

**Vanessa Daza Castillo**

9 School St, Unit 3, Somerville MA 02143 • [vdazacastillo@sjd.law.harvard.edu](mailto:vdazacastillo@sjd.law.harvard.edu) • +1 617 685 9892

**Education**

**HARVARD UNIVERISTY**  
*S.J.D. (Doctor of Juridical Science)*

Cambridge, MA, USA  
September 2022 - Present

**HARVARD UNIVERISTY**  
*LL.M. (Master of Laws)*

Cambridge, MA, USA  
November 2021

Relevant courses: Poverty, Human Rights and Development; Feminist Legal Theory; Law and Political Economy; International Environmental Law; International Law and Global Justice; Environmental Law in the Supreme Court.

Thesis: *Does environmental law have a gender? The case of Wayúu women's struggle against coal mining by El Cerrejón in La Guajira, Colombia*

**UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES**  
*Bachelor of law, GPA 4.3/5*

Bogotá D.C., Colombia  
October 2017

Honors: First place award in the National Examination in Law

Activities: Student Government; Environment and Public Health Law Clinic; 2017 Elsa Moot Court Competition on WTO Law; 2015 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition.

**UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA**  
*Certificate in Transnational Law, GPA 5.3/6*

Geneva, Switzerland  
September 2015 – January 2016

**Experience**

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTION WATCH – ASIA PACIFIC**  
**Feminist Sustainable Development Fellow**

Remote  
September 2021 – September 2022

- Designed and facilitated the CEDAW-SDGs Workshop, a capacity-building gathering that welcomed 15 feminist organizations from the Global South with the purpose of understanding the linkages and gaps between CEDAW and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Drafted and prepared IWRAW AP's intervention in the 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council on the issue of the Right to Development. Prepared a report on the strategic moves of anti-rights and anti-gender movements in the process of drafting a binding instrument on the right to development.
- Conducted research and drafted a report describing the gender impacts of the International Monetary Fund's loan programs with Ecuador and Pakistan in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**HARVARD LAW SCHOOL**  
**Visiting Researcher**

Cambridge, MA, USA  
September 2021 – January 2022

- Conducted independent research for personal project titled "Does Environmental Law Have a Gender? Colombian Women's Movements Resisting Environmental Harms in the Shadow of the Law" under the supervision of Professor Janet Halley.
- Research assistant to Clinical Professor Aminta Ossom. Conducted literature reviews on climate change and human rights, transformative constitutionalism, and the rights of waste pickers in Latin America.

Provided assistance in preparing materials for the Spring 2022 reading group “Contemporary Challenges in International Human Rights.”

**CENTER FOR LAW, JUSTICE AND SOCIETY - DEJUSTICIA**  
**Environmental Justice coordinator**  
**Environmental Justice researcher**

Bogotá D.C., Colombia  
January 2020 – August 2020  
August 2017 – December 2019

- Coordinated the Environmental Justice Area. Supervised a team of 3 researchers and administered the Environmental Justice Area’s finances. Formulated, administered, and oversaw the execution of the Environmental Justice Area’s grants and projects.
- Assisted the 25 children and youth represented by Dejusticia in the first climate change and future generations litigation in Latin America. Supported the plaintiffs with overseeing the implementation of the resulting Supreme Court judgement STC 4360 of 2016 that declared the Colombian Amazon a subject of legal rights. Conducted fieldwork research in San José del Guaviare on deforestation and the impacts of STC 4360 of 2018 on local communities and drafted reports for domestic courts charged with overseeing the implementation of the decision.
- Drafted *amicus curiae* and participated in a public hearing before the Constitutional Court on cases regarding local authorities and communities’ right to undergo local referenda (“consultas populares”) to oppose extractive projects in their territories. Participated in panels and multi-stakeholder workshops organized by Congress and the Mining Ministry to design a new decision-making process for the authorization of extractive projects.
- Authored a policy analysis paper on Bogotá’s air pollution laws from a human rights and environmental justice perspective. Advocated for the adoption of an environmental justice perspective for the 2020 air quality policy renewal process.
- Drafted an *amicus curie* for the Constitutional Court in defense of indigenous communities of la Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta’s right to free, prior, and informed consent. Coordinated “Amigos de la Sierra,” a group of civil society organizations and public institutions providing assistance to the indigenous communities in their struggle to protect their sacred territory from large-scale extractive projects.

**SIETE POLAS**  
**Co-founder**

Bogotá D.C., Colombia  
October 2017 – Present

- Co-founded Siete Polas ([www.sietepolas.com](http://www.sietepolas.com)), a feminist blog and digital activism collective. Wrote more than 20 opinion articles about feminist theory and practice issues. Managed the collective’s social media accounts, engaging with a 50.000 follower digital community.
- Designed and implemented digital advocacy campaigns for women’s rights, particularly for abortion, political parity in Congress and the legalization of paternal leave. Created the podcast “Polémicas: Polas Pandémicas,” analyzing the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on women’s rights in Colombia.
- Participated in the organization of feminist protests and marches in Bogotá. Participated in 7 national and local radio and TV programs to analyze political, social and cultural issues of national relevance from a feminist perspective.

**Skills & Interests**

**Languages:** Spanish (native); English (Fluent); Portuguese (Fluent); French (Intermediate).

**Interests:** dancing, fashion styling, vegetarian cooking, social media content generation, languages.

