

Maya M. Simek, ESQ.; M.S.S.A.; L.I.S.W-S.

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**Licensed to Practice Law in Ohio(active) ~ Licensed to Practice Law in California(inactive)~
Ohio Licensed Independent Social Work Practitioner with Supervision Designation**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

~Case Western Reserve University School of Law~ (Cleveland, Ohio)

Courses Taught & Supervised

- Human Trafficking Clinic (2021- Present)
- Human Trafficking Practicum (2021 - Present)
- Doctor of Juridical Science(SJD) Student Dissertation Supervision & Note Review:
<https://case.edu/law/academics/sjd-programs> (2020 - Present)
- Upper Level Note Supervision (2020 - Present)
- Decriminalizing Medicine Elective (@Case Medical School) 2025
- Interprofessional Education Instruction, Faculty & Site Placement Lead (2020 - 2023)
<https://hec.case.edu/interprofessional-education>
- Health & Human Trafficking Law Clinic (2019 - 2021)
- Health Law Clinic (2018 - 2019)

University Service

- Diversity Committee (2025-2026)
- Admissions Committee (2024-2025)

Human Trafficking Clinic @ the Milton & Charlotte Kramer Law Clinic

(<https://case.edu/law/practical-training/law-clinic>)

- (<https://case.edu/law/practical-training/law-clinic/human-trafficking-law-clinic>)

***-Director of the Human Trafficking Law Project, Lecturer/Staff Attorney* August 2019- Present**

- Designed and implemented an interdisciplinary clinic training and educating law and masters-level social work students in the provision of trauma-responsive legal representation and social services provision to individuals who are survivors of or with heightened vulnerability for sex or labor trafficking;
- Instruct bi-weekly courses on general civil legal services, trauma-responsive practices, interviewing techniques, drafting, research, legislative analysis, and social service implementation;
- Oversee student representation in a variety of civil legal matters including but not limited to: protection orders, identity theft, social security benefit applications and overpayments, name change, gender marker corrections, expungements/record sealings, dissolution, child support modification, warrant identification, victims advocacy;
- Conduct weekly outreach to unseen/marginalized communities at high risk for trafficking such as individuals with substance use disorders, unhoused individuals, and members of the LGBTQ+ community;
- Draft, implement, and evaluate grant applications; Obtain an average \$170,000 annually;

- Develop and provide educational(CLE, CEU, and non-licensed) trainings for the community

~**Gestalt Institute of Cleveland**~(Cleveland, Ohio) -<https://www.gestaltcleveland.org/>

-Faculty

2022 - Present

- Facilitate workshops/trainings for the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland, an institute focused on the interconnectedness of an individual's thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and environment, and emphasizing the importance of the present moment, self-awareness, and taking responsibility for one's choices, dialogue, and action.

-Co-Facilitator of the Decolonizing Project

2021 - Present

~**Cleveland State University**~ (Cleveland, Ohio)

College of Law

-Adjunct Clinical Law Professor, Community Advocacy Clinic

August 2013 - December 2015

August 2016 – May 2018

- Instructed a clinical class of law students learning how to represent individuals in general civil legal issues; Arranged for opportunities within the community for students to experience public interest law, policy work, and writing experiences; Instructed cultural humility and grant writing classes

-Visiting Clinical Law Professor, Employment Law Clinic

January 1, 2011- May 2012

- Hired as a part-time lecturer from January through May 2011; Subsequently hired as a full-time Visiting Clinical Law Professor from May 2011 through May 2012; Monitored and supervised the caseload of students learning how to represent clients in unemployment compensation, discrimination and Fair Labor Standards Act violation hearings and appeals; Oversaw the drafting of court documents; Monitored students during court and administrative proceedings; Instructed a weekly seminar on employment issues and practical legal skill development; Developed interactive lesson plans; Assessed student assignments

School of Social Work (Undergraduate & Master's Level)

Social Work Field Liaison

August 2016 – May 2018

- Managed a caseload of MSW students and their respective field placements, ensuring adherence to learning agreements and providing timely conflict resolution when needed; Facilitated the hands-on education and professional development of MSW students by monitoring progress, evaluating achievements in agency-based practicums; Provided expert mentorship and guidance to students, helping them integrate social work theory and practice and develop professional identity and critical skills in real-world settings; Collaborated with agency partners to facilitate student placement opportunities, maintaining strong community relationships and expanding available resources.

Adjunct Professor, Social Work

August 2013 – June 2017

- Instructed Social Work 200(Introduction), Social Work 201 (Policy Advocacy), and Basic Generalist Practice*(350)

LEGAL & NON-PROFIT EXPERIENCE

Equality Ohio (<https://equalityohio.org/>)

Cleveland, Ohio

-Legal Consultant

January 2025 - September 2025

-Legal Director

January 2020 - December 2024

- Supervised a statewide LGBTQ+ - serving legal clinic with 6 staff attorneys; Assisted with the drafting, maintenance and reporting for over 1 million dollars worth of annual grant funding support; Conducted training, speaking engagements, outreach, and program development

-Managing Legal Director

January 2019 - December 2019

-Legal Consultant

November 2017- December 2018

- Spearheaded the creation of a state-wide LGBT legal clinic; Developed and conducted an environmental scan of needed legal services, analyzed best practices for intake and technological implementations, created *Know-Your-Rights* materials, supervised legal interns and fellows, developed a pro-bono attorney database and program; sought and achieved federal funding, hired inaugural 2 attorneys and opened the clinic doors in February 2019.

Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center (Cleveland, Ohio)

-Legal Consultant

June 2022 - July 2024

-Director of Legal Services/Staff Attorney

May 2011- June 2016

- Founding Legal Director; Conducted one year of environmental survey in order to develop a responsive legal services program
- Supervised clinic staff including two staff attorneys, externs, fellows, and legal volunteers; Represented clients in the area of general civil litigation including but not limited to: landlord/tenant issues, expungement and record sealing, social security & benefits law; financial matters, estate planning and health care directives; Recruited attorneys for pro-bono referrals; Facilitated 'Know Your Rights' presentations for the community; Worked on community collaboratives to advocate for change in the areas of Reentry Housing Issues (Cuyahoga Reentry Collaboration), LGBT issues (Equality Ohio & the CMBA LGBT Bar Committee), and HIV issues (Ryan White Planning Council);
- Assisted with the financial development of the legal clinic; Conduct grant research and writing; Succeeded in obtaining foundation funding including: The Deaconess Community Foundation, the AIDS Funding Collaborative, & The George Gund Foundation and federal funding from Ryan White Part A

-Ryan White Medical Case Manager

Aug. 2010 – Feb. 2014

- Managed a diverse caseload of clients living with HIV/AIDS, providing ongoing medical and supportive case management services; Developed and implemented individualized, strength-based care plans in collaboration with clients, focusing on medical stability, treatment adherence, and overall well-being; Coordinated complex medical and related services by actively linking clients to internal and external community resources, including medical care, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, housing, and financial support, ensuring continuity of care; Collaborated with local health centers, community-based organizations, and a multidisciplinary team to coordinate care and enhance community resources and service delivery; Monitored medical compliance; Organized and participated in community outreach events and mobile testing units; Maintained accurate and up-to-date client records and progress notes in electronic health record systems in compliance with HIPAA, Ryan White, and other federal/state guidelines; Monitored and documented clinical outcomes, including CD4 counts and viral load test results, every 180 days to evaluate the effectiveness of the care plan.

-Prevention Educator

November 2004 - August 2005

- Provided comprehensive HIV/AIDS and STI education to diverse populations, utilizing scientific-based prevention strategies to enhance community awareness and promote healthy behavior; Developed and facilitated educational workshops for individuals at high risk of infection, covering transmission, prevention methods, and treatment options; Created and edited educational materials and presentations for community events and outreach programs, distributing resources
- Received HIV Testing Certification; Conducted confidential rapid HIV testing and counseling sessions (pre- and post-test), ensuring client comfort, understanding, and adherence to HIPAA guidelines; Utilized motivational interviewing techniques and risk assessment to provide tailored prevention counseling and develop personalized risk reduction plans; Accurately recorded results in relevant databases, performing data quality checks and reporting statistics.

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center of Greater Cleveland (Cleveland, Ohio)

Director of Programming

July 2014 - July 2017

- Supervised programming staff and volunteers; Sustained and promote internal programming; Monitored and assessed viability of programming and provided appropriate supports; Spearheaded new programming; Headed and supervised internship program for local area high school, undergraduate, legal, and masters level students; Assisted with grant writing and development: Successfully brought over one million dollars in grant funding into the organization from July 2014 through July 2017.

ALDES (San Salvador, El Salvador)

-Volunteer Attorney/Development Assistant

August 2012 – April 2013

- Volunteered for one month in El Salvador to assist with the start-up of the first LGBT/HIV legal clinic in the country; Met with United Nations and U.S. Embassy officials to discuss the needs of community members; Assisted with securing a grant from the United Nations for the creation of the first LGBT Conference in the country's history; Met with local community groups; Assisted with the promotion and development of LGBT specific events.

SELECTED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, WEBINARS AND NEWS COMMENTARY

- **October 17, 2025: Legislative Update: Emerging Ohio Laws Impacting Human Trafficking Survivors.** In-person for the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking's Northeast Ohio Human Trafficking Conference (with co-presenter, Samantha Salomon).
- **September 17, 2025: Human Trafficking Services Panel.** In-person training for Ohio Justice and Policy Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- **September 13, 2025: Human Trafficking Panel.** In-Person training for Olivet Baptist Church.
- **June 20, 2025: HIV Criminalization Panel.** Virtual training for Ohio Equal Rights.
- **April 26, 2025: Silent Epidemic, Future of HT Legislation.** Virtual training for the Cleveland Chapter of the National Council for Negro Women(NCNW)
- **April 22, 2025: Human Trafficking 101 (with Survivor, Annette Mango).** In-person training at CaseWestern Reserve Medical School to approximately 100 doctors and medical students.
- **June 14, 2024: LGBT and Human Trafficking.** Virtual training for Abolition Ohio-Dayton.
- **May 15, 2024: Human Trafficking 101 (with Survivor, Annette Mango).** Virtual training for the Cincinnati Bar Association.
- **April 16, 2024: Human Trafficking 101 (with Survivor, Annette Mango).** In-person training at CaseWestern Reserve Medical School to approximately 100 doctors and medical students.
- **February 2, 2024: Taped Human Trafficking Training for Attorneys.** In conjunction with Representatives from Empowered Network and as a project for William K Thomas Inn of Courts

Members).

- **January 31, 2024: *Human Trafficking Awareness Panel*.** In-person at Flora Matthews Center, Case Western Reserve.
- **January 30, 2024: Human Trafficking Awareness Month Discussion Panel** for the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking regarding the Legal/Legislative Committee.
<https://thedaily.case.edu/human-trafficking-awareness-month-discussion-panel/>
- **January 26, 2024: Cleveland State University's panel: *Human Trafficking Unveiled: The Digital Frontier of Webcam Pornography*.**
<https://www.law.csuohio.edu/newsevents/human-trafficking-unveiled-digital-frontier-webcam-pornography>
- **November 2023: USPATH 2023 Scientific Symposium: Practical Resistance to Formal and Informal Criminalization of Gender Expansive Communities to Improve Safety and Health Outcomes in Diverse Sociopolitical Environments in the US**
<chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.wpath.org/media/cms/Upcoming%20Conferences/2023/Schedules/Final%20USPATH%202023%20Scientific%20Symposium%20Main%20Program%20-%20Full%20Schedule.pdf>
- **NPR: The Sound of Ideas, January 2022: Ohio fails human trafficking evaluation, organizations coordinate in attacking problem**
<https://ideastream.org/show/sound-of-ideas/2022-01-18/ohio-fails-human-trafficking-evaluation-organizations-coordinate-in-attacking-problem>
- **Lavendar Law 2021: The Role of the Attorney in Providing Direct Representation to LGBTQ+ Clients with Mental Health Diagnoses: Lessons Learned in a Trauma-Informed Approach**
<https://lgbtqbar.org/annual/conference-workshops/the-role-of-the-attorney-in-providing-direct-representation-to-lgbtq-clients-with-mental-health-diagnoses-lessons-learned-in-a-trauma-informed-approach/>
- **March 2021: ACAMS Northern Ohio Chapter March Virtual Event: Detecting Human Trafficking: Past and Future**
<https://www.acams.org/en/chapters/united-states-midwest/acams-northern-ohio-chapter-march-virtual-event-detecting-human-trafficking-past-and-future>
- **January 2021: Law Students Provide Hope to Human Trafficking Survivors**
https://www.courtnewsOhio.gov/happening/2021/traffickingProject_012621.asp
- **December 2020: Case Western Reserve's Human Trafficking Project assisting survivors as part of 'Operation Autumn Hope'**
<https://thedaily.case.edu/case-western-reserves-human-trafficking-project-assisting-survivors-as-part-of-operation-autumn-hope/>
- **August 2019: Rolling Stone, What Does Jeffrey Epstein's Suicide Mean For His Accusers?**
<https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-news/jeffrey-epstein-dead-suicide-indictment-victims-870090/>
- **April 2019: Teaching Prevention Building a New Paradigm for Population Health Conference: A Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention: The Cleveland Experience**
https://teachingprevention2019.sched.com/speaker/maya_simek_jd.1z7f88v6
- **October 2018: Spectrum, Lawsuit accuses Facebook of enabling human traffickers**
<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/tx/austin/news/2018/10/03/lawsuit-accuses-facebook-of-enabling>

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

- Certificate of Appreciation from National Counsel of Negro Women(NCNW), Cleveland Chapter: In recognition of participation and contribution in the Missing Women & Children & Human Trafficking Awareness & Safety Series - 2025
- Collaborative to End Human Trafficking's Inspire Change Award - 2024
- Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center's Trailblazer Award - 2024
- Crain's Cleveland 40-Under-40 Award – 2020
- United States Department of State Professional Fellow on Governance and Society (Nepal) - 2019
- Case Western Reserve Alumni Award - 2015
- LGBT Heritage Award Recipient - 2010

MEMBERSHIPS

- Collaborative to End Human Trafficking
 - Co-Chair of the Legal & Legislative Committee (2022 - Present)
- Association of American Law Schools (AALS)
- Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA)
- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA)
- American Bar Association
- National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

- **Ursuline Piazza** **2018 - Present**
 - Non-profit organization that promotes the well-being of those affected and infected with HIV/AIDS regardless of the individual's race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religious affiliation. This will be achieved through just and compassionate leadership, education, supportive services and advocacy. (<https://ursulinepiazza.org>)
- **Motogo**(<https://motogocleveland.com/>) **2017 - 2024**
 - Founding Board Member of Cleveland-based non-profit that teaches problem-solving, resilience, and confidence to young people (ages 12+) by having them disassemble and rebuild motorcycles, essentially modernizing shop class to build future workforce skills for trades and STEM fields, fostering hands-on learning and celebrating failure as a path to mastery.

EDUCATION & SPECIALTY TRAINING

- ❖ **Gestalt Institute of Cleveland**, Gestalt Training Program Graduate, 2017
- ❖ **Cleveland State University College of Law**, Juris Doctor, May 2010
- ❖ **Case Western Reserve University**, Masters of Social Work, May 2007
- ❖ **John Carroll University**, Bachelor's of Science, 2004, Major: Psychology