Brenda Punsky is the Advocacy Director and a Senior Psychotherapist at Terra Firma, a mental health-medical-legal partnership in the South Bronx, New York, that provides services specifically tailored to undocumented and unaccompanied immigrant youth, and asylum-seeking families. Terra Firma is embedded in the Bronx Health Collective and is part of Montefiore Hospital. Brenda provides trauma informed individual, family and group psychotherapy to immigrant youth, adults, and families. She specializes in traumatic stress, complex trauma, attachment, family-systems therapy, and acculturation, and her expertise includes conducting psychological evaluations and writing affidavits in support of patients' asylum and other immigration cases.

In collaboration with the ACLU’s advocacy efforts, Brenda has conducted psychological evaluations of people stranded at the border in Matamoros, Mexico, as a consequence of the Migrant Protection Protocols instituted by the Trump administration. Brenda also has experience working with families separated at the border under the Zero Tolerance policy, and is the co-author of “Working with parents and children separated at the border: Examining the impact of the Zero Tolerance policy and beyond,” Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma (2019).

Brenda also holds law degrees from both NYU School of Law, and Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico), and worked as a human rights attorney for several years before becoming a clinical social worker. Brenda has been honored with NYU’s Global Social Work Award for her outstanding international social justice work and studies. She is also a Certified Mediator by the New York Peace Institute.