

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, 2018-present
Hughes-Ruud Research Professorship, 2022-23

Legal Priorities Project, Senior Research Fellow, 2022-23

Harvard Law School Animal Law & Policy Program, Visiting Researcher, Spring 2022

Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession, Postdoctoral Fellow, 2016-18
Affiliate Faculty, 2018-present
Visiting Researcher, 2022-23

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

PUBLICATIONS

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).

A Model for Comparative Institutional Analysis of Movement Lawyering, forthcoming in LAW & SOCIAL INQUIRY special issue relating to SCOTT L. CUMMINGS, AN EQUAL PLACE: LAWYERS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR LOS ANGELES __ (forthcoming).

Beyond Critique: Turning Toward a More Pragmatic Study of Social-Change Lawyering, forthcoming in LEADING WORKS IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION, Daniel Newman ed (forthcoming).

Learning Without Grade Anxiety: Findings from the Pass/Fail Experiment in North American Legal Education (with David Sandomierski) (forthcoming in the 45th Annual Law Review Symposium, Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law) __ (2022).

Pass for Some, Fail for Others: An Empirical Analysis of Law School Grading Changes in the Early Covid-19 Pandemic (with David Sandomierski and Tayzia Colleso) (under peer review).

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 77 (2022).

Rebellious Lawyers for Fair Housing: The Lost Scientific Model of the Early NAACP, *WISC. L. REV.* 1433 (2021).

Becoming Global Lawyers? A Comparative Study of Civic Professionalism, 46(3) *LAW & SOC. INQUIRY* 731-54 (2021).

Book Review: JUSTIN MARCEAU, BEYOND CAGES: ANIMAL LAW AND CRIMINAL PUNISHMENT. 54.4 *LAW & SOC. REV.* 903 (2020).

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).

SCHOLARSHIP IN PROGRESS

Existential Advocacy (funded by the 2022-23 Hughes-Ruud Professorship)
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4217687.

THE ANIMAL LAWYER: MOVEMENT LAWYERING IN THE ANIMAL RIGHTS CONTEXT (with Justin Marceau and Kristen Stilt) (book proposal under review).

Black Lawyer Socialization in the Age of BLM: A Longitudinal Study of Professional Identity Formation and Racialization Across Four Law Schools (with Swethaa Ballakrishnen, Alexi Freeman, David Wilkins, and Christopher Williams).

How Legal Scholars Evaluate the Importance of Research Topics: Findings from a Global Survey (with Eric Martinez, Sean Richardson, and Christoph Winter)

ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF LEGAL EDUCATION (with Jane Ching, Elizabeth Mertz, and Aaron Taylor).

Litigating for the Long-Term Future (with José Jaime Villalobos, Laurens Prins, and Christoph Winter)

SELECTED OTHER WRITING

Teaching “Good Work” in the Law, The Good Project, Harvard Graduate School of Education (July 4 2020) <https://www.thegoodproject.org/good-blog/2020/7/4/teaching-good-work-in-the-law>.

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Legal Profession, Property, Local Government Law, 1L Public Good Program

UC Berkeley, Graduate Student Instructor

Sociology of Law, Introduction to Legal Studies, Law in Chinese Society (“Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor” award), Theories of Law and Society, Law, Self, and Society, Introduction to Quantitative Methods

Selected Guest Lectures

Legal Profession Seminar (Harvard Law 2022, 2019), Center on the Legal Profession Speaker Series (Harvard Law 2022, 2017), Legal Theory and Professional Practice (Western Law 2022, 2021, 2020), Legal Actors and Institutions (University of Denver Political Science 2021, 2020), Public Interest Seminar (University of Miami 2020), Professionalism and Inclusiveness Speaker Series (Denver Law, 2020), Legal Profession (Denver Law 2020), First

Year Seminar Program (University of Denver Political Science 2019), Comparative Law (Denver Law 2019), Problem Solving Workshop (Harvard Law 2018), Legal Education and the Legal Profession (UCLA Law 2017), Legal Education Reading Group (Harvard Law 2017), Legal Profession (Harvard Law 2017), Torts (Harvard Law 2017).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Existential Advocacy

Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession. Cambridge, MA. November 2022.
Agathon Seminar Series. Cambridge, MA. November 2022.
UC Berkeley Center for the Study of Law and Society (remote). September 2022.
Legal Priorities Summer Institute. Oxford, UK. September 2022.
Multidisciplinary Forum on Longtermism and the Law. Hamburg, DE. June 2022.
Law and Society Association (remote). July 2022.
University of Denver Summer Scholarship Series. July 2022.

Pass for Some, Fail for Others: An Empirical Analysis of Law School Grading Changes in the Early Covid-19 Pandemic

Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law (remote). March 2022.
Canadian Association of Law Teachers (remote). June 2021.
Law and Society Association (remote). May 2021.
University of Denver Sturm College of Law. March 2021.
Association of American Law Schools (remote). January 2021.
Western Law (remote). September, 2020.

Rebellious Lawyers for Fair Housing: The Lost Scientific Model of the Early NAACP

AALS Section on Property Law. Washington, DC. January 2020.
Harvard Law School, Center on the Legal Profession. November 2019.
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.

The Legal Ethics of Secret Client Recordings

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.

From Idealists to Hired Guns? An Empirical Analysis of 'Public Interest Drift' in Law School

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

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
Vanderbilt Law (remote). March 2021.

Western Law (remote). March 2020.

Law and Society Association. Washington DC. June 2019.

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 New Lawyers

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:

Becoming Lawyers: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Law School Socialization. 2020.

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

Hughes-Ruud Research Professorship, Denver Law, 2022-2023

Legal Priorities Project Senior Research Fellow, 2022-2023

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award, Canadian Association of Law Teachers, 2022

Faculty Career Champion, Denver Law, 2020-2021

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

AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

New Legal Realism (board member, 2022 to present)
Center on the Legal Profession (affiliate faculty)
AALS Section on Empirical Study of Legal Education and the Legal Profession (original signatory)
Legal Priorities Project (senior research fellow)
Law and Society Association
International Association of Legal Ethics
Rocky Mountain Collective on Race, Place & Law
Collaborative Research Network on Global Legal Ethics and Technological Innovations in Legal Practice

SERVICE

Denver Law, Admissions Committee (2019-2021, chair fall 2021)
Denver Law, 1L Public Good Program (co-founder and co-director with Dean Alexi Freeman)
Law and Society Association, Legal Education Collaborative Research Network (co-founder and co-organizer)

PEER REVIEW REFEREE

Law & Social Inquiry
Law & Society Review
Journal of Empirical Legal Studies
American Sociological Review
Cambridge University Press