HONORING

Elora Mukherjee

INAUGURAL RECIPIENT OF THE
ELISABETH S. “LISA” BRODYAGA AWARD

Online Reception & Happy Hour

JUNE 11, 2021 | 6:00PM ET

An Award Ceremony of the National Immigration Project
HONORING ELORA MUKHERJEE

An Award Ceremony of the National Immigration Project

June 11, 2021
6:00-7:00pm (ET)
Online Reception & Happy Hour
2021 AILA Virtual Annual Conference on Immigration Law

TONIGHT’S PROGRAM INCLUDES

Sirine Shebaya, Executive Director
Carlos Moctezuma García, Board Chair
Voices from the Irwin County Detention Center
Arun Mukherjee, retired staff member and Math teacher at Rutgers University
Jocelyn Cazares, Senior Attorney at the CAIR Coalition and incoming Clinical Teaching Fellow at Georgetown Law

Award Presentation

About the National Immigration Project (NIPNLG)

For 50 years, the NIPNLG has fought for justice for those who bear the brunt of racist and immoral immigration laws in the United States. From defending asylum seekers at the border, to challenging the double punishment of criminalization and immigration enforcement, NIPNLG is seizing the moment to fight for transformative change. NIPNLG offers much-needed support to immigration attorneys, advocates, and directly impacted individuals on the front lines. Guided by values of compassion, justice, and inclusivity, we are committed to creating bolder, better, and more intersectional ways to do this work. In our 50th anniversary year, we hope that you will consider supporting our efforts to protect the rights of all people, including those most marginalized by our immigration and criminal laws. Thank you for joining tonight’s celebration of resistance. Together, we can transform our institutions and build a better world.
Elora Mukherjee is a globally recognized advocate, practitioner, and voice for immigrant rights. As founding director of Columbia Law School’s Immigrants’ Rights Clinic and Jerome L. Greene Clinical Professor of Law, Elora’s eyewitness accounts of the inhumane treatment of children along the Mexico-U.S. border in 2019 sparked national and international outrage. She was invited to testify before Congress, where she detailed the harm children were suffering under federal policies she described as unconstitutional, unlawful, ineffective, and un-American. Since November 2020, Elora has been working tirelessly to support and advocate for women who were subjected to non-consensual medical procedures and abuse while detained by ICE at the Irwin County Detention Center in Georgia. And on May 20, 2021, the Irwin County Detention Center was announced to be closing for good.

A highly dedicated teacher and mentor to her students, Elora has been bringing a fierce, zealous advocacy to immigrants and to our movement for human rights and dignity for more than 15 years.

About Elisabeth S. “Lisa” Brodyaga

Lisa Brodyaga is a beloved longtime NIPNLG member whose career representing asylum seekers, other immigrants, and U.S. citizens spans more than 40 years. In 1985, Lisa co-founded Refugio Del Rio Grande, a non-profit refugee camp and law office on a 45-acre wilderness near Harlingen, Texas, where she still serves as a volunteer attorney. Lisa’s career is punctuated with critical victories and pro-immigrant court decisions in tough cases and jurisdictions. She is known for her legal acumen, tenacious fighting spirit, humility, and generosity in sharing her wisdom and legal knowledge with the immigration legal community. In recognition of Lisa’s incredible legacy, we inaugurate our annual member honor as the Elisabeth S. “Lisa” Brodyaga Award.
CONGRATULATIONS TO LISA BRODYAGA FOR HAVING THIS AWARD NAMED AFTER YOU! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE AND CONTINUE TO DO IN THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE! YOU ROCK!!

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ELORA MUKHERJEE ON BEING THE WELL DESERVED FIRST RECIPIENT OF THIS GREAT AWARD!

Marc Van Der Hout | Zachary Nightingale | Stacey Gartland
Beth Cohn-Mintz | Jennifer Shih | Helen Beasley
David Palmer | Denise Flores | Johnny Sinodis
Adriana Contreras | Navjot Khinda | Rebecca Kutlow
Christine Brigagliano, Of Counsel

San Francisco, California
www.vblaw.com
Congratulations Elora Mukherjee for embodying Lisa Brodyaga’s example and fierce fighting spirit for immigrant rights.

Scott D. Pollock
& ASSOCIATES PC

Congratulations to Elora Mukherjee on her achievements in defense of immigrants’ rights & receipt of the inaugural Lisa Brodyaga Award

Ira J. Kurzban  John P. Pratt

KURZBAN KURZBAN TETZELI & PRATT P.A.

Congratulations Elora for this well-deserved honor!

From your friends and colleagues at the ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project

Nathalie Amazan, Spencer Amdur, Anand Balakrishnan, Darlene Boggs, David Chen, Ming Cheung, Jenny Drummond, Katrina Eiland, Dan Galindo, Lee Gelernt, Jerusalem Hadush, Carmen Iguina Gonzalez, Omar Jadwat, Stephen Kang, Alondra Martinez, Sarah Mujahid, My Khanh Ngo, Judy Rabinovitz, Morgan Russell, Michael Tan, Cody Wofsy, Noor Zafar
Congratulations, Elora!

We thank you for your fearless pursuit of justice. And for embodying the excellence, tenacity, and generosity of spirit of Lisa Brodyaga.

National Immigration Project
Board of Directors
To NIPNLG ~
Congrats on your 50th! Thank you for honoring the legacy of Lisa Brodyaga.

To Elora Mukherjee ~
Congratulations on being the inaugural recipient of the Lisa Brodyaga Award. Keep up the great work!

And To Lisa Brodyaga ~
You have changed the world.
Thank you for your unending willingness to help and give your precious time to all who need it.
For the strength of your shoulders supporting countless numbers of us.
And for the many thousands of people who have benefited from your work, and yet have never heard your name.

We love you.
Robert Crane, Jaime Diez, Hector Barrera
Jones & Crane Law Firm
Welasco, TX
Dear Elora,

Congratulations!

Your outstanding work on immigration is extraordinary. You have made a difference in the lives of many. We are so proud to be your colleagues!

“Service is the rent we pay to live on earth.”

You are a true servant leader.

Your family is very proud.

Love,

Mom/Dr. Brenda Greene

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Congratulations, Elora!

Your passion and commitment to immigrants’ rights is inspiring, and you have a unique ability to recognize and bring out the best in everyone around you. We are so proud to be your colleagues!

Sarah O.

Thank you for answering our call.

Thank you for integrating community organizing in your practice, classroom, and your activism. Your work makes me hopeful for the future of law practice in the United States.

Viri F.

You offer so much hope for all who strive for abolition in this work. Thank you forever always, Elora!

Andrew F.

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Elora

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Congratulations
Elora Mukherjee
Wolfsdorf Rosenthal LLP

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You are a true servant leader.

Your family is very proud.

Love,

Mom/Dr. Brenda Greene
Congratulations Elora Mukherjee on this well-deserved recognition!

Thank you for your fierce, tireless, and zealous advocacy on behalf of so many individuals, families and communities! We are deeply grateful to you for helping hold our leaders accountable to human rights and human dignity!

So happy you are the first recipient of the Lisa Brodyaga Award

Linus Chan (2020)
Lisa Brodyaga and Al Otro Lado (2019)
Raha Jorjani (2018)
Shoba Sivaprasad Wadia (2017)
Debbie Smith (2016)
Kathy Moccoio (2015)
Zachary Nightingale (2014)
Atessa Chehrazi (2013)
Norton Tooby (2010)
Jeanne Butterfield (2009)
Hiroshi Motomura (2008)
in Memoriam: Elliott Ozment (2012)
Thank you Elora Mukherjee and the National Immigration Project.

The National Center for Law and Economic Justice honors your groundbreaking and tireless work fighting for justice for immigrant communities and your extraordinary work defending the human rights of youth.

Photo: Fibonacci Blue via WikiMedia
Congrats, Elora!

Such impressive work and accomplishments

Mariann Wang & Michael Gaouette
Congrats Elora! You are a brilliant, kind and tireless hero and we are honored to call you our friend.

We love you!
Arthi and Roshan

Emery Celli Brinckerhoff Abady Ward & Maazel LLP would like to congratulate our friend and beloved colleague, Elora Mukherjee for being the inaugural recipient of the Lisa Brodyaga Award.

Cathy Potter

Congratulations Elora Mukherjee!
...and thank you for carrying on the legacy of Lisa Brodyaga.

Cathy Potter

Congratulations Elora!
Thank you for your devotion to immigrants’ rights. We’re so proud of you and so glad to celebrate this recognition of your work.

All the best,
John, Katie, Jack, Cecilia, & Owen Cooper

CONGRATULATIONS ON A WELL-DESERVED HONOR

We are still trying to close Hutto!

Barbara Hines  Elissa Steglich  Denise Gilman
University of Texas Immigration Clinic

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- Third-Country Transit Bar to Asylum
- End of Certain Categorical Parole Programs

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(Note: Cannot be combined with AILA member discount)

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Dear Elora,

Congratulations to you on this high and well deserved honor! We commend your deeply felt efforts on behalf of immigrant children and families. You have worked tirelessly to secure the hope of a brighter future for the voiceless and forgotten.

Love,
Dad and Linda

Congratulations!!!
So well deserved!!!

-Gloria & Mo Goldman

Elora
We celebrate your commitment to human rights and to teaching future generations of immigration lawyers. Congratulations on The Lisa Brodyaga Award

In Solidarity and with Gratitude,
Vera Weisz
Weisz Immigration Law Group

Congratulations from the CLS Immigrants’ Rights Clinic Grads of 2019!

We are lucky to have a teacher and mentor as inspiring and dedicated as you!
CONGRATULATIONS, ELORA!

NO ONE IS MORE DESERVING OF THIS ACCOLADE.

As your former students, we know how much your hard work and dedication has improved the lives of countless immigrants and other people in need.

Your dedication to social justice also had a profound impact in our development as young lawyers, teaching us how to be empathetic, tireless, and impactful advocates for our clients.

EMILY ALFANO
LUIS HOYOS
DEBBIE JANG
ANGIE JUARBE
AVNI MEHTA
VERONICA MONTALVO
BRITTANY ROEHRS
MAHRAH TAUFIQUE
BRIAN YIN
We applaud your tenacious fight for the rights of detained children and for all that you have done in the quest for truth and justice. We are proud and humbled to call you our friend. Elora, the day you were born the world became a better place!

Ewen Wong, Clara Long, Hope Frye, Warren Binford, Michael Bochenek and Holly Cooper
Congratulations, Elora, on this well-deserved honor!
You continually inspire us.

With admiration for your work, as well as that of Supervising Staff Attorney Amelia (Mimi) Wilson, and the students of the Immigrants’ Rights Clinic

Your friends in the Columbia Law School Clinical Program

Alexandra Carter    Brett Dignam
Brian Donnelly      Philip Genty
Conrad Johnson      Sarah Knuckey
Carol Liebman       Edward Lloyd
Lynnise Pantin      Gulika Reddy
Barbara Schatz      Colleen Shanahan
Jane Spinak         Mary Zulack

Dear Elora,

Congratulations!! It is truly an honor to celebrate you. You are amazing and an inspiration to many. Your caring, dedication and relentless advocacy is remarkable. Thanks for all you do to make this world a better place!

Love,
Brenda Eberhart

Elora, if every government system was set up to have someone at the top with your passion, determination to correct a broken system and your kindness..... the world truly be a better place. Thank you for being a mentor and an example to keeping your cool!!!! You Rock!!!!!!
-Michelle Ellis

NIPNLG thanks the following individuals for their generous support of tonight’s Happy Hour & Reception in honor of Elora Mukherjee

Michael Devlin
Mary Jo Fink, MD
Philip Hornik
Tracie Klinke
Rachael Pothula
Jordana Signer
Congratulations, Elora.

The Columbia Law School community congratulates our colleague Elora Mukherjee, Jerome L. Greene Professor of Law and director of the Immigrants’ Rights Clinic—a true champion of justice. She has tirelessly represented families and children seeking asylum while training a new generation of advocates. Professor Mukherjee is an influential voice for immigration reform and offered powerful and persuasive testimony before Congress in 2019 about the humanitarian crisis at federal detention centers that housed children at the southern border.
Dear NIPNLG friends and colleagues,

You all are amazing! You are fierce, brilliant, generous, kind, and inspirational warriors for justice. Thank you so very much for the incredible honor and privilege of being able to fight alongside you. So grateful for all you do to make our world a better place.

With love and all the best,

Elora