

DePaul University
Asylum & Immigration Clinic

Kathy Purnell

Founding Attorney, Human/Civil Rights Law Center

Kathy Purnell has worked as an immigration staff attorney with Justice for Our Neighbors-Michigan and served as a national Immigration Detention Fellow for the ACLU working at the Stewart Detention Center in Georgia. She is also the Diversity Committee Chair for the Michigan Chapter for the American Immigration Lawyers Association. She has been a licensed attorney since 2008.



Clinic Participation:

2007

Graduated:

2008

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

The excitement about having clients and developing skills to effectively counsel new clients.

What lessons from the clinic do you still use today or have used in your professional career?

Incredible patience and self-awareness of one's limitations and strengths; the importance of collaborating with community-based organizations to be impactful.

How did your involvement with the clinic help you connect with other professionals in the field?

It was great to see several alumna from DePaul were involved with Justice for Our Neighbors in both Michigan and Illinois—and probably in other states.

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

Do it! It is a great training experience.

Is there a message you would like to share with your fellow Clinic alums, faculty, or staff?

I am happy to connect with other alumni, especially alumni who have decided to launch their own practice.