

DePaul University  
*Asylum & Immigration Clinic*

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**Holly Ruskin**

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*Solo Practitioner*

*Clinic Participation:*  
1999

*Graduated:*  
2000

*After graduating from DePaul in 2000, Holly Ruskin moved to Nashville, Tennessee. After passing the Tennessee Bar, she immediately began working for the Davidson County (Nashville) Public Defender's Office. She worked as an Assistant Public Defender for six and half years and left for private practice, where she continued to represent indigent defendants in criminal matters and juveniles in delinquency matters. Today, she primarily focuses her practice on family and juvenile law matters. She occasionally also assists immigration attorneys in getting Special Juvenile Immigrant Status for kids in Juvenile Court. She lives in Franklin, TN with her husband and three sons.*

**What do you remember most about your time in the Clinic?**

I remember using all of the search engines available on the internet in 1999 to research different clans from Somalia. I had a friend from high school that worked for the FBI and she told me about a search engine called "dogpile." That was the only place my clinic partner and I were able to find any info about our client's clan and due to that information, we were able to corroborate our client's story and win his asylum case. As a law student focused on public interest law, it was such a rewarding experience.

**What would you tell current or future DePaul law students about the clinic?**

Clinics allow for hands-on experience that allows you to connect directly with clients and learn how to advocate for and present you client's case to the Court.