

JOHN BLISS

University of Denver Sturm College of Law

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Assistant Professor of Law, 2020-

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, 2018-2020
Courses: Legal Profession, Property, Local Government Law

Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession, Affiliated Faculty, 2018-present

Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession, Postdoctoral Fellow, 2016-2018

EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, Jurisprudence and Social Policy, 2016
Dissertation: "The Dynamics of the Professional Self: Findings from Law School and Early Law Careers" (Calvin Morrill, chair)

J.D., University of California, Berkeley, 2010
Legal Aid Society Employment Law Center, workers' rights clinic
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, asylum representation clinic
East Bay Community Law Center, HIV, health, and immigration summer associate

Double B.A., University of Washington, 2004
Anthropology, Comparative History of Ideas

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Denver Sturm College of Law
Legal Profession, 2018, 2019
Property, 2019, 2020
Local Government Law, 2020

UC Berkeley Department of Legal Studies, Graduate Student Instructor
Sociology of Law, 2014
Introduction to Legal Studies, 2013
Law in Chinese Society, 2012, 2013, 2015 "Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor" award
Theories of Law and Society, 2011
Law, Self, and Society, 2010, 2011

UC Berkeley School of Law, Graduate Student Instructor
Introduction to Quantitative Methods, 2010

PUBLICATIONS

The Legal Ethics of Secret Client Recordings, 33 GEO. J. LEGAL ETHICS 55 (2020).

From Idealists to Hired Guns? An Empirical Analysis of “Public Interest Drift” in Law School, 51 U.C. DAVIS L. REV. 1973 (2018).

Divided Selves: Professional Role Distancing Among Law Students and New Lawyers in a Period of Market Crisis, 42 LAW & SOC. INQUIRY 855 (2017).

Rationalizing Pro Bono: Corporate Social Responsibility and the Reinvention of Legal Professionalism in Elite American Law Firms (with Steven Boutcher), in GLOBAL PRO BONO: CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES, AND CONTESTATION, Scott Cummings, Fabio de Sa e Silva & Louise Trubek, eds. Cambridge University Press __ (forthcoming 2020).

Transitioning into Practice: Lawyer Socialization in the Chinese Corporate Bar, in THE CHINESE LEGAL PROFESSION IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION, Sida Liu & David B. Wilkins, eds. Cambridge University Press __ (forthcoming 2020).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Developing a Contextualized Theory of Property from the Bottom Up

Exporting the Liberal Lawyer? A Comparative Study of Civic Professionalism

Great Expectations in Law School: Comparative Insights for the Training of Public-minded Lawyers

SELECTED OTHER WRITING

Drifting Law Students: Public Interest Caught in the Law Firm Pipeline (lead article), THE PRACTICE (May 2018) <https://thepractice.law.harvard.edu/article/drifting-law-students>.

Rethinking the First Year Curriculum (interview with Erwin Chemerinsky), THE PRACTICE (May 2018) <https://thepractice.law.harvard.edu/article/rethinking-the-first-year-curriculum>.

The Law School Laboratory: A Call for Developing the “Third Apprenticeship” Through Experimental Research, NEW LEGAL REALISM CONVERSATIONS (February 2018) <http://newlegalrealism.org/2018/02/12/bliss-on-law-teaching-reform>.

The Professional Identity Formation of Lawyers: How Does Becoming a Lawyer Change You? (lead article), THE PRACTICE (March 2016) <https://thepractice.law.harvard.edu/article/the-professional-identity-formation-of-lawyers>.

REVIEWS

Scott L. Cummings, *How Does Law School Matter in the Pursuit of Public Interest Careers?*, JOTWELL (December 20, 2019) (reviewing John Bliss, *From Idealists to Hired Guns? An Empirical Analysis of ‘Public Interest Drift’ in Law School*, 51 U.C. Davis L. Rev. 1973 (2018)), <https://legalpro.jotwell.com/how-does-law-school-matter-in-the-pursuit-of-public-interest-careers/>.

David B. Wilkins, *Finding the Lawyer Identity* (December 11, 2018) (reviewing John Bliss, *Drifting Law Students: Public Interest Caught in the Law Firm Pipeline*, THE PRACTICE (May 2018)), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRdlSVqFVrM&feature=emb_logo

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Great Expectations in Law School: Comparative Insights for the Training of Public-Minded Lawyers”

Presented at:

Law and Society Association. Washington DC. June 2019.
Vanderbilt Law. Invited March 2020.
Western Law. London, ON. Invited March 2020.

“The Legal Ethics of Secret Client Recordings”

Presented at:

UC Irvine School of Law, Legal Ethics Schmooze. June 2019.
University of Denver Sturm College of Law. April 2019.
Harvard Law School. March 2019.
Association of American Law Schools. New Orleans, LA. January 2019.

“Developing a Contextualized Theory of Property from the Bottom Up”

Presented at:

UCLA Law Critical Race Studies Program. Invited March 2020.
AALS Section on Property Law. Invited January 2020.
Midwest Law and Society Retreat. Madison, WI. October 2018.
Law and Society Association. Toronto, ON. June 2018.
Harvard Law School, Progressive Property Workshop. May 2018.
Northeastern Law, Property Works in Progress Conference. Sept. 2017.
University of Michigan, Association for Law, Property & Society. May 2017.

“From Idealists to Hired Guns? An Empirical Analysis of ‘Public Interest Drift’ in Law School”

Presented at:

Indiana U. Maurer School of Law, Center for Law, Society, and Culture. Oct. 2017.
UCLA School of Law, Legal Ethics Schmooze. July 2017.
UC Irvine Law, Center for Empirical Research on the Legal Profession. June 2017.
Harvard Law School, Legal Profession seminar. March 2017.

“Rationalizing Pro Bono: Corporate Social Responsibility and the Reinvention of Legal Professionalism in Elite Law Firms”

Presented at:

UCLA School of Law, Global Pro Bono Conference. Nov. 2017.
Law and Society Association. New Orleans, LA. May 2016.

“Becoming Global Lawyers? Mapping Professional Identity Formation in the U.S. and China”

Presented at:

Harvard Law, Comparative and International Law Workshop. Sept. 2017.
American Sociological Association. Montreal, QC. August 2017.
Law and Society Association. Mexico City, CDMX. June 2017.
Harvard University, China-US Lawyers Forum. March 2017.
American Bar Foundation, “Legal Education in Crisis?” Conference. March 2017.
Yale Law School Doctoral Scholarship Conference. Nov. 2016.

“Divided Selves: Professional Role Distancing Among Law Students and Lawyers”

Presented at:

American Anthropological Association. Denver, CO. November 2015.
Stanford Law School, Law and Society Conference for Junior Scholars. May 2015.
Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia. May 2015.
UC Davis School of Law, ClassCrits VII. Nov. 2014.
American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA. August 2014.
Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research. Syracuse, NY. June 2014.
Law and Society Association. Minneapolis, MN. May 2014.
UVA Law, Ass’n for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities. March 2014.

SELECTED CONFERENCE ORGANIZING ACTIVITIES

Law and Society Association

Founding Co-organizer: Legal Education Collaborative Research Network.

Session Chair:

International Intersectionalities in Legal Pedagogy. 2019.
Teaching Law in the Trump Era. 2019.
Legal Education and/in Social Context: Empirical Perspectives. 2019.
Transformations in Legal Education. 2019.
Transnational Legal Education and Systemic Inequality. 2019.
Incidental Racialization: Performative Assimilation in Law School. 2018.
Legal Education and the Legal Profession in Realist/Empirical Perspectives. 2018.
Race and Privilege in Legal Education. 2015.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2014-2015
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley, 2014
Jurisprudence and Social Policy Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2013-14
UC Berkeley Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2012-13
UC Berkeley Graduate Division Summer Grant, UC Berkeley, 2012, 2013
Selznick Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2009-10
Bonderman Travel Fellowship, University of Washington, 2003-04
Mary Gates Leadership Fellowship, University of Washington, 2002-03
Evans Scholarship (full ride), University of Washington, 2000-04

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

"Teaching Professional Identity and Purpose," Harvard Law School. 2017-present
Principal Investigator. Piloted (in 2018) curriculum and empirical assessment measures designed to support public-interest values and career commitment.

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University. 2014
Departmental Representative. Selected to participate in an intensive two-week workshop on qualitative research methods.

Professor Jonathan Simon, UC Berkeley School of Law. 2010-11
Research Assistant. Conducted archival and secondary research on the relationship between housing patterns and fear of crime.

Alameda County Department of Public Health, Oakland, CA. 2009-12
Researcher. Led a team of researchers examining racially restrictive covenants and local historical roots of residential segregation.

Professor Jeffrey Selbin, UC Berkeley School of Law. 2009-10
Research Assistant. Assisted in the early stages of writing a casebook on law and poverty.

AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Law and Society Association
Legal Education Collaborative Research Network, Law and Society Association (co-organizer)
AALS Section on Empirical Study of Legal Education and the Legal Profession (original signatory)
International Association of Legal Ethics
Rocky Mountain Collective on Race, Place & Law

PEER REVIEW REFEREE

Law & Social Inquiry
Law & Society Review
Cambridge University Press

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Young Child Academy, 2006-2007

Spanish teacher in a Seattle preschool and kindergarten.

Beijing Jingshan School, 2004–2006

English and music teacher in a Beijing public primary school.

Education Access Network, 2000-2004

Co-founder, director, and lead instructor of a Seattle-based program that provided free SAT courses and college-application mentoring for students from low-income families.