

JOHN BLISS

University of Denver Sturm College of Law

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Associate Professor of Law (2024-present)

Assistant Professor of Law (2018-2024)

Hughes-Ruud Research Professorship (2022-23)

Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession

Affiliate Faculty (2018-present)

Visiting Researcher (2022-23)

Postdoctoral Fellow (2016-18)

OTHER RESEARCH AND ADVISORY POSITIONS

Institute for Law and AI, Senior Research Affiliate (2021-present)

Colorado Senate AI Impact Task Force, Appointed Member (2024-2025)

Legal Education LSA Collaborative Research Network, Founding Co-organizer (2018-present)

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

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

LAW & AI

AGAINST EXTINCTION: THE RISING AI SAFETY MOVEMENT AND THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY
(forthcoming with Stanford University Press)

Reimagining Legal Education at the Dawn of Artificial Legal Intelligence, forthcoming in THE RESEARCH HANDBOOK FOR GLOBAL LEGAL EDUCATION __ (forthcoming)

The Epistemics of Legal Futurism: Lawyers at the Horizon of Artificial Legal Intelligence (work in progress)

Teaching Law in the Age of Generative AI, JURIMETRICS 111 (2024)

Existential Advocacy: Lawyering for AI Safety and the Future of Humanity, 37.1 GEO. J. LEGAL ETHICS 39 (2024)

The Fuzzy Evidence of Law's AI Revolution (with Johanna Schandera), E-SAIL BLOG (Nov. 2024)

From Fiction to Fact: Progress on Legal Hallucinations (with Johanna Schandera), E-SAIL BLOG (Aug. 2024)

The Ethics of GenAI Lawyering, E-SAIL BLOG (April 2024)

B+ on Autopilot: LLM Achieves New Grade on Unassisted First Drafts, E-SAIL BLOG (Feb. 2024)

Lawyers Replaced in Contract Review?, E-SAIL BLOG (Feb. 2024)

Anti-Hype, E-SAIL BLOG (Jan. 2024)

Has AI Passed or Aced Law Exams?, E-SAIL BLOG (Jan. 2024)

Hallucinating About Legal AI Hallucinations, E-SAIL BLOG (Jan. 2024)

Why e-SAIL? The Importance of Keeping up with the Research, E-SAIL BLOG (Dec. 2023)

Social-Change Lawyering

THE ANIMAL LAWYER: MOVEMENT LAWYERING IN THE ANIMAL RIGHTS CONTEXT (with Justin Marceau and Kristen Stilt) (forthcoming with Oxford University Press)

From Fringe to Frontlines: The Evolution of the AI Safety Movement, forthcoming in CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES AND MOVEMENTS, Doug McAdam, Dana Moss and David Snow, eds. __ (forthcoming)

The Empirical Study of Social-Change Lawyering: A Comparative Institutional Approach, 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: The Pragmatic Turn in the Study of Social-Change Litigation, in LEADING WORKS ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION, Daniel Newman ed. 241 (2023)

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

Book Review: Justin Marceau, Beyond Cages: Animal Law and Criminal Punishment, 54.4 LAW & SOC. REV. 903 (2020)

Legal Education

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

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 Longitudinal Study of Black Law Students at a Time of Racial Reckoning (in-progress study with Swethaa Ballakrishnen, Alexi Freeman, David Wilkins, and Christopher Williams)

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 Collesso), 56.2 UBC L. REV. 605 (2023)

Learning Without Grade Anxiety: Findings from the Pass/Fail Experiment in North American Legal Education (with David Sandomierski), OHIO N.U. L. REV. 555 (2022)

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)

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>

Legal Ethics

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)

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

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

RESEARCH PROFILES

An Interview with John Bliss, *The NEW LEGAL REALISM PODCAST* (Dec. 2023),
<https://newlegalrealism.org/2023/12/01/an-interview-with-john-bliss>

A Conversation with John Bliss on the Benefits and Risks of Generative AI for Lawyers, *INSIGHT, HARVARD LAW SCHOOL CENTER ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION* (Feb. 2024),
<https://clp.law.harvard.edu/knowledge-hub/insights/a-conversation-with-john-bliss-on-the-benefits-and-risks-of-generative-ai-for-lawyers/>

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, AI and the Future of the Legal Profession, 1L Public Good Program

UC Berkeley, Graduate Student Instructor

Sociology of Law, Introduction to Legal Studies, Law in Chinese Society, Theories of Law and Society, Law, Self, and Society, Introduction to Quantitative Methods

Selected Guest Lectures

Legal Profession Seminar (*Harvard Law* 2024, 2023, 2022, 2019), Issues of Accountability for Lawyers and the Legal Profession (*UC Irvine Law* 2025, 2024, 2023), 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).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Against Extinction: The Rising AI Safety Movement and the Future of Humanity
Roundtable on AI Safety Law. Tuscaloosa, AL. April 2025.

The Epistemics of Legal Futurism: Lawyers at the Horizon of Artificial Legal Intelligence
Law and Society Association. Denver, CO. June 2024.
Denver Law Review Symposium. Denver, CO. April 2024.
Colorado Bar Association. Denver, CO. March 2024.
Arapahoe County Bar Association. Denver, CO. December 2023.

Teaching Law in the Age of Generative AI
Harvard Law School, New Legal Realism 20th Anniversary. Cambridge, MA. October 2024.
AALS Section on Technology, Law, and Legal Education (remote). June 2023.
Law and Society Association. San Juan, PR. June 2023.
Legal Ethics Schmooze. Denver, CO. May 2023.
University of Denver Modern Learning Series. April 2023.

Existential Advocacy: Lanyering for AI Safety and the Future of Humanity
Cambridge University Centre for the Study of Existential Risk. May 2024.
UC Irvine Center for Empirical Research on the Legal Profession. April 2023.
Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession. 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 University Faculty of 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.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Scholars Research Fellow, Brooks Institute of Animal Law & Policy 2024-2025
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
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)
Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession (affiliate faculty)
AALS Section on Empirical Study of Legal Education and the Legal Profession (original signatory)
Legal Priorities Project (affiliate faculty)
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

PEER REVIEW REFEREE

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