

EDUCATION

York University, Osgoode Hall Law School

Ph.D. Candidate, Fall 2023-present (supervisor: Professor Poonam Puri)

- Harley D. Hallet Graduate Scholarship (2024-2025)
- David Hunter Jorgensen Memorial Award (2024)
- Harry W. Arthurs Fellowship (2023-2024)
- York University Graduate Fellowship (2023-2024)

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law

J.D., 2011

- Prosser Prize (in Sex-Based Discrimination Law) (2011)
- Herma Hill Kay Fellow (for students dedicated to improving women's lives through law) (2010)
- William K. Coblenz Civil Rights Fellow (for work related to racial justice) (2009)
- Best Oral Argument (Written and Oral Advocacy) (2009)

Harvard University

A.B., *cum laude*, Psychology, 2007

- Margaret & Ned Handy Award (2007)
- Louise Donovan Award for Artistic Achievement (2006)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching:

Department of Humanities, York University, North York, ON Fall-Winter 2023 - 24

Teaching Assistant, AP/CCY 1999, Introduction to Children, Childhood & Youth Studies

Teaching Assistant for the introductory survey course for the Children, Childhood & Youth Studies major (Course Director: Dr. Anuppiya Srisankarajah). Responsibilities include teaching two sections, grading, and preparing two course-wide lectures.

U.C. Berkeley School of Law, Berkeley, CA Fall 2020, Fall 2021

External Practitioner, Law 226.9, State and Local Impact Litigation Practicum

External expert-practitioner brought in to co-lead student working groups on democracy (2020) and on housing justice (2021) for a law school seminar and practicum (Course Directors: Jill Habig, Erin Bernstein).

U.C. Berkeley, Berkeley, CA Spring 2009

Graduate Student Instructor, Legal Studies 163, Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Delinquency

Graduate Student Instructor for an upper level course in the Legal Studies major (Course Director: Dr. Barry Krisberg). Responsibilities included teaching one section, grading, and co-drafting the final exam.

U.C. Berkeley School of Law, Berkeley, CA

Fall 2008 - Spring 2011

Teacher (2008-2009); Co-Director (2009-2011), Juvenile Hall Outreach Program (“Street Law”)

Taught for and then co-directed U.C. Berkeley’s program to teach legal concepts, focusing on civil and human rights, to detained and incarcerated adolescents and teenagers. Responsibilities included teaching youth and co-redesigning the curriculum and pedagogy.

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As a practicing attorney:

Oakland City Attorney’s Office (OCA), Oakland, CA

Fall 2019 - Summer 2023

Supervising Deputy City Attorney V, Affirmative Litigation (Summer 2020 - Summer 2023)

Supervised attorneys across OCA’s three affirmative litigation units: Community Lawyering and Civil Rights (CLCR), the Housing Justice Initiative (HJI), and the Neighborhood Law Corps (NLC)). Responsibilities included leading the development and management of CLCR’s strategic priorities (racial, economic, and environmental justice), and executing those priorities using diverse tools (litigation, amicus briefs, administrative enforcement, legislation, and coalition-building). Served as lead attorney and/or supervisor of the CLCR litigation docket. Co-launched HJI, and served as the co-supervisor of HJI and the NLC, including facilitating strategic planning; teaching and coaching junior attorneys; leading negotiation and appellate strategy; and cross-staffing, integrating, and collaborating across affirmative teams. Also served from 2020-2022 as OCA’s interim Communications Director.

Deputy City Attorney III (Fall 2019 - Spring 2020)

Responsibilities included representing the City in litigation and providing legal advice to City clients; among other things, co-led work early in the COVID-19 pandemic to draft OCA FAQs, legislation, and reports focused on the legal rights of marginalized and racialized populations.

Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), Montgomery, AL

Spring 2017 - Fall 2019

Deputy Legal Director / director of the Children’s Rights Practice Group

Supervised attorneys, advocates, and other professionals in SPLC’s Children’s Rights Practice Group. Responsibilities included facilitating and leading the development of SPLC’s children’s rights vision, strategy, and priorities (stopping the school to prison pipeline, fighting for educational equity, protecting children’s access to health and mental health services); supervising teams across four states; serving as lead attorney and/or supervisor of the litigation docket; engaging in state legislative advocacy; developing policy products; representing SPLC in state and national coalitions and public forums; and building and co-developing nationwide partnerships such as “Public Funds Public Schools” (<https://pfps.org/>).

Civil Rights Division, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Fall 2011 - Spring 2017

(On detail) Policy Counsel, Policy and Strategy Section (Winter 2015 - Spring 2017)

Responsibilities included drafting federal legal guidance and technical assistance documents, editing proposed regulations, reviewing legislation, and drafting filings.

Trial Attorney, Educational Opportunities Section (Fall 2011 - Winter 2015)

Responsibilities included investigating, resolving, and/or litigating civil rights cases against school

districts and state education agencies nationwide; drafting Dear Colleague Letters (i.e., significant legal guidance); and conducting community outreach. Successfully resolved the Department's first contemporary school to prison pipeline cases against Meridian, Mississippi and Palm Beach County, Florida. Joined the Division through the Attorney General Honors Program.

Honors and awards: Assistant Attorney General Special Commendation Award (2015); Assistant Attorney General Special Commendation Award (2014); Department of Justice Special Achievement Award (2012); Civil Rights Division's John R. Dunne Award for Exceptional Accomplishments in the Furtherance of Civil Rights (2012).

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Other professional positions:

- 2011: Researcher, Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy. Researched and drafted 20th century histories of juvenile justice policy successes and failures for a federal grant.
- 2010: Legal Intern, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention. Helped develop a well-used juvenile justice regulatory guide for the Department of Justice.
- 2009-2010: Civil Rights Fellow, Henderson Center for Social Justice. Worked on qualitative research for a report on restorative justice practices as a zero tolerance alternative.
- 2009: Legal Intern, Juvenile Protection Division, Baltimore Public Defender. Conducted statewide conditions of confinement advocacy; drafted statewide legal advocacy documents.
- 2009-2011: Graduate Student Researcher, Center on Health, Economic, and Family Security. Conducted legal research and writing on poverty, family taxation, and social insurance.
- 2007-2011: Juvenile Justice Policy Specialist, SPLC. Provided technical assistance to juvenile courts and facilities; engaged in research, writing, and data analysis for juvenile justice reform efforts for local stakeholders and a national foundation; published white papers; assisted with drafting, advocating for, and amending legislation. (Full time Summer 2007 - Summer 2008; consultant Fall 2008 - Spring 2011.)
- 2006-2007: Researcher, Kennedy School of Government. Researched public giving to Hurricane Katrina victims; developed study design database; conducted other research.

SELECTED TALKS

Invited speaker at local, state, and national events, including:

- “*People v. Exxon Mobil Corp. et al.*: Context, Nuances, and Critical Questions,” Guest Lecture, Indiana University Maurer School of Law (2023, Indiana, U.S.).
- “Unfair Competition Law: Remedies,” Golden State Antitrust & Unfair Competition Law Institute, California Lawyers Association (2022, California, U.S.).
- “Federal Police Intervention in Protests CLE,” Alameda County Bar Association (2020, California, U.S.).
- “Bay Area: Homelessness and COVID-19—*Martin v. Boise* and Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic,” American Constitution Society (2020, California, U.S.).
- “Recent Trends in State Education Rights Litigation,” W.Va. Law Review Symposium (2019, West Virginia, U.S.).
- “Choice v. Equity: Privatization and the Fight for Equal Opportunity in Education,” National Organization of Lawyers for Education Associations (2018, Louisiana, U.S.).

- “Education for the Incarcerated: Looking Toward Optimism,” National Academy of Education Annual Meeting (2017, Washington, D.C., U.S.).
- “Using Federal Financial Assistance as a Tool for Reform,” Legal Strategies Collaborative (2017, Washington, D.C., U.S.).
- “History of Desegregation Jurisprudence,” Separate Is Not Equal Conference (2017, Florida, U.S.).
- “Enforcing *Plyler v. Doe*,” National Language Access Advocates Network (2014, Washington, D.C., U.S.).
- “Federal Approaches to Student Discipline Litigation,” National Association of State Boards of Education Annual Conference (2013, Virginia, U.S.).
- “Federal Civil Rights Approaches To School Discipline Reform,” National Juvenile Justice Network (2013, Washington, D.C., U.S.).
- “Impact of Immigration Laws on Undocumented Students,” American Bar Association Annual Conf. (2012, Louisiana, U.S.).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming: “The Sins of the Child: A Critical Feminist Exploration of the Differential Legal Responsibilities of Corporate and Human Parents,” *to be presented at the Feminist Legal Theory and the Family Conference, Institute for Feminist Legal Studies at Osgoode Hall Law School*, May 10, 2024 [accepted].
- Forthcoming: “Under the Sea, Inc.: An Animal Studies Critique of (Mis)-Understandings of Corporate Structure and Culpability,” *to be presented at the 25th Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference at the University of British Columbia*, May 2-3, 2024 [accepted].
- With Scott Hugo and Seema Rupani, “OMC 1.10—‘The Civil Protection of the People of Oakland’ Ordinance Agenda Report,” *Oakland City Attorney’s Office*, 2023, available at: <https://oakland.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=b6037d82-87fd-4894-bef6-c4a6d0c11c65.pdf>.
- With Katherine Dunn, Michelle LaPointe, Michael Tafelski, and others, “Protecting Immigrant Students’ Rights to a Public Education,” *The Southern Poverty Law Center*, 2021, available at: https://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/cr_plyler_guide_final_june_2021.pdf.
- With Katherine Dunn, Dan Losen, and Amir Whitaker, “The Striking Outlier: The Persistent, Painful, and Problematic Practice of Corporal Punishment in Schools,” *The Center for Civil Rights & Remedies and the Southern Poverty Law Center*, 2019, available at: https://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/com_corporal_punishment_final_web_0.pdf.
- With Shalini Agarwal, Lisa Graybill, et al., “Destined to Fail: How Florida Jails Deprive Children of Schooling,” *The Southern Poverty Law Center*, 2018, available at: https://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/cr_ctaa_report_2018_web_final.pdf.
- With Netsy Firestein and Ann O’Leary, “A Guide to Implementing Paid Family Leave: Lessons from California,” Labor Project for Working Families, Berkeley Center for Health, Economic & Family Security, 2011, available at: <https://california.foundationcenter.org/reports/a-guide-to-implementing-paid-family-leave-lessons-from-california/>.
- “Inertia and Change: Findings of the Shriver Report and Next Steps,” *Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law & Justice*, Vol. 25, 2010, available at: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ecc003be899466983185381/t/5ed426ca816525165b86f47a/1590961869388/Inertia+and+Change_Savitsky.pdf.

SELECTED LEGAL FILINGS AND DECISIONS

All of the following were collaborative efforts:

- Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief, *The City of Portland and the City of Oakland v. Barr et al.* (2020), available at: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/592c8640c534a5adf895986b/t/5f87f3224aedad471427d7f0/1602745124534/20201014+Portland+%26+Oakland+v.+Barr+et+al.+Compl..pdf>.
- Complaint, *T. Dozier et al. v. Duval County Public Schools & Duval County School Board* (2018), Case No. 16-2018-CA-008298, Circuit Court in and for Duval County, Florida, available at: https://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/duva_county_complaint.pdf.
- Order, *Kenneth J. Detzner, etc. v. League of Women Voters of Florida, et al.* (2018), Supreme Court of Florida, available at: https://supremecourt.flcourts.gov/content/download/413921/opinion/Opinion_SC18-1368.pdf.
- Statement of Interest of the United States, *Kenny et al. v. Wilson et al.* (2016), Case No. 2:16-2794-CWH, United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, Charleston Division, available at: <https://www.justice.gov/crt/case-document/file/917676/download>.
- Modified Consent Decree, *Kenny Kinmon Lau, et al. & United States of America v. San Francisco Unified School District* (2015), United States District Court for the Northern District of California, available at: <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2015/07/06/laumodcd.pdf>.
- Statement of Interest of the United States, *D.J. et al. v. State of California et al.* (2014), Case No. BS142775, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Central District, available at: <https://www.justice.gov/crt/file/889896/download>.
- Consent Order, *John Barnhardt, et al. & United States of America v. Meridian Municipal Separate School District, et al.* (2013), United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, available at: <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2013/06/30/meridianconsentdecree.pdf>.
- Agreement between the United States of America and the School District of Palm Beach County, Florida (2013), available at: <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2013/04/21/palmbeachagreement.pdf>.

OTHER SKILLS, EXPERIENCE, AND SERVICE

- Trained in management by the American Management Association, The Management Center, and Raw Signal Group.
- Founding Board Member, NeighborGood, a nonprofit providing free help to chronically ill or disabled people.
- Volunteer patient-spokesperson and patient-advocate for spinal cord technology that treats, among other things, nerve damage from invasive surgeries.
- Volunteer climate justice legal advocacy strategist for NGOs and other organizations.
- Conversational French speaker.
- Award-winning poet.
- Cat and dog lover.
- Cooking and baking enthusiast.
- Prior experience as a circus performer, café worker, advertising salesperson, marketer, photographer, copy editor, telethon caller, abortion clinic patient safety escort, theater producer, arts columnist, and reproductive health counselor.