# Molly P. Matter, Esq.

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## EDUCATION & TRAINING

**Member of the Washington State Bar,** 2017
Chair, Civil Rights Law Section of the Washington State Bar Association, 2019/2020
Admittance to the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, 2018
Seattle University School of Law, JD, 2015
Western Washington University, Fairhaven College, BA Liberal Arts: *Pedagogies for Social Justice: Race and Gender*, 2006
Mediation Certification, King County Dispute Resolution Center, 2009
Black Belt and Self-Defense Instructor in Kajukenbo Martial Arts, 2004-2015

Attorney, Amend Law, LLC *Vashon Island, WA, May 2018-current*

- Solo practitioner: voting rights, human rights and community empowerment.
- Current work with underrepresented communities in Washington State to ensure local governments conduct fair elections and investigate violations of State and Federal Voting Rights Acts.
- Co-Counsel, *Higginson v Becerra et al*, Southern District Court of California, Fall 2017-current Intervention in constitutional challenge to the California Voting Rights Act. Representing voters of color (specifically, Latinx & Asian American) who rely on the private right of action of State voting rights legislation. Jurisdiction: Southern District Court of California and 9th Circuit. Co-counsel with the Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc. (MALDEF), and Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus (AAAJ-ALC).
- Pro Bono asylum work in detention sites, including NWDC, interviewing hunger strike detainees and advocating for release.
- Organizing public education campaigns in impacted communities: voting rights community meetings

Pro Bono Attorney, Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law, *Project Reunify, August 2018-current*

- Interviewed immigrant and refugee children and youth detained in Mesa, AZ to support litigation against Trump Administration for violation of Flores Agreement; advocated for youth regarding Flores release options; Facilitated Mobile legal clinic within detention site
- Conducted Site Inspection as part of Flores Settlement; drafted inspection report for CHRCL
- Advocated for proper procedures and practices for interviews and inspection when site managers refused to follow settlement guidelines

Voting Rights Advocate/Attorney, *Yakima, WA, Winter 2017-current*

- Provided free legal assistance to Latino community where County officials erred in election administration disparately impacting farmworkers and where local law enforcement engaged in unconstitutional practices regarding unfounded investigation of voter fraud; Statewide advocacy efforts networking local and national civil legal aid orgs, Secretary of State and Attorney General oversight.

Research Assistant and Co-counsel for Professor Joaquin G. Avila, National Voting Rights Advocacy Initiative, *housed at Seattle University School of Law 2009-2012, Seattle, WA. Following description includes employment, student research and legal analyst work for Joaquin G. Avila, June 2011 – March 2018*

- Presented on American disenfranchisement and felony voting rights law at Seattle University School of Law
- Procured voting rights records to substantiate findings of racially polarized voting for pending litigation
- Coordinated voter registration drive for homeless and formerly incarcerated
- Researched minority voting rights history in California in support of Washington State Voting Rights Act

- Researcher and co-author on law review article proposing amendment to the Voting Rights Act in an effort to reauthorize Section 5 on a targeted basis post *Shelby County*.
- Researcher and co-author of upcoming law review article re legal strategy of the California Voting Rights Act
- Organized 80 statewide and national advocates to sign letter in support of continuing Whitman College's research program, *State of the State for WA Latinos*, program established in collaboration with the Initiative
- All aspects of administration, research and fundraising (2015-2017) to upscale current model to a national, decentralized approach.

Extern for Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), *Sacramento Office, CA, satellite office through National Law Employment Project and Casa Latina, Seattle, WA, Summer 2015*

- Drafted state voting rights complaint
- Performed new case investigation (statutory interpretation, factual investigation/analysis, and historical electoral research)
- Performed a survey of jurisdictions in Washington, including local voting rights election methods and history
- Drafted oppositions to federal court motion in limine involving issues of state and federal privacy doctrines
- Convened meeting with national senior voting rights attorneys and advocates regarding state legislation

Extern for Justice Steven J. González, Washington State Supreme Court, *Olympia, WA, August - December 2014*

- Drafted dissents/concurrences for chambers
- Drafted departmental memos regarding disciplinary rulings for attorneys and motions to modify commissioner rulings re prisoner personal restraint petitions and pro se civil litigation
- Drafted recommendations for chambers re criminal justice, property and civil liberty issues

Student of Civil Rights Amicus Clinic, *Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA, January - May 2013*

- Researched 1st Amendment right to receive and vagueness, facially and as-applied; and analyzed judicial decisions regarding vagueness in support of 9th circuit appeal challenging Arizona's H.B. 2281, law that terminated the Mexican American Studies program in Tuscan United School District
- Conducted interviews of teachers, students, and community members in Tucson, AZ, about impact of law
- Conducted record review and drafted memorandum arguing that Mexican American Studies program reduced racism

Student of International Human Rights Clinic, *Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA, August 2012 - January 2013*

- Interviewed clients of human rights violations; developed factual record; and researched case law on wrongful imprisonment and reparations in la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CorteIDH)
- Drafted non-pecuniary reparations section on prison reform on behalf of Jason Puracal in petition to CorteIDH

Student of Mediation and other Methods to Foster Democratic Dialogue, *Benjamin Cardozo School of Law, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, Summer 2012*

- Mediation certificate and restorative justice training with human rights advocates from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, USA, Hungary, Canada, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, United Kingdom, Slovakia, Germany, Azerbaijan, India, Russian Federation, Georgia, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.
- Initiated and lead Self Defense workshop with Roma and LGBTQ students at Central European University
- English editing support to FORESEE, Hungarian NGO working to integrate Victim Offender Mediation, Restorative Justice and Peace-Making Circles into criminal justice system and community ethnic conflict

Legal Assistant, McCullough Hill Leary, PS, *Seattle, WA, October 2010 - September 2011*

- Supported attorneys in administrative and paralegals tasks, e.g., court filing, accounts receivable and deposits
- Maintained archiving and hard case filing, client electronic files, and firm conflict checks

Voting Rights Restoration Project Intern, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Washington, *Seattle, WA, June 2006 - April 2009*

- Testified before Senate and House committees regarding voting rights legislation
- Analyzed case law, communicated with ex-felons, attorneys and key stake holders, and procured court documents to draft petitions and assist ex-felons in restoring their voting rights
- Drafted memorandums and maintained database to: document all administrative and legal procedures; track systemic problems; assist in legislative strategizing and profiling sympathetic cases
- Initiated and drafted a step-by-step guide for ex-felons to petition the court to waive interest on legal financial obligations (published on washingtonlawhelp.org and used with Black Prisoner's Caucus in Monroe State Prison)
- Led public presentations on disenfranchisement laws as they pertain to Washington State

## PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

Presenter, *WSBA CLE, Using International Law in Domestic Practice: how to use international treaties to move domestic human rights forward*, April 15, 2019 (upcoming)

Presenter, *Latinx Law Student Organization, Staying Alive on the Inside: Advocating for youth and families inside immigration detention post-family separation,* Seattle University School of Law, April 2019 (upcoming)

Presenter, *Joaquin Avila Memorial Voting Rights Symposium*, Seattle University School of Law, March 1, 2019

Presenter for local community action groups regarding immigration detention and human rights, winter 2019

Interviewee, *REALTalk, Voice of Vashon Public Radio: children's human rights and Zero Tolerance Policy*, January 8, 2019

Interviewee, *1360 Del Rey Public Radio, Dec. 8, 2017, Importancia Del Voto*: interviewed on local Spanish radio program on how to vote, qualifications to vote (i.e., no formal education or English fluency needed) and 'know your rights' re law enforcement for new Latino citizens.

Co-author, Joaquin Avila, Barbara Phillips and Molly Matter, *How A Targeted Triggering Approach Can Repair The Voting Rights Act: Congress Can Eliminate The Blight Of Voting Discrimination Once And For All!* 85 Miss. L.J. 1163 (2017).

Key Note Speaker, *Mission Creek Correctional Center for Women Annual Women's Conference, Belfair, WA, October, 2015*

Presenter, *Voting Rights panel, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA, September 2011*

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Chair-Elect, Washington State Bar Association Civil Rights Section, *Seattle, WA, June 2018-2020*

- Legislative advocacy in support of state civil rights issues; advocacy to fund & organize implicit bias CLEs

Civil Rights Advocate/Historian, *Frances B. North Legacy Initiative, Seattle, WA, Summer 2017-current*

- Collaboration with community elders to establish historical archive, public monument, city proclamation and endowment/educational scholarships for African American young women in honor of local civil rights leader and friend, Frances B. North

Volunteer, Vashon Resettlement Committee, *Vashon Island, WA, Summer 2017-current*

- English language assistance and employment assistance with Syrian refugee women; assisting Syrian families toward self-reliance; tutor in elementary school; advocate for culturally sensitive curriculum. Organized women's conversational English and civics with Syrian and Latina English-language learners on island.

Pro Bono attorney re Travel Ban, *SeaTac Airport Immigration Response Leadership Team, Lane Powell, PC, Seattle, WA, Jan-Feb 2017*

- Assisted on-site legal support for travelers impacted at airport

Voting Rights Advocate and Volunteer, *Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness, Seattle, Burien and Vashon, WA Sep. 2012- current*

- Voter registration and felony voting rights education in homeless shelters, food banks; assistance in preparing homeless youth for school; coordinated voter registration drive on Vashon Island with interfaith commission against homelessness

Self-Defense Instructor*, Fight the Fear Campaign, Community Violence Prevention Initiative supported by the Seattle Police Foundation, Brandi Carlile and the Indigo Girls, Seattle, WA, July 2009 – 2015*

- Taught free self-defense workshops to at-risk and underserved communities in the Seattle area

ELL Teacher, *Refugee Women's Alliance, Seattle, WA, March 2007 - April 2009*

- Developed and implemented culturally appropriate and applicable curriculum in program catering to English language needs of adults born in Vietnam, Eritrea, Somalia and Mexico

Board Member, *Community Advisory Committee to the Department of Equity and Race Relations for the Seattle Public Schools, Seattle, WA, January 2005 - June 2006*

- Advised director by: collating and sharing information about Seattle Public Schools with community groups; enlisting community contacts from city-wide community equity meetings; and bringing an anti-bias Early Learning perspective into cultural competency trainings

Youth Advocate, *Proteccion a la Jove de Oaxaca: Boarding School for Indigenous Girls of Oaxaca, Oaxaca, Mexico, December 2000 - April 2001*

- Tutored indigenous young women in math and English; helped facilitate school's handmade papermaking business as part of an independent study project through Fairhaven College to learn Spanish and gain cultural competency to facilitate domestic violence outreach with farmworkers in Whatcom County, WA

Trained Domestic Violence Advocate, *Womencare Battered Women's Shelter, Bellingham, WA, June - December 2000*

- Volunteered as crisis hotline operator; provided resource referrals; performed intake interviews
- Completed domestic violence advocacy training certificate program

Youth Commissioner, *Human Rights Commission of Tacoma, Tacoma, WA, September 1992 - June 1995*

- Pioneered youth participation and youth voting rights on commission
- Exposed racial profiling issues tied to a citywide curfew ordinance
- Attended commission and City Council meetings; discussed local discrimination cases with civil rights attorneys