

# Sara Ghadiri

## PRO BONO COUNSEL

Chicago

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Sara Ghadiri serves as Chapman's Pro Bono Counsel, where she supervises and administers the firm's pro bono programming, services, and partnerships across all offices.

### Pro Bono Program

Sara coordinates Chapman's pro bono projects and partnerships firmwide as well as collaboration initiatives with clients. She serves as a mentor and supervising lawyer on pro bono matters in various areas of public interest law and maintains a substantive pro bono case load, much of which focuses on matters related to immigration, pro se advice, orders of protection, legislation, impact litigation, and wills and advanced directives, both in and outside of state and federal court.

In her role, Sara seeks out new partnerships and strengthens existing ones, both with legal service partners and with business clients, to identify strategies for growth in pro bono work and launch new pro bono initiatives. She works closely with Chapman's financial institution clients to create pro bono partnerships with a focus on identifying relevant, succinct, and rewarding opportunities, many of which involve clinics with legal aid organization partners.

Sara is the Assistant Director of LegalTrek, which is a collaboration between the Chicago Committee for Minorities in Large Law Firms and DePaul University College of Law. LegalTrek's mission is to diversify the legal profession by encouraging and supporting college students from historically underrepresented racial/ethnic minority groups, as well as socioeconomically disadvantaged students, LGBTQ+ students, and disabled students, to attend law school.

### Admitted

Illinois

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Trial Bar

U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois

Wisconsin

### Education

The University of Iowa  
College of Law, J.D. 2014

- Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Transnational Law and Contemporary Problems*
- American Bar Association Judicial Intern Opportunity Program Intern to the Honorable Judge Ruben Castillo

Illinois Wesleyan University,  
B.A., Political Science and  
Philosophy, *magna cum laude*, 2010

- Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms LegalTrek Scholar

While in law school, Sara worked as a student legal intern with the University of Iowa Clinical Law Program, where she worked in the domestic violence, immigration, general civil, and family representation practices. She participated in Chapman's summer associate program in 2013 and joined Chapman as an associate in 2014, where she practiced in the Banking and Financial Services Department with a focus on commercial litigation, regulatory advice, and contested trusts and estates matters. She has coordinated Chapman's pro bono activities since 2018, and became Pro Bono Counsel on a full-time basis in 2021.

## Legislation and Innovation

Sara leads the firm's work in helping individuals access the legal system, work that has immense meaning and life-changing impact. Sara led Chapman's involvement in drafting Illinois legislation to address a blind spot in the laws that protect survivors of domestic violence resulting in additional safeguards. She also leads efforts to provide smarter and better ways for legal aid organizations to deliver services to those in need. Together with Chapman's Practice Innovations Group, Sara has connected two legal aid organizations with technology solutions and document automation programs that allow each organization to dramatically increase volunteers and the number of people who can be served.

## Pro Bono Referrals

The firm accepts referrals for pro bono services from pro bono organizations, such as legal aid organizations, with whom we have established relationships. If you are looking for such a referral, contact a local legal aid organization in your area for an intake appointment. If you are looking for an attorney with a criminal matter, this firm cannot assist you directly. You should call the State Bar in your state for a referral.

## Memberships

Iranian-American Bar Association

## Languages

Farsi

## Honors & Awards

- National Immigrant Justice Center's Human Rights Award, 2021
- American Bar Association Free Legal Answers Pro Bono Leader, 2018–2021
- Illinois Wesleyan University's 2020 Robert M. Montgomery Outstanding Young Alumni Award
- National Immigrant Justice Center's Rising Star Award, 2019
- Illinois Jaycees's The Outstanding Young Persons of Illinois, 2019
- LAF (currently Legal Aid Chicago) Order of Protection Litigation Project's Volunteer of the Year, 2018

- Chapman and Cutler LLP's Pro Bono and Volunteer Achievement Award, 2017
- Boyd Service Award, 2014
- Antonia "DJ" Miller Award for Advancement of Human Rights, 2014
- Michelle R. Bennett Client Representation Award, 2014
- Dean's Award for Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research II, 2012

## Presentations

### December 2021

PILI's 2021 Annual Awards Luncheon (Video)

## News

### February 2022

Chapman Recognized as an ABA Free Legal Answers Pro Bono Leader

### November 2021

Chapman Receives Bank of America Legal Department's 2020-2021 Pro Bono Award

### June 8, 2021

Chapman's Sara Ghadiri Recognized by the National Immigrant Justice Center

### April 12, 2021

National Immigrant Justice Center to Recognize Chapman's Sara Ghadiri

### February 24, 2021

CDEL Recognizes Chapman as "Corporate Partner of the Year"

### February 2021

American Bar Association Recognizes Chapman as a "Pro Bono Leader"

### November 2, 2020

Legal Aid Chicago Launches Criminal Record Expungement App Developed by Chapman's Innovations Team

### October 2020

Sara Ghadiri Recognized by Illinois Wesleyan University

### September 14, 2020

The Center for Disability and Elder Law (CDEL) Launches Estate Planning Documents App Developed by Chapman's Innovations Team

**July 2020**

Chapman in Action Spotlight: Q&A with Sara Ghadiri

**March 25, 2020**

Chapman's Sara Ghadiri Discusses Virtual Legal Aid in the COVID-19 Pandemic

**March 2020**

Chapman Named a "Pro Bono Leader" by the American Bar Association

**May 2019**

Sara Ghadiri Named One of The Outstanding Young Persons of Illinois

**January 29, 2019**

Chapman Named a "Pro Bono Leader" by the American Bar Association

**January 2, 2019**

New Law Takes Effect Expanding Protections for Domestic Abuse Survivors

**November 2018**

Fighting Digital Stalkers

**November 2018**

Chapman Hosts DACA Renewal Clinic with Volunteers from BMO's Pro Bono Program

**September 17, 2018**

Ghadiri '10 Authors Law to Protect Domestic Violence Survivors

**August 13, 2018**

Governor Signs Bill Supported by Chapman That Expands Protections for Domestic Abuse Survivors

**February 21, 2018**

Bill Expanding Protections for Domestic Abuse Survivors in Illinois Advances with Chapman Support