

# MEHGAN SIDHU

Baltimore, Maryland 21209

[sidhum@upenn.edu](mailto:sidhum@upenn.edu)

---

## **Education:**

- PhD**            2024    University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice  
(*expected*)
- MSW**            2019    University of Maryland School of Social Work  
*Concentration: Macro/Clinical, Community Action and Social Policy*
- JD**                2004    University of Maryland Carey School of Law
- M.A.**            2000    Roehampton University, School of Sociology and Social Policy, England, UK  
*Degree: International Service*
- BA**                1999    Kenyon College, *cum laude*, Major: *Interdisciplinary*

## **Professional Experience:**

- 2019-2020    *Mental Health Investigator*, Disability Rights Maryland, Baltimore, MD  
Monitored and investigated reports of abuse and neglect of youth and adults with psychiatric disabilities in residential treatment centers and hospitals. Advocated for systemic reforms and legislative changes to state disability rights and mental health laws. Facilitated training on reduction of youth restraint and seclusion.
- 2018-2019    *Policy Analyst (intern)*, Baltimore Police Department, Consent Decree Implementation Unit, Baltimore, MD  
Drafted policies and training materials to comply with civil rights and constitutional policing reforms mandated by U.S. Department of Justice consent decree.
- 2017-2018    *Social Work Intern*, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Hamilton Branch, Baltimore, MD  
Provided social work services to community library patrons. Established library-based after-school program. Facilitated school empowerment group for middle school girls.
- 2012-2016    *General Counsel*, National Federation of the Blind, Baltimore, MD  
Directed national high-impact litigation and legal services program for largest organization of blind Americans. Engaged in cross-disability coalition building and policy advocacy. Negotiated with corporations and institutions to enforce compliance with disability discrimination laws.
- 2010-2012    *Trial Attorney*, U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Educational Opportunities Section

Conducted investigations, litigation, and consent decree monitoring to enforce federal laws that prohibit schools and institutions from discrimination against students based on race, disability, gender, religion, and English language learner status.

- 2006-2010 *Associate Attorney*, Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP, Baltimore, MD  
Represented clients in complex civil litigation, civil rights, and high-impact lawsuits in federal, state, and appellate courts. Represented the National Federation of the Blind in groundbreaking cases involving access to technology and education.
- 2004-2005 *Judicial Law Clerk*, The Honorable Vicki Ballou-Watts, Circuit Court for Baltimore County, Third Judicial Circuit of Maryland, Towson, MD  
Drafted judicial opinions and memoranda. Conducted legal research. Docket included civil and criminal bench and jury trials, Child in Need of Assistance cases, and juvenile drug program.
- 2003 *Law Clerk*, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Maryland, Baltimore, MD  
Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda and pleadings for civil rights and constitutional law cases.
- 2002-2003 *Student Attorney*, AIDS and Child Welfare Clinic, University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, MD  
Represented HIV-positive clients and their families in custody, protective order, child abuse, special education, and guardianship matters.
- 2002 *Law Clerk*, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Center (EEOC), Litigation Unit, Baltimore District Office, Baltimore, MD  
Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda to assess high-impact litigation potential of administrative claims.
- 2001 *Child Advocacy Intern*, Children's Defense Fund, Community Monitoring Project, Washington, DC  
Provided research assistance for national study to assess impact of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) on children. Analyzed and coded qualitative data. Drafted newsletter.
- 2000 *Information Officer*, ECPAT UK / Anti-Slavery International, London, England  
Conducted policy research and wrote briefings in support of international campaign to end child trafficking.
- 1999 *Teacher*, Glenhope Place of Safety, Kingston, Jamaica  
Taught language arts, math, and science to adolescent girls in emergency shelter and detention center.
- 1997 *Care Worker*, Spotted Tail Crisis Center, Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota  
Provided care to children placed in emergency foster home for neglect or abuse.

### **Honors:**

- Spring 2011     *Performance Award*  
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
- Spring 2004     *MPILP Service Award*  
Maryland Public Interest Law Project, University of Maryland Carey School of Law
- Summer 2003    *MPILP Student Grant*  
Maryland Public Interest Law Project, University of Maryland Carey School of Law

### **Manuscripts in Preparation:**

Kang-Yi, C., Wong, Y.L., Lee, Y., & **Sidhu, M.** Pathways to first psychosis episode and mental health treatment use.

Mullen, M., Lane, I., & **Sidhu, M.** Understanding the experiences of college students with mental health conditions and supported education providers: A COVID needs assessment.

**Sidhu, M.** Disability, diversity, and school of social work websites: A multimodal discourse analysis.

### **Publications:**

Yingling, V., **Sidhu, M.**, & Riccobono, M. (2014). Common core state standard-aligned tests: Will your child have access to accommodations? *Future Reflections*, 33(1).

**Sidhu, M.** & Yingling, V. (2013). Amazon Kindle: Is it coming to a school near you? *Future Reflections*, 32(2).

### **Selected Presentations:**

- 2019             Disability Rights Bar Association Annual Conference. Baltimore, MD, March 2019. Panelist, "Implicit and Explicit Bias in the Legal Profession Affecting Disability Rights and Ethical Concerns."
- 2015             National Association of Blind Lawyers Annual Meeting. Orlando, FL, July 2015. Presenter, "NFB Litigation: Helping Us Live the Lives We Want."
- 2013             tenBroek Disability Law Symposium. Baltimore, MD, April 2013. Facilitator and Panelist, "Litigation Strategies in K-12 Education Cases."
- 2013             University of Miami Law Review Symposium: Social Media and the Law. Miami, FL, February 2013. Panelist, "Is the Web Accessible?"
- 2010             tenBroek Disability Law Symposium. Baltimore, MD, April 2010. Plenary Session Panelist,

“Access to Technology.”

2006 NAFSA Convention for International Educators. Montreal, Canada, May 2006. Panelist, “Multicultural Service-Learning.”

**Service:**

2021-Present *Co-Chair of Board of Directors, Co-Chair of Diversity and Intersectionality Committee, Disability Rights Bar Association*

2019-Present *Secretary of Board of Directors, Co-Chair of Board Development Committee, Public Justice Center*

2018-2020 *Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Member, Disability Rights Bar Association*

2018-2019 *Board of Directors, Public Justice Center*

2017-2019 *Secretary, Garrison Forest School Alumnae Board*

2013-2017 *Board of Directors, Disability Rights Bar Association*

2013-2016 *Co-Chair of Student Opportunities Subcommittee, Disability Rights Bar Association*

2012-2016 *Steering Committee, Jacobus tenBroek Disability Rights Law Symposium*

2003-2005 *Co-Vice President of Alumni Boar, International Partnership for Service-Learning*

2003-2004 *Executive Board of Directors, Maryland Public Interest Law Project*

**Professional Associations:**

Disability Rights Bar Association

Law and Society Association

Maryland State Bar Association

Society for Disability Studies

National Association of Social Workers

**Bar Admissions:**

Maryland, 2005, United States District Court for the District of Maryland, 2006, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 2009.

**Certificates and Trainings (Completed):**

Conflict Transformation Skills: Sources of Conflict and Systems Approach, Court-Certified 40-hour Mediation Training, Baltimore Mediation, October 2019.

Community Conferencing Facilitator Training, Restorative Response Baltimore, June 24-25, 2019.

Undoing Racism Workshop, The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, April 1-3, 2019.