

Nicola DeMarco

Articling Candidate

Internationally trained law student pursuing Canadian qualification in Nova Scotia, with 9+ years' experience working as a Court Appointed Guardian for the mentally and physically disabled, mostly immigrants and Spanish speakers. Additional experience working in 3 African nations as educator and development worker with US Peace Corps and other NGOs. Passionate about public service and protection for immigrants, the homeless, the disabled and other underserved populations, with broad knowledge, training, and experience in areas of housing, health care, employment rights and banking. Earned NCA Certificate of Qualification in April 2024, and enrolled in the June 2024 intake of the CPLED Accelerated Practice Readiness Education Program (PREP).

Education

Practice Readiness Education Program (Accelerated PREP), CPLED May 2024 – Sep. 2024

NCA Certificate of Qualification (CQ), Federation of Law Societies of Canada Apr. 2024

Juris Doctor (JD), The Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, New York 1991

- Selected for Specialized Law Clinics: Alternative Dispute Resolution-Mediation Clinic, The Intensive Trial Advocacy Program, and The United States Tax Court Clinic.

Bachelor of Arts (Political Science & Education), Rutgers University, New Jersey 1986

Other certifications and licenses: Health Insurance Broker License (2020), Elder Abuse Specialist Certification (2018), Court Evaluator and Article 81 Guardian Certificate (2016), Guardian Ad Litem Certificate (2015), Property and Casualty Insurance Broker License (2015), and Notary Public (2009)

Experience

New York State Unified Court System, New York, New York 2015 – Present

Article 81 Guardian (2016 – Present), **Court Evaluator** (2016 – Present), **Guardian Ad Litem** (2015 – Present)

- Protected mentally and physically disabled people through research, advocacy, and counseling in over 500 court cases preventing homelessness, exploitation, and medical mistreatment.
- Provided information to Supreme Court Judges after research, investigation and interviews to help determine capacity of vulnerable individuals in life threatening conditions at institutions, homes and hospitals.
- Mediated over 450 landlord-tenant housing court cases to prevent eviction or loss of income to property owners.
- Recipient of the Distinguished and Outstanding Service Award.

Office of Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, New York, N.Y. 2010 – 2017

Consultant to Commissioner for NY Department of Corrections and Psychiatrist

- Advocated through lobbying policymakers and community leaders for implementation of policies to provide mental health treatment facilities in prisons and jails in New York State.

- Created visitation through video connection between families of incarcerated people and inmates in overcrowded and hard to reach prison facilities to reduce recidivism.
- Researched and advised the Commissioner on investigative cases of inmate deaths in prisons to determine the cause of death and possible criminal or civil liability.

Volunteering

The New York Society for Ethical Culture, New York, NY 2009 – Present
Member

- Raised funds and public support for the Social Service Board Shelter for Victims of Domestic Abuse.
- Planned and presented programs for Seniors in “Empowering Ethical Elders Workshops.”
- Founded and organized “The Phyllis Harrison-Ross Humanitarian Award” recognizing outstanding leaders in Public Service.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Peekskill, NY 2021 – Present
Executive Board Member

- First Vice President (2023-24)
- Coordinated with public school officials to strengthen multicultural curriculum along with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policies.
- Convened meetings with church leaders, city officials and State representatives to establish Peekskill’s first African-American Cultural Center and Museum.

Human Relations Commission, The City of Peekskill, New York 2021 – 2024
Member

- Participated in community outreach through festivals, meetings, barbeques, and concerts to foster understanding and cooperation in our multicultural and diverse city.
- Visited houses of worship for various religious groups including Judaism, Islam, Christianity, and Humanism, meeting members and endeavoring to increase understanding of divergent views.

Previous Roles:

Professor, International Foundation for Education & Self-Help, Ongwediva Teachers College, Namibia 2002

Returned United States Peace Corps Volunteer, Namibia and Kenya 1998 – 2001

Assistant District Attorney, Criminal Court Bureau, Bronx County District Attorney’s Office, New York 1991 – 1992

Interests

I attend live musical and creative performances regularly. I enjoy camping and fishing as well as being an avid reader of science fiction and historical biographies.