Hijratullah Safi, LL.M.

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EDUCATION

LL.M., Asian and Comparative Law 2016
University of Washington (UW) School of Law, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.
Full scholarship from the Asia Law Center at the UW. GPA: 3.65.

B.A., Law and Political Science 2011
Nangarhar University, Jalalabad, Nangarhar, Afghanistan
Score: 91.57%.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow Feb 2023–Feb 2025
Technical University Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany
– Researched and wrote about legal issues in Afghanistan.
– Participated in all scholarly events, including seminars, workshops, training, and conferences organized by AiE.
– Reported work progress to the directors of the program.
– Prepared a tandem teaching course on “Advocacy for Human Rights in Afghanistan” for students in Afghanistan and at TU Dortmund University.

Assistant Professor of Law 2012–2021
Nangarhar University (NU), Jalalabad, Nangarhar, Afghanistan (virtual teaching to female students continues)
– Taught Criminal Procedure, International Criminal Law, International Humanitarian Law, Penology, Criminology, Transitional Justice, Legal Research Methodology, and Analysis of the Afghanistan Penal Code.
– Prepared, revised, and updated teaching material for relevant courses.
– Served as a member of the Legislation Committee of the University.
– Authored and published research articles.
– Supervised staff and students working in the law clinic.

Deputy Director Sep 2023–present
Afghanisch-Deutscher Freundeskreis Gelsenkirchen e.V., Germany
– Helping the Afghan community and other refugees with day-to-day matters, making appointments, filling out forms, answering letters, etc.
– Organizing cultural events to support smooth integration.
– Helping communities in times of need, especially during natural disasters and other emergencies.

First Deputy Director 2021–2023

Afghan-US Law Alumni Association (ALAA), Kabul, Afghanistan

– Assisted the Director and Board of Directors in their duties and headed the Association in their absence.
– Monitored performance of committees.
– Maintained communication with members about the activities and management of the Association.
– Scheduled and hosted meetings with the Association's administrative committee.
– Maintained communication with the Oversight Committee, other specialized committees, and the Board of Directors about the activities and goals of the Association, as well as any challenges.
– Maintained contact with members and informed them of relevant opportunities such as conferences, trainings, scholarships, job openings, etc.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Feb 2019–2021

Afghanistan Law and Political Science Professors Association (ALPA)

– Organized online teaching classes for female students in Afghanistan.
– Taught online classes for female students in Afghanistan.
– Organized meetings with stakeholders and academic institutions to broaden the online teaching programs for more female students in Afghanistan.
– Conducted and designed academic programs for the association.
– Held meetings with heads of the local branches of the association to further its goals.
– Conducted academic conferences and discussions.

Program Officer Jun 2019–Jun 2021

Afghan-US Law Alumni Association (ALAA), Kabul, Afghanistan

– Supervised all academic and rule of law programs.
– Drafted procedural documents and guidelines necessary for the board and committees of the association.
– Supervised all academic trips of the members, academic events, and workshops/seminars.
– Assisted the justice and legislation support committees.
– Designed programs (conferences, panel discussions, research symposia, moot court competitions for law students, etc.).
– Participated in coordination meetings with other associations and universities.

Legal Translator Nov 2019–Aug 2021

Afghanistan Legal Research and Development Organization (ALRDO) and Max Planck Foundation, Kabul

– Translated legal material related to constitutional law, peace, and human rights from English into Pashto and Dari.
– Translated decrees, procedural laws, and other laws and legal articles from English into Pashto and Dari.
– Translated legal material from Dari into Pashto and English and vice versa.
– Edited and revised already translated material.

Legal Translator Jan 2022–Feb 2023

ZB Legal Research and Translation LLC, Virginia, United States of America

– Translated legal material related to constitutional law, peace, and human rights from Pashto and Dari into English.
– Translated court documents and other judicial documents.
– Edited and revised already translated material.

Legal Aid Clinic Course Materials Development and TOT Expert Feb 27–Aug 12, 2021

CHECCHI/ADALAT (USAID/Afghanistan), Kabul, Afghanistan

– Reviewed, revised, and updated the pre-clinic course textbooks: Legal Writing and Analysis, Advocacy and Defense Skills, and Family Law.
– Developed a Train the Trainer (TOT) on Adult Teaching Methodology and Techniques and delivered it to the ADALAT Legal Aid Clinic professors and lawyers.
– Developed and delivered a faculty workshop on the revised pre-clinic courses and built participants' knowledge, understanding, and skills in delivering the revised course materials to new pre-clinic students.

Chair of the Nangarhar University Curriculum Committee Oct 2016–Aug 2021

Nangarhar University

– Chaired committee sessions.
– Prepared curriculum revision plans for all faculties of the university.
– Recommended necessary revisions and updates to the curricula of all thirteen faculties.
– Ensured the revision of curricula and implementation of the revised curricula each year.
– Designed and implemented the annual and periodic program review.
– Ensured curricula met students' academic needs and job market requirements.
– Represented Nangarhar University at the Ministry of Higher Education Curriculum Committee.

Trainer/Instructor Jul 2017–Feb 2020

Legal Education Support Program – Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan, Summer and Winter Academic Legal English (ALE) Program

– Taught International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law, Transitional Justice, and Legal Research & Writing.
– Prepared and updated the teaching material.
– Commented on participants' research assignments.

Legal Writing Instructor Feb 2017–Jan 2019

The Asia Foundation – Nangarhar University

– Taught legal writing courses to fourth-year students in the Law and Sharia faculties.
– Revised and updated the Legal Writing and Pre-Clinic textbooks.
– Revised and edited the Asia Foundation's Manuals for Legal Writing.

Deputy Director of the Legal Clinic Jun 2016–Aug 2021

Nangarhar University

– Planned, monitored, and evaluated activities of the clinic.
– Monitored mediation, consultation, referral of cases, and public legal awareness sessions by lawyers and clinical students.
– Registered the problems of refugees and returnees and referred them to the relevant organizations.
– Assisted clients in filling out forms and replying to official letters.
– Assisted clients in obtaining legal documents.
– Coordinated activities with donors and stakeholders.
– Prepared funding proposals and resolved administrative issues.

Coach, Nangarhar University Team Aug 2018–Feb 2019

Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition

– Advised students on writing and research.
– Taught students to write according to the IRAC (Issue, Rule, Analysis and Application, and Conclusion) method.
– Guided students generally on public international law.

Coach, Nangarhar University Team Feb–Aug 2017

Media Law Moot Court Competition

– Advised students on writing and research.
– Taught students to use the IRAC (Issue, Rule, Analysis/Application, and Conclusion) method.
– Advised students on writing convincing applicant and respondent memos.

Head of Night Shift Faculty Program Mar 2014–May 2015

School of Law, Nangarhar University

– Led the Night School faculty.
– Conducted stakeholder meetings with students to solicit feedback on teaching methodology and shared it with the instructors.
– Represented Night School faculty within and outside the University.
– Headed the Faculty Academic Council.
– Monitored the implementation of rules, regulations, and laws of higher education.

Information Counselor / Community Liaison Officer Jan 2012–Dec 2013

Information, Counseling, and Legal Assistance (ICLA) Program, Norwegian Refugee Council – Jalalabad, Nangarhar, Afghanistan

– Served as liaison between governmental and nongovernmental organizations to create and maintain a network of organizations to which returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) could be referred.
– Registered the problems of refugees and returnees and referred them to the relevant organizations.
– Assisted clients in filling out forms and replying to official letters.
– Assisted clients in obtaining legal documents.
– Completed school registration for refugee children.
– Regularly conducted community visits to districts and sub-districts of the office's area of operation to educate returnee and IDP populations about NRC's mandate.
– Collected and recorded information about the socio-economic, security, and general conditions of the operation area for returnees and IDPs.
– Provided legal consultation to clients on solutions to their legal issues.
– Registered and referred the legal and humanitarian cases of returnees and IDPs to the relevant organizations for solution.

Legal Advisor Jul–Dec 2011

Nangarhar Provincial Council, Jalalabad, Afghanistan

– Provided consultation on local governance and the local governance policy of the Afghan government.
– Participated in meetings with senior provincial and regional officials.
– Provided legal consultation and advice in family, inheritance, ownership, and other cases.
– Participated in monthly meetings and provided consultation to improve provincial council activities.
– Provided legal consultation on criminal proceedings and the hiring of a free defense lawyer in criminal cases to the relatives of accused persons, and prepared legal petitions for clients.

PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

Textbooks

Legal Research & Writing (Academic), textbook used to teach LL.B. and LL.M. students the necessary techniques of legal research and writing, 2019, 2020; accepted as a textbook by multiple public universities in Afghanistan; awarded at the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) as the Best Legal Book authored in 2020 in Afghanistan.

The Principles and Methods of Legislation in Islamic Fiqh and Statutory Law, textbook used to teach LL.B. students, 2020.

Criminology, textbook used to teach LL.B. students, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020.

Research Articles

Ensuring Compensation for Wrongful Imprisonment and Wrongful Detention in Afghanistan, Research Article, California Western International Law Journal, 2017, pp. 35–79.

The Obligations of the State of Afghanistan Under Domestic and International Law in Relation to War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity and Other IHL Violations Committed in Afghanistan Since 1978 Up to Date, Academic Promotion Paper, Law School, Nangarhar University, 2020, pp. 1–171.

A Brief Overview of the State Obligations to Prevent the Spread of Covid-19 Disease and the Human Rights Aspects of the Measures Taken for this Purpose, Poha Journal, Nangarhar University, 2020, pp. 68–87.

A Study of the Legislative Reforms in Afghanistan Regarding the Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration of Offenders, The Asia Foundation Journal, Kabul, Afghanistan, 2020, pp. 77–112.

Transitional Justice and Its Popular Mechanisms: What Is the Best Transitional Justice Strategy for Afghanistan, Research Article, Nangarhar Law School Journal (Haq), Nangarhar, Afghanistan, 2020, pp. 65–76.

A Brief Overview of the Penal Reforms in the New Penal Code of Afghanistan, Research Article, Nangarhar Law School Journal (Haq), Nangarhar, Afghanistan, 2020, pp. 89–108.

The Conflict Resolution Mechanisms Used by Students of Nangarhar University for Resolving On- and Off-Campus Conflicts, Peace Journal, Nangarhar University, 2020, pp. 58–71.

Negotiation and Its Role in Peacemaking, Peace Journal, Nangarhar University, 2019, pp. 28–43.

Comparative Analysis of Human Rights Principles According to Islam and the UDHR, Research Article, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Nangarhar Branch, 2011, pp. 1–47.

Pending Publications

An Analysis of the General Amnesty Law of Afghanistan in the Light of International and Constitutional Law Obligations of Afghanistan, Afghanistan Research Institute Journal, Germany, 2026.

Ensuring Political Stability in Afghanistan through Inclusive Constitution Making and Ending the Culture of Monopolizing State Power, Afghanistan Research Institute Journal, Germany, 2026.

Conference Papers and Presentations

2025 Art as a Catalyst for Human Rights in Afghanistan, Afghans in Exile: Identities and Solidarity Conference, Academy in Exile, TU Dortmund.

2024 A Critical Review of the General Amnesty Law of Afghanistan in the Light of the Islamic Provision of the Afghan Constitution and International Law, ALPA Annual Conference, American University, Washington D.C.

2022 Ensuring Political Stability in Afghanistan Through Inclusive Constitution-Making and Comprehensive Legal Accountability for Past Abuses, Afghanistan Legal Research Network (ALRN) Conference, Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law, Heidelberg.

2019 A Study of the Legislative Process in Afghanistan Regarding the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Offenders, Legal Education Support Program-Afghanistan (LESPA) Publication Symposium and Conference, Kabul University, Afghanistan.

2019 Afghanistan General Amnesty Law and Its Key Problems, 5th Afghanistan Legal Studies Conference, Kabul, Afghanistan.

ACADEMIC EVENTS, HONORS, & TRAININGS

Legal Pedagogy Workshop, Legal Education Support Program-Afghanistan (LESPA), UW School of Law, Jakarta, Indonesia, June 25–29, 2018.

LESPA Clinical Legal Education Study Tour; visited and met with clinical staff at Indonesian universities' legal clinics in Bandung, Palembang, Jakarta, and Yogyakarta, Indonesia, September 16–29, 2016.

Training of Trainers for the Capacity Building of Paralegals in South Asia, UNDP Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan, July 18–23, 2016.

National Conference on Community Based Paralegals, United Nations Development Programme, Pakistan, Islamabad, July 25–26, 2016.

Intensive English Language Program, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, U.S., June 22–August 31, 2015.

LESPA Academic Legal English Program, Kabul, Afghanistan, August 2014.

Writing Competition, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission – Jalalabad, Nangarhar, June 2011. Best Research Article.

Civil and Criminal Procedures of Afghanistan in Theory and Practice, Global Rights, Young Lawyers Training Program (YLTP), Nangarhar, Afghanistan, September 2010–January 2011. Best Performance.

Family and Property Law Training, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) – Nangarhar, Afghanistan, March 20–May 19, 2011.

Media Law Moot Court Competition, Team Leader and Member, Nangarhar University, May 12–September 21, 2011 (a joint program of NAI, Internews, USAID, Nangarhar University, and the University of Pennsylvania). Best Oralist of the National Round.

Professional Awards

2022 Best Conference Paper Award, Afghanistan Legal Research Network (ALRN) Conference, Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law, Heidelberg.

2020 Award for the Best Legal Book in Pashto, ALSPA Conference, American University of Afghanistan (AUAF), Kabul.

LANGUAGES

Pashto (native) · Academic English (excellent) · German (good, B2) · Dari/Persian (excellent) · Urdu (excellent)