

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
 Social Justice Lawyering

Service: 1L Cohort Faculty Advisor (2024 – present)
 Professional Identity Formation Course Faculty (2024-2025)
 Speakers Committee (2024 – present)
 American Constitution Society Faculty Advisor (2024 – present)

Adjunct Professor (2020-2024)

Courses: Social Justice Lawyering

University of Kansas School of Public Affairs and Administration

Adjunct Professor (Spring 2021)

Course: Law, Courts, and Public Policy

Harvard Law School

Co-Lecturer (2018-2019)

Course: Topics in Policy Reform: Race and Poverty in the Criminal Justice System

EDUCATION

University of Michigan Law School, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2012

Certificate of Merit (highest grade in course) in Habeas Corpus (Spring 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

University Honors, 2002, 2003 – 2004, 2004 – 2005, Fall 2005

Semester Abroad, Universidad de Valencia, Spain, Spring 2004

PUBLICATIONS

Academic articles and essays:

The Police Misconduct Class Action (work in progress)

Gang Litigation (work in progress)

Standing in the Dark, forthcoming in 51 B.Y.U. L. REV. ____ (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](#) (Apr. 2020).

“No Contact” Parole Restrictions: Unconstitutional and Counterproductive, 18 MICH. J. GENDER & L. 485 (2011).

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

Gang Litigation (work in progress)

- Presenter, Law of the Police Conference, University of South Carolina School of Law (June 2025, Columbia, SC)

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

- Selected Presenter, Federal Courts Junior Scholars Conference, Cornell Law School (forthcoming April 2025)
- Presenter, Northeastern University School of Law Junior Scholars Conference (February 2025, Boston, MA)
- Selected Presenter, New Voices in Civil Rights, AALS Civil Rights Section, AALS Conference (January 2025, San Francisco, CA)
- Selected Presenter, ABA/AALS Criminal Justice Section Works in Progress Virtual Conference (December 2024, online)

Invited Keynote, *Resilience and Resistance*, Kansas Board of Indigent Defense Services' Annual Conference (forthcoming 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, Philadelphia, PA)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OTHER PRESENTATIONS, TRAININGS, & CLES

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

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

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, Topeka, KS).

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

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

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

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

Invited Presenter, *The Constitution and COVID-19*, Robert J. Dole Institute at University of Kansas (September 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, Montgomery, AL).

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

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

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).

Guest lecturer, University of Michigan Law School, *Policing and Public Safety* (Nov. 2015, Ann Arbor, MI)

Guest Lecturer, Harvard College, *Anthropology 1683: The City Jail* (Oct. 2018, Cambridge, MA).

Invited Presenter, *Current and Emerging Issues: Policing and Homelessness*, National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Annual Conference (Nov. 2015, Riverside, CA).

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

- Led research and technical assistance projects reforming state processes for imposing and collecting court debt, including fines, fees, surcharges, and restitution

- Directed the Iowa Judicial Branch Criminal Justice Debt Initiative, a committee of judges and state court administrators tasked with developing changes to state court rules and drafting legislation to reform the state's court debt practices
- Principal researcher and drafter of two policy reports, *Proportionate Financial Sanctions: Policy Prescriptions for Judicial Reform* and *Paying on Probation: How Financial Sanctions Intersect With Probation to Target, Trap, and Punish People Who Cannot Pay*

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 policies 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

Assisted with legal research, drafting of memoranda and opinions, and preparing for settlement conferences and mediations.

The Vera Institute of Justice, Washington, DC

Program Analyst, December 2007 – May 2009

Researched and drafted federal standards for the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003; researched and drafted a chapter of the Commission's final report; provided technical assistance to a NY State task force on the state's juvenile justice system.

SELECTED NATIONAL MEDIA

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 AND SERVICE

Nominated as a "Legal Pioneer" for the 2025 Kansas Bar Association's Women in Law Exhibit

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

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

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)

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)

