

CLARO PROGRAM TRAINING REFRESHER AND UPDATES

**Friday, April 1, 2022
2:00pm - 5:00pm**

via Zoom

Presenters

Dora Galacatos
Fordham Law School, Feerick Center for Social Justice

Karuna Patel
Fordham Law School, Feerick Center for Social Justice

Matthew Schedler
CAMBA Legal Services, Inc.

The CLARO Program Partners

Remote CLARO Program:

- Lead - Fordham Law School Feerick Center for Social Justice
- Working Group Members / Partners: Bronx Legal Services, Brooklyn VLP, Manhattan Legal Services, New Economy Project, New York Legal Assistance Group, Mobilization for Justice, Queens VLP

Bronx CLARO: Bronx County Bar Association, Fordham Law School Feerick Center for Social Justice, Legal Services NYC – Bronx, New York City Bar Association, NYU Law School Students for Economic Justice

Brooklyn CLARO: Brooklyn VLP, Brooklyn Law School

Manhattan CLARO: Fordham Law School Consumer Law Advocates, Fordham Law School Feerick Center for Social Justice, Fordham Law School Lincoln Square Legal Services, Manhattan Legal Services, New York County Lawyers' Association

Queens CLARO: Queens VLP, St. John's University School of Law

Staten Island CLARO: Richmond County Bar Association, Staten Island Women's Bar Association, Wagner College

Westchester CLARO: Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, Pace University School of Law, Westchester County Bar Association

The CLARO Programs operate under the auspices of the New York State Unified Court System's Access to Justice Program. Justice Edwina G. Mendelson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives oversees the Access to Justice Program.

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TIMED AGENDA

WELCOME AND CLARO UPDATES

Dora Galacatos and Karuna Patel

2:00pm - 2:15pm (15)

ETHICAL ISSUES IN PROVIDING REMOTE CLARO SERVICES

Karuna Patel; Matthew Schedler

2:15pm - 2:40pm (25)

NYC CIVIL COURT PRACTICE FOR UNREPRESENTED LITIGANTS

Matthew Schedler, Karuna Patel

2:40pm - 3:10pm (30)

BREAK

3:10pm - 3:15 pm (5)

THE COURT PROCESS & KEY MOTIONS

Matthew Schedler

3:15pm - 3:50pm (35)

BREAK

3:50pm - 3:55pm (5)

SUBSTANTIVE DEFENSES (CONSUMER CREDIT ACTIONS)

Matthew Schedler, Karuna Patel, and Dora Galacatos

3:55pm - 4:35pm (40)

NEGOTIATING SETTLEMENTS; EIPA; AND CLIENTS WHO HAVE EXEMPT INCOME

Matthew Schedler and Karuna Patel

4:35pm - 4:45pm (10)

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

4:45pm - 5:00pm (15)

TOTAL TIME

180 MINUTES

Note: 155 CLE min. + 25 non-CLE min. = 3 CLE CREDITS

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Dora Galacatos, Fordham Law School, Feerick Center for Social Justice

Dora Galacatos, the Executive Director of the Feerick Center, is a Fordham Law alumna (1996), with experience working in city government, the not-for-profit sector, and legal services for low-income individuals. Prior to coming to Law School, Dora worked for the New York City Department of Juvenile Justice and the New York City for Mayor's Office of Drug Abuse Policy from 1989 to 1993. As part of a Skadden Fellowship (1997-98), Dora worked at Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, in Washington Heights, Manhattan. Dora was the Staff Director to the New York City Family Homelessness Special Master Panel (2003-2005). Dora also served as a law clerk to the late-Honorable Milton Pollack (1996-97) and to the Honorable Paul A. Crotty (2005-2006), both District Judges in the Southern District of New York. Dora is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (1987) and the New School for Social Research, where she was a Kaplan M. Fellow and received a Master of Science in Urban Policy (1993). Dora is a member of the New York County Lawyers' Association Pro Bono Committee and the former chair of the New York City Bar Civil Court Committee.

Karuna Patel, Fordham Law School, Feerick Center for Social Justice

Karuna Patel is the Deputy Director of the Feerick Center. Karuna began her legal career at Mobilization for Justice (formerly MFY Legal Services, Inc.), a legal services organization where she started the Consumer Rights Project. She has worked at the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, leading a division focused on enforcing the City's consumer protection laws and on educating consumers, and at the Center for Responsible Lending, where she represented consumers in all aspects of predatory lending impact litigation. Before joining Fordham Law School, Karuna spent over five years at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) working on a range of issues including mandatory arbitration in consumer contracts and consumer protections for remittances.

Karuna is a Queens native and received her Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Columbia University and her law degree from New York University School of Law. Karuna clerked for the honorable John Gleeson of the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of New York and the Honorable Theodore McKee of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Matthew Schedler, CAMBA Legal Services Inc.

Matthew Schedler is the Supervising Attorney in charge of the CAMBA Legal Services Consumer Law Project. The Consumer Law Project works in coalition with the Urban Justice Center, Housing Conservation Coordinators, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, and Westside SRO Law Project to assist housing clients at these organizations with debt collection and credit issues in order to achieve self-sufficiency after representation is complete. Matt has also been a founding member of the DV CLARO Project and works with domestic violence survivors regarding financial abuse and consumer debt issues. Matt received his B.A. from the University of Rochester and his J.D. from Boston University.