

EXHIBIT A

DECLARATION OF BARDIS VAKILI

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ADMISSIONS

State Bar of California, November 2006; SBN 247783
United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
United States District Court, Southern District of California
United States District Court, Central District of California

EDUCATION

University of San Diego School of Law

San Diego, CA

J.D., May 2006; G.P.A. 3.35

Journal: University of San Diego International Law Journal, 2004-06

Achievements: Honors: International Negotiations, Spring 2005
Honors: International Human Rights, Summer 2004
Academic Merit Scholarship (50% of tuition), 2003-04

International Study: **Institute on International and Comparative Law**, Summer 2004
Barcelona, Spain; Dublin, Ireland

Tufts University

Medford, MA

B.A. in Child Development, May 1997

Activities: Track and Field Team, 1993-97

- Finalist, New England Division III Championships, Spring 1997

International Study: **University of Seville**, Spain, Spring 1996

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

American Civil Liberties Union of San Diego and Imperial Counties

San Diego, CA

Senior Staff Attorney, September 2014 – present

- Investigate, research, develop, and pursue litigation, legislative, and other integrated advocacy strategies to address constitutional violations in San Diego and Imperial Counties, with a focus on immigrant rights and economic and racial justice
- Supervise the work of junior attorneys bringing immigrants' rights litigation in federal court
- Supervise a legal fellow in creating the El Centro Immigrants' Rights Outreach project, which will deliver free legal assistance to rural communities and detained immigrants in Imperial County

American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, Orange County Office

Santa Ana, CA

Staff Attorney, July 2011 – September 2014

- Investigated, researched, developed, and pursued litigation, legislative, and other integrated advocacy strategies to address constitutional violations in Orange County and the Inland Empire, with a focus on immigrant rights, police misconduct, free speech, voting rights, religious freedom, and economic and racial justice
- Participated in all aspects of litigation, including law and motion hearings, depositions, negotiations, direct and cross examinations, and closing arguments; prepared pleadings, motions, memoranda, discovery requests, trial briefs, amicus briefs, appellate briefs, and petitions for rehearing
- Developed and conducted "Know Your Rights" and "Train the Trainers" community education presentations, created training materials, provided support to community organizations, and engaged in media outreach through press conferences and interviews with television, radio, and print media
- Assisted supervising attorney with intakes, legal research, document review, cite checking and editing, and supervision of interns and volunteer attorneys

Casa Cornelia Law Center

San Diego, CA

Director, Political Asylum Program, November 2007 – July 2011

- Represented indigent asylum seekers, individuals with disabilities, United States citizens, and domestic violence and crime victims in immigration court, maintaining an open caseload of 50-75 cases
- Provided appellate representation, successfully litigating several cases at the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the Board of Immigration Appeals
- Recruited, trained, and mentored volunteer attorneys for representation of asylum seekers in immigration court
- Managed organization's political asylum program and staff, organized outreach and legal screenings for detained and non-detained immigrants seeking representation, conducted intakes, and evaluated claims for legal merit and credibility
- Advocated with DHS officials, directly and in coordination with community allies, regarding immigration enforcement policies
- Provided MCLE trainings, conducted presentations, prepared training materials, and participated in panel discussions and stakeholder meetings regarding immigration issues

American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California

Los Angeles, CA

Immigrants' Rights Consultant, February 2007 – November 2007

- Provided legal assistance for *pro se* immigration detainees at all stages of removal proceedings, including drafting briefs, motions, and appeals
- Located, interviewed, and tracked class members for ACLU/SC litigation involving prolonged detention, detention conditions, and naturalization delay
- Advocated on behalf of immigration detainees regarding detention conditions and medical care
- Investigated and screened cases for potential representation by the ACLU/SC
- Recruited and mentored *pro bono* attorneys for asylum and cancellation of removal cases
- Gathered and interpreted data for ACLU/SC immigration litigation and media outreach

San Diego Mediation Center

San Diego, CA

Student Mediator, September 2005 – March 2006

- Mediated settlements and drafted written agreements for Small Claims Court disputes

University of San Diego Entrepreneurship Clinic

San Diego, CA

Legal Intern, August 2005 – December 2006

- Assisted clients with formation of business entities and drafted operating agreements, bylaws, and articles of incorporation

Alternate Public Defender

San Diego, CA

Certified Legal Intern, May 2005 – August 2005

- Drafted and argued various motions in court, including expungement, felony reduction, and suppression of evidence

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS, SKILLS, AND INTERESTS

- Professional Awards: Member of Team Awarded National Immigration Project Daniel Levy Award, 2007
Wiley M. Manuel Award for *Pro Bono* Legal Services, 2006
- Languages: Proficient Spanish
Basic Farsi
- Interests: Surfing, Camping, Snorkeling, Team Sports, Travel (lived over one year in the Caribbean, one year in Europe)