SHARON BRETT

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Kansas School of Law
Associate Professor (July 2024 – present)

Courses: Civil Procedure
Evidence
Federal Courts
Law and Social Change

Service: Chair, University Faculty Senate, Faculty Rights Board (2026 – present)
Academic Affairs Committee (2025 – present)
Faculty Workshops and Lectureships Committee (2024 – present)
Faculty Advising Cohort Leader (2024 – present)
American Constitution Society Faculty Advisor (2024 – present)
Jayhawk Defenders Founder & Faculty Advisor (2025 – present)
Kansas Law Review Symposium Faculty Sponsor (2025 & 2026)

Awards: Immel Award for Teaching Excellence (2026)
Webb Hecker Teaching Fellowship Award (2026 – present)

Adjunct Professor (2020-2024): Special Topics: Social Justice Lawyering

University of Kansas School of Public Affairs and Administration
Adjunct Professor (Spring 2021): Law, Courts, and Public Policy

Harvard Law School
Co-Lecturer (2018-2019): Topics in Policy Reform: Race and Poverty in the Criminal Justice System

EDUCATION

University of Michigan Law School, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2012
Robert B. Fiske, Jr. Fellowship Award for government service
Jenny Runkles Memorial Award for public interest law
Articles Editor, *Michigan Journal of Gender & Law*
Advanced Clinical Student, Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic

University of Michigan, B.A. *with distinction* in Psychology, Minor in Criminal Justice, 2005

PUBLICATIONS

Selected academic articles:

Equity's Role in the Fourth Amendment (work in progress)

A Comparative View of Standing in Public Law Litigation, with Rowie Stolk, Ander Maglica, Andrea Procházková, and Rebecca Scaglia (work in progress, for 2027 Special Issue of UCLA J. INT'L L. & FOREIGN AFFAIRS)

Law Enforcement Gang Designations, 113 VA. L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2027) (draft available on SSRN)

- Runner-up, AALS Criminal Procedure Section Junior Scholars Paper Competition (2026)

The Laboratory of State Constitutional Law, Foreword to the Kansas Law Review 2026 Symposium Issue, 74 KAN. L. REV. 515 (2026).

Lyons, *Remedies, and the Fourth Amendment in* Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo, N.Y.U. L. REV. ONLINE (2026).

Article III Standing and the Public Interest Class Action, 47 CARDOZO L. REV. 837 (2026).

Standing in the Dark, 51 B.Y.U. L. REV. 1 (2025).

Policing the State Police: System Reform within the "Fiction" of Ex parte Young, 59 HARV. C.R. & C.L. L. REV. 175 (2024).

Reforming Monetary Sanctions, Reducing Police Violence, 4 U.C.L.A. CRIM. JUST. L. REV. 17 (2020).

Court Culture and Criminal Law Reform (with Colin Doyle and Mitali Nagrecha), 69 DUKE L. J. ONLINE (2020).

Book chapters:

Compounding Errors in Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo, in CIVIL RIGHTS & ATTORNEYS' FEES HANDBOOK, VOL. 41 (forthcoming Fall 2026)

Essays and commentary:

What makes someone a gang member? For police, nearly everything, INQUEST (Apr. 14, 2026).

How Far Does the Kansas Constitution Go in Protecting Bodily Autonomy and Dignity?, STATE COURT REPORT (Mar. 23, 2026).

Other reports and publications:

PAYING ON PROBATION: HOW FINANCIAL SANCTIONS INTERSECT WITH PROBATION TO TARGET, TRAP, AND PUNISH PEOPLE WHO CANNOT PAY, HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY PROGRAM (June 2020) (lead author).

PROPORTIONATE FINANCIAL SANCTIONS: POLICY PRESCRIPTIONS FOR JUDICIAL REFORM, HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY PROGRAM (Sept. 2019) (lead author).

IDENTIFYING AND PREVENTING GENDER BIAS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (2015) (contributor).

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Equity's Role in the Fourth Amendment (work in progress)

- CrimFest!, Fordham University Law School (July 2026)
- Law of the Police Conference, Wayne State University School of Law (June 2026)

Law Enforcement Gang Designations, 113 VA. L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2027).

- Law of the Police Conference, University of South Carolina School of Law (June 2025)
- Central States Law Schools Association Annual Conference (October 2025)
- 16th Annual Constitutional Law Colloquium (November 2025)
- University of Nebraska College of Law Faculty Workshop (January 2026)
- University of Pittsburgh School of Law Faculty Workshop (January 2026)

Standing in the Dark, 51 B.Y.U. L. REV. 1 (2025)

- Federal Courts Junior Scholars Conference, Cornell Law School (April 2025)
- Northeastern University School of Law Junior Scholars Conference (February 2025,)
- New Voices in Civil Rights, AALS Civil Rights Section, AALS Conference (January 2025)
- ABA/AALS Criminal Justice Section Works in Progress Conference (December 2024)

OTHER PRESENTATIONS, TRAININGS, & CLES

Moderator, *Contemporary Battlegrounds post*-Louisiana v. Callais, 2026 Kansas Law Review Symposium, University of Kansas School of Law (Oct. 2026).

Nationwide Relief in the Wake of *Trump v. CASA*, 2026 Recent Updates in the Law CLE, University of Kansas School of Law (May 2026).

Invited Keynote, *Courts in a Time of Crisis: The Promise and Limits of Constitutional Litigation*, University of Kansas Self Graduate Fellows Luncheon (Feb. 2026).

Invited Panelist, *"Race to the Bottom: The New Gerrymander and State Constitutional Responses,"* American Association of Law Schools' Annual Conference (Jan. 2026)

Invited Panelist, "High Stakes and Hot Takes," a panel event hosted by the University of Kansas School of Professional Studies and Criminal Justice Program (Nov. 2025)

Invited Keynote, *Resilience and Resistance*, Kansas Board of Indigent Defense Services' Annual Conference (April 2025)

Invited Moderator, *Bridging the Gap: State Constitutional Litigation*, hosted by State Democracy Research Initiative and University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School (March 2025)

Selected Presenter, *Filling the Social Justice Gap: Lessons from Practitioners Turned Academics*, Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) Annual Teaching Conference (Sept. 2024).

Invited Discussant, *Public Law in the States Annual Conference*, University of Wisconsin Law School State Democracy Research Initiative (May 2024).

Invited Panelist, *The Promise and Limits of State Constitutionalism*, NYU Law Review Symposium/Brennan Center for Justice State Courts Project (Feb. 2024).

Invited Keynote, *Justice-Related Data and its Implications for Civil Rights and Liberties Work*, University of Kansas Self Graduate Fellows Luncheon (Nov. 2022).

Invited Presenter, *State of Reform*, Convening on Fines and Fees Policy in California, UCLA Law School and the UCLA Labor Center (Jan. 2020).

Invited Presenter, *Introductory Session*, Progressing Reform of Fines and Fees: Towards A Research and Policy Agenda, Harvard Law School (Sept. 2019).

Facilitator, *Abolition and Ability to Pay*, Working Session, Harvard Law School (Sept. 2019).

Moderator, *Building and Maintaining Meaningful Pro Bono Partnerships*, Kansas Women's Attorney Association Annual Conference (July 2024).

Invited Presenter, *A View from the Trenches: Impact Litigation in Kansas*, Kansas Women's Attorney Association Annual Conference (July 2023).

Invited Presenter, *From Individual Cases to Systemic Reform: Collaborating with Civil Rights Lawyers to Change the System*, Kansas State Board of Indigent Defense Services Annual Conference (June 2023).

Invited Presenter, *Litigating for Systemic Reform in Policing: Case Updates*, Kansas Federal Public Defender Spring CLE (Apr. 2023).

Invited Presenter, *Litigating Hard Cases in Hard Places*, National Police Accountability Project Fall CLE (Oct. 2022).

Invited Keynote, *Protecting the Rights of LGBTQ+ Youth: Legal Principles and Current Cases*, Judge Hugh Means Inn of Court (Oct. 2021).

Invited Presenter, *Protections Under State and Federal Law for LGBTQ+ Youth*, Kansas LGBTQ+ Leadership Conference, Kansas State LGBTQ Resource Center (Oct. 2021).

Invited Presenter, *The Constitution and COVID-19*, Robert J. Dole Institute, University of Kansas (Sept. 2021).

Invited Presenter, *Policing the Police: A Path Forward*, Colorado Bar Association (June 2020).

Invited Presenter, *Ability to Pay Models*, Economic Justice in the Courts, Litigation, and Advocacy 2020 Summit, Southern Poverty Law Center (Jan. 2020).

Invited Keynote, *Ending the Fines and Fees Debt Trap in Alabama: A Call to Action*, Alabama Appleseed and Aspen Institute (Oct. 2019).

Moderator, *Meek Mill and 3 Million More: Probation as Mass Incarceration, A Conversation with Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner*, Harvard Law School (Sept. 2018).

Presenter, *Ensuring that People Are Not Jailed Due to Poverty: Reforming Policies and Representing Clients in Criminal Justice Debt "Ability to Pay" Proceedings* (Webinar), National Consumer Law Center (May 2018).

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Kansas, Overland Park, KS
Legal Director, 2021 – 2024; *Senior Staff Attorney*, 2020

- Managed complex docket of litigation in federal and state courts; developed legal advocacy initiatives and new cases; and coordinated integrated policy and communications strategies related to ongoing litigation.
- First-chaired numerous bench and jury trials in federal and state courts, including landmark litigation on congressional redistricting; Fourth Amendment law; the federal Voting Rights Act; police misconduct; LGBTQI+ rights; and more.
- Supervised department staff, including two staff attorneys, two Legal Fellows, one volunteer intake coordinator, and between 1-3 interns per semester/summer.
- Prepared and delivered trainings, CLEs, webinars, and other public-facing presentations.

Harvard Law School, Criminal Justice Policy Program, Cambridge, MA
Senior Staff Attorney, 2018 – 2020

- Directed various technical assistance projects with state court judges to assist them in revising state court rules and drafting legislation to reform court debt practices
- Principal researcher and drafter of two policy reports, listed under "publications," above.

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Div., Special Litigation Section, Washington DC
Trial Attorney (Attorney General's Honors Program), 2013 – 2018

- Oversaw implementation of consent decree in *U.S. v. Ferguson*, including redrafting of municipal court polices and Ferguson Police Department's use of force policies
- Served as a lead attorney for Department's investigation into the Chicago Police Department's pattern and practice of Fourth Amendment and other constitutional violations
- Handled all aspects of investigation, litigation, and enforcement in complex systemic reform litigation, specializing in cases addressing the conduct of law enforcement agencies and the conditions of state and local correctional facilities
- Wrote and argued motions, led status conferences, managed discovery, negotiated settlements, and coordinated community outreach regarding ongoing litigation
- Co-wrote national guidance for law enforcement officials regarding gender-biased policing and wrote amicus briefs on several policy and legal matters
- Managed section's legal intern program, including creating trainings for interns, supervising research and writing projects, and providing feedback

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Washington, DC
Law Clerk for Magistrate Judge John M. Facciola, 2012 – 2013

SELECTED NATIONAL MEDIA

Law & Democracy Podcast, The Ohio State University Mortiz College of Law, S2, E8: From the Election Law Trenches (March 2, 2026).

KCUR Up to Date, *How Kansas and Missouri Drivers Can Avoid Privacy Violations During Police Stops*, KCUR.ORG (Dec. 8, 2024).

Mitch Smith, *Kansas Troopers 'Waged War on Motorists,' Federal Judge Finds*, NYTIMES.COM (July 21, 2023).

Tobi Raji, *Troopers detained a Black man. He exposed their unconstitutional conduct.*, WASH. POST (July 22, 2023).

John Hanna, *Kansas' attorney general wants to keep trans people from intervening in his lawsuit over state IDs*, WASH. POST (July 20, 2023).

NPR Morning Edition, *The first post-Roe vote on abortion rights will be held in Kansas on Aug. 2,* NAT'L PUB. RADIO (July 18, 2022).

Abigail Censky and Katarina Sostaric, *Republicans are changing state laws to try to get out of federal vaccine mandates*, NAT'L PUB. RADIO (Nov. 22, 2021).

Carrie Johnson, *Biden Ended Contracts with Private Prisons. So One May Turn to House Immigrants*, NPR.ORG (Sept. 15, 2021).

NPR All Things Considered, *The DOJ Faces Pressure to Close a Prison Which May Dodge Executive Order to Close*, NAT'L PUB. RADIO (Sept. 10, 2021).

Roxanna Hegeman, *Uber Eats tackles app profile issue that outs trans drivers*, ASSOC. PRESS (June 22, 2021).

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Webb Hecker Teaching Fellowship Award, University of Kansas School of Law (2026 – present)

Immel Award for Teaching Excellence, University of Kansas School of Law (2026)

> *Awarded by the faculty to a faculty member who is "outstanding in the teaching of their students to be responsible citizens in their communities as well as fine lawyers."*

Recognized by the Kansas Bar Association as a "Legal Pioneer" for women in law (2025)

Letter of Commendation from Attorney General Loretta Lynch for extraordinary mentorship of new attorneys (2016)

Assistant Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award, U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division (2016)

Special Commendation, U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division (2015)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-Secretary, American Association of Law Schools (AALS) Federal Courts Section (2026 – present)

Organizer and Host, Fifteenth Annual Federal Courts Junior Scholars Workshop (2026)

Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Legal Notice by Publication, Kansas Judicial Council (2026-present)

Planning Committee, Kansas Women's Attorney Association Annual Conference (2023-2024)

Board Member (2020-2021) and Board President (2021-2022), Kansas Holistic Defenders

BAR ADMISSIONS

State Bar Admissions:

- Kansas (2020)
- New York (2013)

Federal Court Admissions:

- United States Supreme Court (2025)
- Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals (2020)
- U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas (2020)
- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (2013)