



Suzette Meléndez

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Suzette Meléndez is a member of the faculty here at the College of Law where she serves as Director of the Children's Rights & Family Law Clinic and also teaches Family Law. Since 2003, Professor Meléndez has taught Domestic Violence and was one of the founders of the Syracuse Medical-Legal Partnership, an interdisciplinary collaboration designed to provide legal services within the medical setting together with health providers for children and families to improve health outcomes for lower income populations in Syracuse.

Prior to coming to Syracuse, Professor Meléndez was responsible for the statewide Domestic Violence Representation Project in New Jersey where she represented victims of domestic violence across the state in a variety of proceedings including, but not limited to, family law. Professor Meléndez also worked at the Legal Aid Society in New York City representing clients in civil proceedings. In addition to her litigation experience, she has engaged in policy work on issues affecting the legal system at various levels including county and state domestic violence working groups, local and state bar associations and judicial committees. Ms. Meléndez also was involved in the drafting of comprehensive domestic violence legislation for the State of Connecticut. She has participated on diversity committees at various entities and within the judiciary. She has conducted cross-cultural lawyering seminars for lawyers and law students designed to enhance professional and educational experiences using diverse perspectives. She currently chairs the newly-formed Committee on Inclusion Initiatives at the law school. Professor Meléndez went to law school with the intention of becoming a public interest lawyer as she was motivated to give voice to those who often do not have access to legal representation within their communities. She continues to be inspired by those that she serves as well as many colleagues here at the university and, of course, the students.