)
Community Service Programs, Inc. (*Community Centered responses to Sexual Assault on College Campuses)*

National Sexual Assault Conference. (2010, 2012, 2014)
California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (Multiple Presentations including: *Defending Self Defense & Confidentiality for Advocates*)

Campus Training and Technical Assistance Institute, (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)
U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (Multiple Presentations including *Sexual Assault Advocacy on College Campuses & Building a Coordinated Community Response*)

Sexual Assault Law National Conference, (2009)
Victim Rights Law Center (*Building a Civil Legal Sexual Assault Program*)

Serving Immigrant Victims of Sexual Assault Conference (2009), National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (*Legal Services for Immigrant Sexual Assault Survivors*)

Scotland's National Sexual Assault Conference, Glasgow, Scotland (2006) (*This is Not an Invitation to Rape Me: Using Media to Create Sexual Violence Prevention Campaigns*)

International:

Visiting Professor/Fulbright Specialist-*Odisha, India*

Taught courses on gender and gender-based violence. Advised PhD scholars, faculty and students on gender issues and gender-based violence. Engaged with Indian police, judicial officials and legal scholars.

United Nations Advocacy-*Geneva, Switzerland, New York, NY and Washington, D.C.*

International advocacy including submission of shadow reports to the United Nations Human Rights Council and CERD Committee, contact and advocacy with ambassadors and permanent missions, consultations with U.N Human Rights Council members and U.S. Department of State, (virtual) attendance at the Universal Periodic Review in Geneva, Switzerland (November 2020): Facilitator/ Coordinator Side Events at the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women NGO/CSW Forum (65/67)

Conference Presenter: *Glasgow, Scotland*

"Using Media to Create Sexual Violence Prevention Campaigns" Work with advocates throughout Scotland to identify strategies to prevent gender-based violence within communities.

Expert Speaker Tour, U.S. Dept. of State: Embassies of *Mumbai, Chennai and New Delhi, India*

Multiple venues ranging from student organizing, faculty response to sexual assault, building community capacity and high court policy. Worked with community-based organizations to

develop community specific strategies to serve violence survivors and prevent violence

Women and Social Change, Cetlalic Spanish Language School, *Cuernavaca, Mexico*, Program participant and speaker on violence against women. Dialogue exchange with community leaders and organizations addressing women's health in Mexico.

Media: (not an exhaustive list)

"CSUN Students to Discuss Criminalization of Gender at U.N. Forum" Santa Clarita News/CSUN PR (2023)
"Let's Talk About Women and Labor"; "Let's Talk About Reproductive Justice"; "The Women are Unwell: Let's Talk About Wellness and Consumerism" *(Podcast)* Women Lead Network Podcasts (2022/23)
"*Crisis at the Border: Migrants, Motherhood and Medical Care": (Podcast/Video)* The Legal Edition (2020)
"The U.N. Universal Periodic Review" (Video) Cooper Union -Hawaii Institute for Human Rights 2020
"U.S. criticized for police brutality, racism at U.N. rights review" (Print) Reuters, Geneva (2020)
"The Hunting Ground" (Documentary): Kirby Dick/Amy Zering (2015)
"College sexual assault prevention has unlikely model: U.S. service academies" (Print) Washington Post (2015)
"Only Yes Means Yes: A bill that passed the California Senate would require college students to get a "yes" before sex"(Print) Inside Higher Ed. (2014)
"'Yes Means Yes' Laws Will Not Ruin Sex Forever, Despite Idiotic Fears" (Print) Jezebel, 2014
"Systemic Flaws Keep Some With A History of Sexual Violence Off of U.C. Berkeley Campus" (Print) Huffington Post, 2014
Schools preach 'enthusiastic' yes in sex consent education. (Print) CNN, 2014
"Woman complainant's past sexual conduct irrelevant in rape trials" Tendency to trivialise offences against women should be countered: expert. (Print) The Hindu, Chennai 2013
"Self Defense Vital for Women" (Print) The Jewish Journal, 2002

Leadership and Policy

Policy:

United Nations Advocacy

Human Rights Defender/Advocate: International Advocacy on behalf of women and girls at the U.N. Human Rights Council, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, NGO/CSW UN Commission on the Status of Women, NY & Geneva,

Co-author/Advisor: S.B. 967 "Student Safety: Sexual Assault" DeLeon, 2014 Ed.Code: 67386

Negotiator, Federal Rulemaking Violence Against Women Act Amendments 2013 United States Department of Education

Leadership:

Congressional Award 2008 (Congresswoman Hilda Solis) Achievement and commitment in the field of Domestic Violence

Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council
Executive Board, Legislative Issues Committee, Co-chair

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
Board of Directors, Immigration Sub-Committee, Chair, Public Policy and Research Committee, Board Development Committee, Amicus Committee, Policy & Government Affairs Committee

Los Angeles Domestic Violence Task Force
Multicultural and Underserved Communities Committee, Co-Chair

Stop Prisoner Rape; Pathways to Recovery
Stakeholders Group

Los Angeles County Sexual Assault Coordinating Council Standards and Protocol Committee
Chair, Steering Committee

Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles

Los Angeles County Bar Association Domestic Violence State Advisory Group

Professional:

Women Lead Network: Founder (2015-Present): Advocacy organization that promotes women's rights and leadership locally, nationally, and globally. Activities include:, local, national, and international advocacy on behalf of women, reports on women rights, Advocacy Toolkit, Podcasts, organizational advisement, media interviews and advocacy.

Consultant (Clients Include Non-Profit Organizations, Governmental Agencies and Educational Institutions including: Mayor's Fund of Los Angeles, Inner City Law Center, DeAnza Community College, YWCA of Greater Los Angeles, SW Riverside Rape Crisis Center, California Coalition Against Sexual Assault,

Peace Over Violence: Activities included: Support institutions and organizations in developing ethical, inclusive work models, including staff coaching and program development with an emphasis on leadership development and equity assessments. Provide training on institutional leadership and effective work and communication for organization leaders, support staff and volunteers. Advised on agency and public policy related to organizational mission.

California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA); (2011-2015)

Director of Advocacy Services (Campus, Policy, Capacity Development)

Organizational:

Serve as the head of the National Technical Assistance Provider team for the Office on Violence Against Women across the United States, Guam and Puerto Rico convening and facilitating national conferences and the development of curricula and training materials for community partners emphasizing a community centered response to social justice related issues.

Executive management overseeing staff and large national projects including budgeting and staff management as well as developing community partnerships, policy advocacy and organizational spokesperson.

Advocacy:

Work with local community-based programs and stakeholders in developing the capacity to serve disenfranchised groups including identifying and advocating for community needs to policymakers, community leaders and criminal justice system-based professionals;

Provide capacity building training and technical assistance to community-based programs on serving high risk populations like immigrants, veterans, the elderly and college students including specific support to community service providers related to crisis intervention, response and policy development, as well as materials on best practices.

Policy:

Identify legislative and systems policy issues related to organizational mission on a national, statewide and local level including the development, analysis and implementation of existing and new legislation and policies. Advised on policy directions and worked directly with federal, state and local legislators to pass and implement legislation.

Peace Over Violence (LACAAW) (1997-2012)

Director, Legal Advocacy Project

Founder of the Legal Advocacy Project providing self-help and pro-bono assistance to low income victims of sexual and domestic violence including development of program objectives, start up and continuation funding, staffing, program policy development and programmatic evaluation. Duties included all aspects of implementation. (ie. supervising staff and volunteers, working with funders, identifying partners, writing reports, developing policies and other management duties) Provided support to successor via mentoring and training.

Develop curricula and trained staff, service providers, law students and attorneys as well as assist clients when necessary with various legal issues including immigration, family law, protection orders.

Director, West San Gabriel Valley Center

Responsible for hiring, supervision, mentoring and evaluation of satellite site and agency employees including developing the capacity for broader service- provision of a multi-program site providing crisis intervention, prevention and legal services. This role included managing separate budgets and grants, identifying funding sources, managing grant objectives, writing grants and relationship building with funders and stakeholders while at the same time serving as part of the organization's management group, providing direction and oversight across programs and sites. Served as a spokesperson for the organization and media contact.

Organize and facilitate multidisciplinary working groups including law enforcement, healthcare providers, local community organizations, schools and community leaders and developed curricula and conducted trainings locally, statewide, nationally and internationally

Program Coordinator, Community Education (continued Peace Over Violence/LACAAW)

Coordinate prevention education programs including supervising consultants, interns and volunteers, creating curricula and facilitating trainings statewide, nationally and internationally as well as volunteer recruitment, training and supervision. Provided crisis counseling and advocacy for victims of crime, as necessary

Community and Volunteer

Alquimia Global
- Intern/Volunteer on Migrant & Refugee Women's Rights, UN Commission on the Status of Women Side Event Coordinator

U.S. Human Rights Network, Women's Rights Working Group Coordinator
- United Nations Advocacy on behalf of women and girls' human rights

Inner City Law Center
- Intakes for Veteran's seeking disability

Equality California
- Community Education on Prop. 22

Metropolitan Battered Women's Project
- Rebuild Post-Katrina

ACORN*-Rebuild New Orleans Project
- Rebuild Post-Katrina

Board of Directors, People's College of Law
- Student Representative

D.A.T.E. Project - CSUN Campus Sexual Assault Prevention Program
- Peer Educator

LACAAW's Crisis Intervention and Advocate Hotline
- Advocate and Crisis Counselor