

DePaul University
Asylum & Immigration Clinic

Jenny Grobelski

Supervisory Attorney at Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors

The daughter of once-undocumented immigrants and granddaughter of refugees from Poland, Jenny Grobelski (she/they) has been working to keep immigrants in the United States since 2005.

Prior to her current role as Supervisory

Attorney with Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON), which she started in October 2011, she was the supervisor of the DePaul Asylum and Immigration Clinic's inaugural U Visa Summer Volunteer Project, a student in DePaul's Asylum and Immigration Clinic, and a volunteer at the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR) with DePaul's Clinic. Jenny is also a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the Chicago Bar Association, NLG Chicago's Next Gen Committee, and NLG's National Immigration Project. She received her bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in 2005 and her Juris Doctor from DePaul University College of Law in 2010. She is based in and conducts her work primarily in Chicago, Illinois, but she has also spent significant time consulting for JFON throughout the country and volunteering in various places along the U.S.-Mexico border. She is also excited to be starting as an Adjunct Professor in Villanova University's VIISTA program, the first-of-its kind interdisciplinary educational program which trains students to become immigrant advocates in January 2022.



*Clinic Participation:
2008-2009
Graduated:
2010*

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

I can't pinpoint one specific thing, but I do remember the joy after our merits hearing where IJ Vinikoor granted our Somali client asylum. I specifically remember that client's white knuckles as he was clutching the folder he had with him as he was waiting for the decision in his case.

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

I still use the (redacted) documents we prepared as templates for our asylum and U-visa filings.

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

I am still in touch with most of the folks who I participated in various clinic activities with; it has been so helpful in my own advocacy of my clients. In fact, I'm currently in touch with my former partner, DeMark, to work on some strategies to help some folks from Afghanistan.

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

The clinic, while challenging, was one of the most worthwhile and meaningful experiences of my time at DePaul.

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

Thank you all for everything you have done to guide me in my own career; it has been truly foundational and important in my work.