

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

University of Denver Sturm College of Law <i>Juris Doctor</i>	Denver, CO December 2010
University of Colorado <i>Master of Arts</i>	Boulder, CO May 2000
University of Puget Sound <i>Bachelor of Arts</i>	Tacoma, WA May 1996

AWARDS AND HONORS

Most Audacious Award, Honoring a childbirth professional who has shown remarkable courage and boldness to change childbirth or maternity care, The Association for Wholistic Maternal & Newborn Health and Human Rights in Childbirth, May 2016.
All Around Reproductive Justice Champion, Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights, Fall 2013.
Howard Jenkins Jr. Award in Labor Law, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Spring 2010.
21st Century Fellow, The Pipeline Project Leadership Development Program for LGBT People of Color, 2009-2010.
Honorable Mention, National Advocates for Pregnant Women, Law Student Writing Contest, October 2009.
The Alexander Foundation Scholarship, recognizing Colorado LGBT students, 2009, 2010.
National Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding Law Student Award, from University of Denver Sturm College of Law, 2009.
Yegge Hispanic Scholarship, recognizing Outstanding Hispanic Law Students, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, 2008-2009.
Harry W. Rabb Scholarship, recognizing leadership, academics, and need, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, 2006-2010.
Susan Kirk Scholarship, recognizing community activism, University of Colorado Graduate School of Public Affairs, 1999.
University Leadership Award, University of Puget Sound, 1996.
Mary Christine Pence Teaching Assistant Award, University of Puget Sound, 1995.
Summer Research Award Recipient, for “Theatre and Race: Transformations and Identity,” University of Puget Sound, 1995.

PUBLICATIONS

Love Letters to the Queer Liberation and Reproductive Justice Movements, Eds. Indra Lusero, Cara Page, Mia Mingus, in **RADICAL REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE: FOUNDATION, THEORY, PRACTICE, CRITIQUE** (Loretta Ross et. al. eds., Feminist Press 2017).
Making the Midwife Impossible: How the Structure of Maternity Care Harms the Practice of Home Birth Midwifery, Women’s Rights Law Reporter, 3/4 Women’s Rights Law Reporter 35 (2014).
Challenging Hospital VBAC Bans Through Tort Liability, 2 William and Mary J. of Women and the Law 20 (2014).
Op-Ed., with Lynn Paltrow, *Danger on the Ballot*, Denver Post, Sept. 25, 2008 (also published in Longmont, Boulder, Ft. Collins, Pueblo, and Vail papers).
How Do I Get There From Denver: Examining Place-based Education at the Logan School, 16 J. of Dem. & Ed. 57 (2006).
Risk and Revelation: Creative Writing in Theory and Play, 11 Ed. Insights (2007) available at <http://www.ccfi.educ.ubc.ca/publication/insights/v11n01/articles/lusero.html>
Luminaria, in **FOCUS ON THE FABULOUS: AN ANTHOLOGY OF COLORADO QUEER WRITERS** 141 (Matt Kailey ed., Johnson Books 2007) (Won Best LGBT Anthology in Westword “Best Of” 2008); also in *Weird Sisters Mag.*, March 2003.
Impossible Body, in **REVOLUTIONARY VOICES: A MULTICULTURAL QUEER YOUTH ANTHOLOGY** 218 (Amy Sonnie ed., Alyson Books 2000); also in **THE LESBIAN POLYAMORY READER: OPEN RELATIONSHIPS, NON-MONOGAMY, AND CASUAL SEX** 143 (Judith Stelboum ed., Routledge 1999); also in *15 Loving More Mag.* 4 (1998).

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Staff Attorney , <i>National Advocates for Pregnant Women</i> Provide legal services, research, strategy to advance the human rights of all people with a focus on the most marginalized pregnant women.	March 2018 – present
Elephant Circle <i>Director</i> Establish the vision and strategy for the organization, along with maintaining operations including accounting, grant writing and website management. Publish and disseminate research, and do educational programming on University campuses and in the community. Provide coaching and leadership development. Develop practices that promote innovation in social justice work. Provide legal services in the areas of family law, deferred action, health law, and defending families from Child Protective Services; experience with mediation, negotiations, client counseling, written communication, and simple trials. Successfully ran a coalition that passed legislation in 2010 and 2011. Successfully applied for funding from local and national foundations.	January 2009 – present

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Director of Operations and the Transgender Military Service Initiative, *The Palm Center*** August 2006 – September 2013
The Palm Center is a public policy think tank. During my tenure at the Palm Center I commissioned 11 studies, was briefed by the Pentagon, developed a blog and a team of authors, created a database on over 1000 contacts, researched military policy, submitted FOIA requests, managed budgets of up to half a million dollars, coordinated teams of scholars and advisors, wrote press releases, fielded media inquiries, arranged travel, planned meetings and conferences, gave interviews, and made presentations.
- Legal and Communications Coordinator, *Delivering Natural Care for Families*** November 2010 – December 2012
Launched and led a 200 member consumer campaign to change homebirth midwifery legislation, trained 50 people in lobbying and the history of midwifery, brought to the table a new population of advocates who had not been empowered before. Raised \$16,000 through grassroots fundraising.
- Intern, *10th Circuit Court of Appeals*** Summer 2008
Worked in the Staff Counsel's office to make sure that the court's primary reference book was up-to-date and that the analysis of the law was succinct and accurate.
- Legal Clerk, *Swankin & Turner*** September 2007
Researched Colorado living trusts and found templates for creating them.
- Legal Clerk, *The Sanchez Law Firm*** March 2007-December 2007
Researched Missouri case law pertinent to negligence involving physicians when a midwife transfers her clients care or makes an emergency transport, with attention to vicarious liability, and apparent authority. Researched SOL for malpractice in every state for a feasibility study investigating the possibility of creating a non-profit insurance company for midwives. Write a section of an amicus brief submitted to the Missouri Supreme Court on behalf of a collective of midwifery advocacy groups.
- Research Assistant, *University of Denver Sturm College of Law*** October 2006- 2009
Researched case law where domestic violence coercion was used as a defense in taxes or housing, research the judicial guidelines of every state for the modification or vacatur of protection orders in domestic violence situations, John Calmore, race based conspiracies, the intersections of race, sexual orientation and family law, and reproductive justice; line edit essays for publication.
- Education Director, *Deproduction*** January – July 2006
Coordinated community education classes, work with other non-profits and government agencies to provide media education to youth, run the Youth Visions media education program, coordinated the Internship Program, coordinate five interns, taught Final Cut Pro video editing, teach video field production, manage staff and volunteers.
- Matrix Program and Publishing Center Coordinator, *The Logan School*** August 2000-January 2006
Coordinated in-school publishing, managed publishing volunteers, coordinated the electives program, coordinated twelve teachers, did student scheduling, managed the Publishing Center and Matrix Program budgets, created reports, developed the program. Courses Taught: Cross Country, Track and Field, Women's History, Media Literacy, Creative Movement, Creative Writing, Health Education, The Supreme Court, Publishing, Philosophy, Art History, Hypertext In addition I also coordinated field work in areas of student interest and for one year ran the After-School Enrichment Program and the After-school Day Care.
- Morningstar Productions** Jan. 1998 - Jan. 2003
Wrote, produced, performed "Impossible Body" for colleges, community organizations, and theatres, developed promotional material, sent out press releases, did marketing, outreach, educational workshops, billing, finances.
- Grader and Teaching Assistant, *University of Colorado and University of Puget Sound*** August 1994-May 1998
Graded essays for fifty students a semester in "Introduction to Theatre" and worked as an assistant in "Introduction to Communications."

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Colorado Coalition to Protect Children and Family Rights** August 2016 – present
Founding Member
Formalize a coalition to create humane child welfare policy in Colorado. Establish core principles.
- United States Midwifery Education, Regulation and Association Equity Task Force** May 2015 – 2017
Facilitator
Convene representatives from eight U.S. midwifery organizations for regular meetings about equity in the profession of midwifery. Create and disseminate an equity evaluation tool.
- Family Law and Cannabis Alliance** January 2015 – 2016
Board Member
Support the start-up in initial planning and governance.
- Midwives Alliance of North America Division of Access and Equity** October 2014 – 2018
Founding Member, Division Director
Establish a division within MANA that focuses on equity in midwifery. Establish vision and structure of the division.

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Identify, organize and train leaders and members.

Birth Rights Bar Association

March 2014 – present

Founding President

Establish a bar association for members across the country to connect and build capacity around rights associated with childbirth including: the right to physical liberty, bodily integrity, due process of law, equal protection, religious liberty, and the informed consent of all those involved. Cultivate board members, cultivate community connections, speak publically on behalf of the organization, establish a governing structure, ensure fiscal responsibility.

Human Rights in Childbirth

July 2013 – 2015

U.S. Legal Advocacy Coordinator

Bring US lawyers together to identify trends and strategies, and connect our work in the U.S. to the work other lawyers are doing with regard to human rights in childbirth across the globe. Present at Human Rights in Childbirth conferences and develop the US human rights in childbirth webpage.

The Chinook Fund

1999, 2006, 2012

Grantmaking Committee, Leadership Sustainability Committee

Participate in organization-wide anti-racism and gender deconstruction trainings, review grant application material, evaluate funding sites, make recommendations to the committee. Support the leadership through coaching, work plan development, time management support, and organizational development.

LatCrit Annual Conference

October 2010

Student Volunteer Coordinator

Coordinated with the conference planner and volunteers to fill volunteer slots; created job descriptions and a schedule for student volunteers; coordinated communication between volunteers and the planner; set-up and maintained conference rooms and registration.

Luz Reproductive Justice Think Tank

2006 – 2010

Founding Member

Participate in consensus building, co-leadership, and peer education about reproductive justice issues, with particular attention to communities of color. Practice ways of infusing reproductive justice work into all of our professional efforts, share resources and investigate innovative avenues for change, collaborate with local and national organizations.

Let Us Rise

2007–2009

Founding Member, Executive Committee

Build a visionary, multi-issue, multi-racial social movement based on the voice of the people speaking from their most sacred values.

Center for Educational and Economic Equity

2007 – 2009

Board President

Establish protocols, review and uphold the bylaws and Articles of Incorporation evaluate the Executive Directors, facilitate meetings, maintain fiscal responsibility, facilitate fundraising and goal setting, help establish the programming.

Colorado Alliance of Independent Midwives

2006 – 2008

Consumer Advocate

Speak at review meetings of the regulatory agency, investigate regulatory practices, other states' laws and regulations, help establish an advisory board for complaint review.

Denver School Board, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Education

2005-2006

Advisory Committee

Develop written material, plan teacher trainings, evaluate policy.

The Logan School Diversity Committee

2001-2005

Co-Chair

Make recommendations to the Board, prepare reports, implement a school-wide survey, provide resources to parents and faculty, work with the Admissions and Development offices on data collection and procedures, develop a Mentorship Program for students of color, implement school-wide educational events.

Latina Lesbians for Reproductive Health

2005

Co-Chair

Do research, prepare brochures, do data collection, outreach, make recommendations to the Board.

Rainbow Alley Queer Youth Program

1996-1998

Crisis Pager Volunteer

Understanding Sexuality

1993-1996

Public Relations and Community Education

University and Student Diversity Committee

1993-1994

Student Representative/Chair

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PRESENTATIONS

Conferences:

- “Talking about Perinatal Cannabis Use with Your Clients: Legal and Health Risks,” Midwives Alliance of North America Annual Conference, Long Beach, CA. November 4, 2017.
- “Eve’s Curse? Making Rights-Based Maternity Care a Reality,” Panel Moderator, Funders for Reproductive Equity, Albuquerque, NM. October 20, 2017.
- “What About the Children? Bridging the Gaps Between Drug Policy Reform and Child Welfare Advocacy,” Panel, The Reform Conference, Atlanta, GA., October 14, 2017.
- “Family Defender Phone Booth Transformations: The Birth of Two Advocates in Response to Cannabis Legalization,” Office of Respondent Parent Counsel Second Annual Conference, Black Hawk, CO. September 11, 2017.
- “Clearing the Smoke: Talking about the health and legal consequences of marijuana use with your clients,” Midwives Alliance of North America Conference, Atlanta, GA. October 2016.
- “How to Pass Go in the Game of Midwifery,” Midwives Alliance of North America Conference, Atlanta, GA. October 2016.
- “Dignity Birth Campaign,” Plenary panel, Midwives Alliance of North America Conference, Atlanta, GA. October 2016.
- “Imagination as the Antidote to the Impossible: Imaginative Practices for Reproductive Justice,” Civil Liberties and Public Policy Conference, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, April 2016.
- “Midwifery and the Law: A Choose Your Own Adventure Story,” Midwives Alliance of North America Conference, Albuquerque, NM. October 2015.
- “No New Ideas: Innovation in Movement Work,” Women’s Leadership Conference, University of Colorado, Denver, Denver, CO. March 2015.
- “Birthing a Movement,” Take Root: Red State Perspectives on Reproductive Justice, Norman, OK. February 2015.
- “Rights and Responsibilities Across the Reproductive Spectrum,” Medical Students for Choice, Atlanta, GA. November 2014 (panel planner, didn’t attend the conference).
- “Decoding Legalese: A Hands On, Holistic Introduction to the Law and How it Impacts You,” Midwives Alliance of North America Convention, St. Louis, MO, October 2014.
- “Lawyer and Consumer Collaborations” Break-out session, Human Rights in Childbirth Conference, Blakenberg, Belgium, November 2013.
- “Choice of Provider Doctor or Midwife: Making the Midwife Impossible,” Beyond Roe Conference, Rutgers School of Law, October 11, 2013.
- “Transgender Military Service,” Networking Lunch, GLMA Health Professionals Annual Conference, September 20, 2013.
- “The Defense of Midwives on a Human Rights Basis,” *The Persecution of Midwives as a Human Rights Issue*, Eugene, OR, April 2013.
- “Childbirth as a Natural Resource,” *Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting*, Denver, CO, March 2013.
- “Introduction to Reproductive Justice,” *Choice USA Southwest Regional Convening*, Phoenix, AZ, March 2009.
- “Gender, Militarism, and the Prison Industrial Complex: Building Conversations for Change,” *Creating Change*, Denver CO, January 2009.
- “The Power of Erotic Childbirth” at the *Latina Health Summit*, Denver CO, October 2007, 2008, 2009.
- “Dramaturgy, the Dramaturg, and Conversation: Challenges and Opportunities Both Inside and Outside the Rehearsal Hall,” *American Theatre in Higher Education*, Denver, August 2008.
- “The Power of Erotic Childbirth” at *Sister Song Reproductive Justice Collective*, Chicago, IL, May 2007.
- “The Struggle against “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”: Anatomy of a Social Movement” at *Creating Change*, November 2006.
- “The Arts Environment in Denver,” *Literary Managers & Dramaturgs of the Americas*, Denver, June 2000.
- “Solo Performance,” *American Theatre in Higher Education*, San Antonio, August 1999.
- “Performing Queer Theory in Kate Bornstein’s Texts,” *American Theatre in Higher Education*, San Antonio, August 1999.
- “Impossible Body,” *Lesbian Rights Summit*, National Organization for Women, Washington, DC, July 1999.
- “Impossible Body,” *Loving More*, Berkeley, CA June 1998.

Speaking/Workshops:

- Undoing Racism in Midwifery, Colorado Midwives Association, September 29, 2017.
- Guest Lecture “Reproductive Justice Seminar,” Sturm College of Law, University of Denver, Fall 2017.
- Innovation and Resilience, Midwives Alliance of North America Board Retreat, April 29, 2017.
- Guest Lecture “Chicanos and the Law,” Metropolitan State University of Denver, April 25, 2017.
- Guest Lecturer “Ethics and the Law in Midwifery,” Midwives College of Utah, Spring, Summer and Fall, 2017.
- “Legal and Ethical Considerations for Midwives in Utah,” Utah Midwives Organization Statewide Conference, Salt Lake City, UT. February 17, 2017.

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“Considering Gender and Sexuality,” Panel, Utah Midwives Organization Statewide Conference, Salt Lake City, UT. February 17, 2017.

Resilience Practice Workshops, Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights, Quarterly, 20016-present.

“Informed Consent,” VBAC Facts Webinar, November 2016.

“What is Equity and What Does it Mean for Midwifery,” Midwives Alliance of North America Webinar, May 2016.

“Birthing a Movement,” Panelist, Civil Liberties and Public Policy Conference, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, April 2016.

“Reproductive and Birth Justice,” SisterSong Webinar Panelist, March 2016.

Testimony as Director of Elephant Circle for liability issues related to midwifery (HB 1360) March 2016.

Testimony as Director of Elephant Circle on definitions of child abuse and neglect (HB 1385), March 2016.

“DIY Estate Planning,” Elephant Circle Workshop, February 2016.

“Clearing the Smoke: Insight for Families Using Marijuana,” Denver Natural Mom Webinar, November 2015.

Birth justice, “Chicanos and the Law” class at Metropolitan State University of Denver, April 2015.

Understanding Policy, University of Denver, School of Social Work, Winter 2014.

Digging In: Medicalization and Informed Consent, Truth is in Our Bodies: Full Cycle Liberation Symposium, Auraria Campus, Denver, March 2013.

“The Costs of Criminalizing Bodies: Reproductive Justice and the Prison Industrial Complex,” Truth is in Our Bodies: Full Cycle Liberation Symposium, Auraria Campus, Denver, March 2013.

Childbirth and the Law, Colorado Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, CLE, Boulder, CO, April 23, 2012.

Testimony as Legal Coordinator for the Delivering Natural Care for Families Coalition, Department of Regulatory Agencies rulemaking, October 2011.

Testimony as Legal Coordinator for the Delivering Natural Care for Families Coalition, Senate Judiciary Committee, regarding the Sunset Review of the Direct Entry Midwifery law, January 19, 2011.

Testimony as the Leading Birthing Rights Expert in the State, House and Senate Judiciary Committees, SB 193 To Prohibit Shackling of incarcerated women during birth, Spring 2010.

Comprehensive Review Working Group, Meeting at the Pentagon to discuss “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” studies, March 4, 2010.

Mizel Museum, Facing History and Ourselves, “Brothers in Arms” With Kareem Abdul Jabar, February 22, 2010.

Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights Latino Advocacy Day, March 2009

University of Denver School of Social Work, Couples and Family Counseling Class, 2003-present

Building Bridges for Peace, Being a Bridge Builder, 2008

Naropa University, Issues in Multicultural Counseling Class, 2003-2006

University of Denver, Human Sexualities Class, 2007

Colorado Alliance of Independent Midwives, provided testimony at the Department of Regulatory Agencies rulemaking as to VBAC and homebirth midwives, September, 2006.

Metropolitan State Community College, Multicultural Teaching Class, 2004

Wellsley College (2001), University of Colorado at Boulder (2003-2006), Queer Theory Classes

Jefferson and Boulder Country Health Departments, creative expression for high-risk youth workshops, 1998-2006.

University Performances:

“This is a Queer Identity”

 The University of Vermont, March 2008

 The DU Diversity Summit, May 2007.

“The Playground Version of Stonewall”

 LGBTIQA Celebration Gala, University of Denver, February 2007.

“Impossible Body”

 Naropa University, several dates 2003-2006

 Wellsley College, February 2001 and September, 2002

 University of Denver , March 2001

 New Mexico State University, February 2000

 University of Indiana, October 1999

 Colorado State University, March,1998 and February, 1999

 Colorado College, November 1999

 Metropolitan State Community College, May, 1998, June, 1999 and October, 2000

 Guilford College, April,1999

 University of Puget Sound, April 1998, November, 2000

“I Envision a Room”

 University of Puget Sound 1995.

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MEDIA COVERAGE

Print Media:

Carrie Murphy, *Why Do So Many U.S. Hospitals Prohibit Vaginal Birth After A C-Section?*, Elle, December 7, 2016. Available at: <http://www.elle.com/life-love/a41109/vbac-vaginal-birth-after-c-section/>

Kristen Gwynne, *How Marijuana Legalization Leaves Mothers and Pregnant Women Behind*, RHReality Check, May 12, 2014 (a story about a client of mine). Available at: <http://rhrealitycheck.org/article/2014/05/12/marijuana-legalization-leaves-mothers-pregnant-women-behind/>

Melanie Asmar, *Special Delivery: Indra Lusero's Pitch to Help Colorado Midwives is Catching Heat in the Legislature*, Westword, January 27, 2011 (a story about me and the Delivering Natural Care for Families legislative efforts). Available at: <http://www.westword.com/2011-01-27/news/indra-lusero-midwives-department-of-regulatory-agencies/>

Jessica Centers Glynn, *Full House*, University of Denver Magazine, Winter 2009 (a story about my family). Available at: http://www.du.edu/magazine/archive/2009/04/Full_House.html

Doug Brown, *One Big Happy Family Unit: Two Women, Two Men and Two Children Shatter Barriers in Order to Live a Dream*, Denver Post, March 3, 2009 (a story about my family). Available at: http://www.denverpost.com/lifestyles/ci_11820992

Susan Froyd, *Solo Flight*, Westword, July 16, 1998 (about my solo performance show). Available at: <http://www.westword.com/1998-07-16/calendar/solo-flight/>

Television Interviews:

The Denver Channel, Study looks at effects of marijuana use on breast milk Colorado participants now being recruited, March 7, 2017.

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/study-looking-at-effects-of-marijuana-use-on-breast-milk>

Denver Channel 7 News, Group Fights ER Charge for Childbirth, December 17, 2013.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrTBn8U4evI>

Denver, Univision, Somos Noticias Colorado, September 2, 2013.

<http://kcectv.lamp02.entravision.com/noticia/2013/09/02/490823-manifiestan-madres-familia.html>

Radio Interviews:

Fearless Parent Radio, Child Protective Services and Medical Marijuana, November 2015.

Metro Show, KGNU Radio Denver, Interview about Elephant Circle, August 2014.

One in Ten, FNX Radio Network, "Gays in the Military," November, 2006

One in Ten, FNX Radio Network, "Moral Waivers in the Military," February 2007.

ADDITIONAL STUDY

CoreAlign, Speaking Race to Power Fellowship

December '14-June 2015

CoreAlign Generative Fellowship

February-June 2014

Art of Collaborative Leadership, Rockwood Leadership Institute

October 2009

Fourth Degree KYU, Wado Karate Federation of USA

June 2009

Certified Labor Doula, Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association

January 2008

Independent Professional Development in Educational Leadership

Jan.-August 2005

CETLALIC Spanish Language School

June-July 2003

University of Colorado Graduate School of Public Affairs

June-Dec. 1999

National Coalition Building Institute, Train the Trainers

Fall 1993

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Leadership Institute

Summer 1991