

# Mitra Ebadolahi

## EXPERIENCE

Upturn, Washington, D.C. + remote

2022–present

**Senior Project Director, Economic Justice**

- ❖ Conceptualize and implement strategic legal research and policy advocacy agenda for Upturn’s work on technology and equity in hiring and employment. Identify opportunities to advance applicants’ and workers’ rights via state and federal regulations and policies and impact litigation.
- ❖ Assist Project Directors focused on additional economic justice issues (housing, access to public benefits) in formulating and implementing project strategies.

American Civil Liberties Union of San Diego & Imperial Counties, San Diego, CA

**Senior Staff Attorney**

2018–2022

- ❖ Lead attorney conceptualizing, litigating, and managing impact cases challenging systemic human and civil rights abuses along the U.S.-Mexico border, including challenges based on the First Amendment, Fourth Amendment, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Federal Torts Claims Act.
- ❖ Oral argument experience in federal district and appellate courts. Experience with evidentiary hearings.
- ❖ Extensive experience leading civil discovery.
- ❖ Lead attorney responsible for negotiating, executing, and monitoring groundbreaking, complex settlement agreements, as well as managing multi-year implementation of FOIA settlement, First Amendment settlement, and immigration class action settlement in federal courts.
- ❖ Most senior role, below Legal Director, within Legal Department. Acted as Managing Attorney (2019–22) to identify and implement systems to improve departmental efficiency and internal and external collaboration.
- ❖ Additional management experience included hiring and supervising Border Litigation Fellow (2015–22); hiring and supervising term-time and summer legal interns; and managing diverse litigation and legal advocacy teams, including *pro bono* law firm lawyers, law school clinics, and attorneys from other nonprofits nationwide, in multi-year impact litigation in federal courts around the country.

**Border Litigation Project Staff Attorney**

2013–2022

- ❖ Co-created the ACLU’s Border Litigation Project with counterpart staff attorney based in Tucson, Arizona. Received the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) 2016 Arthur C. Helton Human Rights Award in recognition of outstanding service in advancing the cause of immigrants’ human rights and border justice.
- ❖ Managed annual grant budget for Border Litigation Project.
- ❖ Nationally recognized expert in U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Border Patrol legal authorities and misconduct. Served by invitation on AILA CBP Liaison Committee (2015–17) and AILA CBP Border Issues Task Force (2014–15). Created and co-managed [www.HoldCBPAccountable.org](http://www.HoldCBPAccountable.org), a clearing house website providing civil rights lawyers with model pleadings and additional resources to facilitate litigation and legal advocacy against CBP.
- ❖ Nationally recognized FOIA expert. Regularly consulted with other ACLU offices and partner organizations on FOIA strategy and trial and appellate litigation. Appointed to National Archives and Records Administration FOIA Advisory Committee (2016–18 term), charged with identifying ways the Executive Branch can improve FOIA. Conceptualized and led a national ACLU FOIA request campaign in response to the 2017 Muslim Ban: trained ACLU staff attorneys in 48 affiliate offices from Alaska to Florida; conceptualized and drafted template FOIA requests and federal court complaints; supervised filing and litigation of 13 federal court cases; identified, developed, and maintained co-counsel relationships and resources nationally, including *pro bono* law firms; directed litigation strategy, including successfully defeating a rare multi-district litigation consolidation effort; ensured consistent strategic arguments; and sorted and published records received from federal agencies online.

American Civil Liberties Union, National Security Project, New York, NY

2011–2013

**Nadine Strossen Fellow/Staff Attorney [two-year position]**

Key team member in all stages of constitutional litigation in federal district and appellate courts, including cases challenging racial, ethnic, and religious discrimination, police misconduct, surveillance, and torture. Prepared and filed FOIA requests and administrative appeals; conducted client outreach and intake; drafted written discovery; prepared legal research memoranda; developed litigation strategy; drafted complaints, motions, appellate briefs, and amicus briefs; and engaged in public advocacy.

Hon. Betty B. Fletcher, U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, Seattle, WA

2010–2011

**Law Clerk**

Hon. Margaret M. Morrow, U.S. District Court, Central District of California, Los Angeles

2008–2009

**Law Clerk**

# Mitra Ebadolahi

**Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP, New York, NY and Los Angeles, CA** 2008  
*Summer Associate*

Drafted briefs and claims assessment memo; completed National Institute for Trial Advocacy trial training program.

**American Civil Liberties Union, Immigrants' Rights Project, New York, NY** 2007  
*Summer Legal Intern*

Drafted research memos and briefs on administrative law, procedural due process, and the Convention Against Torture.

**International Human Rights Clinic, N.Y.U. School of Law, New York, NY** 2007  
*Student Practitioner, Litigation Team*

Developed overall strategy and executed various FOIA appeals. Extensive legal research on FOIA exemptions.

**Legal Resources Centre, Constitutional Litigation Unit, Johannesburg, South Africa** 2006  
*Summer Legal Intern*

Researched international and foreign law for housing and health care litigation under South African Constitution.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Lecturer-in-Law, University of California, Irvine School of Law** 2015–2020

Clinic: Immigrants' Rights Clinic (Spring 2020)

Lectures: Immigration Law & the Rights of Noncitizens (Spring 2019; Spring 2016)  
Refugee & Asylum Law (Spring 2017)

Seminars: Constitutional Rights at the U.S. Border (Fall 2019; Fall 2018; Fall 2016; Spring 2015)  
Race & the Criminal Justice System, with Dean L. Song Richardson (Fall 2015)

## EDUCATION

**Trial Lawyers College, Thunderhead Ranch, Wyoming** 2018

Completed three-week intensive trial skills training in residence at the Trial Lawyers College, including advanced seminars on opening statements, closing arguments, direct and cross examinations of fact and expert witnesses, and the art of building a compelling and coherent narrative in pursuit of justice through trial advocacy.

**New York University School of Law, New York, NY**  
*LL.M., International Legal Studies* 2012

Thesis: *Counterterrorism, Human Rights, & Human Dignity*

Honors: Institute for International Law & Justice Scholar; Hugo Grotius Scholar (merit-based, full tuition award)

*J.D., cum laude* 2008

Fellowship: Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, Class of 2005

Honors: Root-Tilden-Kern Filomen D'Agostino Scholar (for commitment to public interest law and academic merit)  
N.Y.U. *Law Review*, Senior Notes Editor 2007–08

**London School of Economics and Political Science, London, England**  
*M.Sc., Politics of the World Economy, with Distinction* 2004

Thesis: *The Political Economy of Human Rights* (Susan Strange Prize for Best Thesis)

Honors: U.S.-U.K. Fulbright Scholar; Graduated First in Class

**University of California, Los Angeles**  
*B.A., International Development and History, summa cum laude* 2002

Thesis: *Fool's Gold: An Interdisciplinary Analysis of Tourism and Development* (with independent field research in Havana)

Honors: UCLA Alumni Association Outstanding Senior Award (awarded to three seniors in class of 4,000+)  
UC Regents Scholar (merit-based full tuition scholarship)

**LANGUAGES:** Spanish (proficient), Farsi (basic).

**ADMISSIONS:** California (2011), New York (2013).