

Constitutional & Civil Rights Lawyer



Mario Williams has dedicated his life to advocating for and litigating to protect the constitutional and civil rights of all people throughout the United States and Central/South America. His areas of expertise include employment discrimination, whistleblower retaliation, false/wrongful arrest, police misconduct, medical attention for prisoners, as well as due process violations related to elected officials and law enforcement officials. He also addresses commercial and contract disputes where small and large business owners have been wronged.

Mario's career is rich and varied, and has shaped him as a zealous human rights advocate. After graduating with honors from Morehouse College, Mario worked for the Environmental Protection Agency office in Atlanta, and then volunteered in Honduras for the Peace Corps, where he designed and helped build down-flow gravity water systems for indigenous rural communities.

Following his time in the Peace Corps, Mario worked for the Organization for the Defense of Consumers and Users in Chile (ODECU), writing policy briefs on water quality, women's rights, disability rights, and immigrant water rights. In total, he spent 10 years working in Latin America, which also included successfully petitioning the Inter-America Commission on Human Rights on behalf of disadvantaged people, advocating for stronger access to economic, social, and cultural rights under the American Convention For Human Rights.

Mario has worked extensively as an opponent researcher and political strategist for elected officials such as former Congressman John Lewis, Mayor Kasim Reed, Senator and Mayor Hardie Davis, and Senator Vincent Fort. Additionally, he served as a City Council member for the City of Clarkston in Georgia, playing an integral role in passing legislation such as "ban the box," a law that prohibited city government from asking about criminal history on its employment applications. He's pushed through the decriminalization of marijuana for the city, a piece of legislation that has been used around Georgia as a model for such efforts. Further, he authored legislation that limited the ability of ICE to arrest immigrant residents of Clarkston. Most recently, Mario filed litigation that reunited mothers with their children who were separated by President Trump's border policies during his first administration.

A frequent point of contact for media interviews, Mario's high-profile cases have been featured on local and national news, including Tucker Carlson, CNN, and MSNBC. Mario holds a JD from Lewis and Clark Law School, and has served as a Senior Fellow for the Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution at Emory University School of Law.

PRACTICE AREAS & SPECIALTIES

Civil & Constitutional Rights • Human Rights • Employment & Disability Discrimination • Whistleblower Retaliation • Race & Sex Discrimination • Fair Labor Standards Act • Criminal Law • Personal Injury • Contract Disputes • Prisoner Litigation

CAREER HISTORY

Founding Partner / Civil & Constitutional Rights Attorney – Humanity Dignity & Rights (HDR) Law Firm (2022 – Present)
Founding Partner / Civil & Constitutional Rights Attorney – Williams Oinonen LLC (2010 – 2021)
Senior Fellow, Center for Advocacy & Dispute Resolution – Emory University School of Law (2010 – 2012)
Director, Social Rights Dept./Project Manager/Policy Officer – Consumers International (2005 – 2010)
Law Clerk, International Environmental Law Project – Lewis & Clark Law School (2002 – 2003)
Water Sanitation Technician – Peace Corps (1999 – 2001); Super Fund PM & ECO Intern – EPA (1997 – 1998)

EDUCATION & BAR ADMISSIONS

JD – Lewis & Clark Law School
BA, Honors, Political Science & Government – Morehouse College
Citizens Academy Graduate – Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

Bar Admissions: Georgia State Bar, New York State Bar, Virginia State Bar, U.S. Supreme Court, Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, Third Circuit Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals, District Courts in Georgia, Virginia and New York

SELECTED REPRESENTATIVE CASES

Trump Separation at the Border Cases; Re-uniting Families

Mejia-Mejia v. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement et al, 1:18-cv-01445 (Dist. of Columbia 2018)
Miranda de Valesquez v. Sessions et al, 1:18-cv-01506 (Dist. Of Columbia)
Otilia Asig-Putul v. Heartland Alliance, et al, 1:18-cv-22855-KMW (S.D. Fla. 2018)
Ramirez v. Sessions et al, 1:18-cv-01516 (Dist. Of Columbia 2018)
Lope-Sales v. Sessions et al, 1:18-cv-01700 (Dist. Of Columbia 2018)
Gutierrez e al v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security et al, 1:18-cv-01958 (Dist. of Columbia 2018)

Police Shooting / Prison Visitation

Daugherty v. Hurst, 1:17-cv-00072 (S.D. AL 2017)
Robinson v Sauls et al, 1:18-cv-00131 (N.D. GA 2018)
Jackson v. Humphrey, et al, 5:12-cv- 301 (M.D. GA 2012)

Disability Discrimination

Robinson v. 24 Seven LLC et al, 2:20-CV-03769 (C.D. California 2020)

Shooting of a Dog by Police

Ray v. Roane, 5:17-cv-00093 (W.D. VA 2017)

Criminal Cases

The State of Georgia v. Casey Whatley, 19SC170030 (Sup. Ct. Fulton County, GA)
State of Georgia v. Theius Singleton, SUCR2022000022 (Sup. Ct. Henry County, GA)
State of Georgia v. Quinton Coleman, 24PF004821 (Sup. Ct. Fulton County, GA)

Eight, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment

Ward v. Shoupe, et al., 2:17-cv-47 (M.D. TN 2017); Garrett v. Shoupe, et al., 2:17-cv-59 (M.D. TN 2017); Tollison v. Shoupe, et al. 2:18-cv-62 (M.D. TN 2018)
Dean v. Douglass et al., 5:12-cv-120 (M.D. GA 2012)
Paykina v. Lewin, et al., 9:19-cv-61 (N.D. NY 2019)
Lofton v. Dobbins, 3:20-cv-12 (M.D. TN 2020)

Prison Civil Litigation

Kinlaw v. Nwaokocha, et al., 3:17-cv-772 (E.D. VA 2017)
Faller v. Clarke, et al 3:19-cv-000728 (E.D. Va 2019)
Riggleman v. Clarke et al 5:17-cv-00063 (W.D. VA 2017)

Religious Freedom

Faver v. Clarke, 7:16-cv-00287 (W.D. VA 2016)

Sex Discrimination

Henderson v. Nwokocha, et al., 1:17-cv-2627 (N.D. GA 2017)

Race Discrimination

Walker v. Truner Broadcasting Systems et al, 1:19-cv-05194 (N.D. GA 2019).
Lawton v. Georgia Department of Public Safety, and its Division, the Georgia State Patrol, 1:20-cv-00349 (N.D. GA 2020)
Emory Hospital, Bath and Body Works, and Children's Hospital

Significant Human Rights

Reina Andrade et al., MC-385-09 (against the United States)
102 Habitants De La Villa Jardines De Le Branza, Petition 1182-08 (against Chile)
Mario Williams v. Andrew Russo, 322 Ga. App. 654, 657, 745 S.E.2d 842, 845 (2013)