

PHILIP J. COSTA

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EDUCATION

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

J.D., *magna cum laude*, Order of the Coif, May 1992

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

B.A., *summa cum laude*, History, May 1989

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW, SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL (Los Angeles, CA)

July 2025–Present: Associate Professor of Law for Academic Success and Bar Preparation

May 2019–July 2025: Adjunct Associate Professor of Law

- Teaching assignments include:
 - ✓ Immigration Law and Crimes
 - ✓ Remedies
 - ✓ Bar Skills and Strategies
 - Member, Southwestern Law School American Inn of Court, Masters Level
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JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION JUDGE (Los Angeles, CA)

October 2010–June 2025 (retired)

- Presided over and issued decisions in formal administrative hearings involving applications for immigration benefits, detention/bond, and potential removal from the United States.
 - Applied case, statutory, and regulatory precedent and resolved complex issues of first impression.
 - Exercised independent discretionary judgment in a manner that ensured due process and fairness, promoting confidence in the integrity of the United States legal system.
 - Mentored and trained new Immigration Judges and judicial law clerks.
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ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (New York, NY)

July 2003-October 2010 (Deputy Chief Counsel)

June 1997-June 2003 (Assistant Chief Counsel) (predecessor agency)

- Supervised and managed teams of up to 30 trial attorneys responsible for representing the United States in immigration proceedings.
- Supervised actions involving perpetrators of human rights violations.
- Chaired, managed, developed curriculum, and served as faculty for national Trial Advocacy Training Program.
- Devised and coordinated training curriculum, oversaw faculty work product, and served as faculty for national New Attorney Training programs.
- Developed and implemented comprehensive training curriculum for New York office.
- Supervised, managed, and trained law student interns.
- Developed national legal writing training program and managed local legal writing program.
- Maintained individual trial responsibility for selected high-priority matters, with emphasis on perpetrators of human rights violations.

LITIGATION ASSOCIATE, CHADBOURNE & PARKE (New York, NY)

September 1992-June 1997

- Litigated complex federal and state court actions, including actions relating to breach of contract, corporate wrongdoing, fraud, employment, international letters of credit, insurance/reinsurance, accountants' malpractice, creditors' rights, and bankruptcy.
- Drafted briefs, pleadings, and written discovery; argued dispositive motions; conducted and defended depositions.
- Examined witnesses at trial and pre-trial hearings.
- Negotiated and drafted settlement agreements.

PRO BONO/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

EVICTIION DEFENSE ATTORNEY, HOUSING COURT LITIGATION PROJECT (Pro Bono Volunteer, NYC Bar Association/Legal Aid Society Joint Program)

New York, NY | 1993-1995

- Represented tenants in nonpayment/eviction proceedings.
- Aided clients in obtaining rent arrears payments and ongoing public assistance from social service agencies.
- Successful litigation results featured in 1994 Legal Aid Society Annual Report.
- Received award for outstanding *pro bono* representation, as featured in the *New York Law Journal* (2/28/95 issue).

INTERN, LEGAL AID SOCIETY, CRIMINAL DEFENSE DIVISION

New York, NY | September 1991–May 1992

- Represented criminal defendants accused of misdemeanors at arraignments, pre-trial hearings, and plea allocutions.
- Second-seated defense counsel at felony-murder trial.

ADDITIONAL LEGAL TEACHING/PRESENTATION EXPERIENCE

Delivered hundreds of hours of CLE lectures and professional trainings on topics including:

- Chair, DHS National Trial Advocacy Training Program
 - Oral Argument (DHS Trial Advocacy Training Program)
 - Cross-Examination (DHS Trial Advocacy Training Program)
 - Trial Advocacy: National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) (DHS faculty)
 - Witness Preparation (NYCLE)
 - Legal Writing (NYCLE and DHS National Experienced Attorney Training Program)
 - Prosecutorial Discretion (DHS Trial Advocacy Training Program)
 - Ninth Circuit Law: The Year in Crime (Immigration Judge Training Conference)
 - Persecutor Law 101 (DHS National Human Rights Law Conference)
 - Human Rights Violators: Persecutor Law (NYCLE)
 - Human Rights Violators: The Intelligence Reform Act and Beyond (NYCLE)
 - Criminal Grounds of Removability (NYCLE)
 - Crimes Involving Moral Turpitude (DHS New Attorney Training Program)
 - Cancellation of Removal and Section 212(c) Relief (NYCLE)
 - Suppression of Evidence (NYCLE)
 - Objections to Documents and Related Evidentiary Issues (NYCLE)
 - Basic Legal Ethics (NYCLE)
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