

Cynthia M. Godsoe
Brooklyn Law School
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL

Brooklyn, NY

2013-current Professor of Law

Courses: Criminal Law, Family Law, Children and the Law, Sex Crimes (seminar), Public Interest
Lawyering: Theory and Practice, Legal Profession (professional responsibility)

Service: Appointments Committee (2013-15, 2019-20, 2021-22); Edward V. Sparer Public Interest
Committee (2007-current; Co-Director beginning Spring 2020); Workshops Committee (2015-
2019); Long Range Planning Committee (2012-13, 2017-18); Curriculum Committee (2012-
current); Advisor to Moot Court Honor Society (2012-16); Professional Development Committee
(2010-15); Advisor to pro bono Suspension Representation Project (2008-current), Clerkship
Committee (2007-09, 2011-12)

2007-12 Instructor of Law

Courses: Fundamentals of Law Practice; Fundamentals of Legal Drafting

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

New York, NY

Spring 2022 Visiting Professor of Law

Fall 2020

Spring 2019 Taught Family Law and, in 2022, criminal law. Supervised students on independent studies.

Spring 2020 Participated as a faculty advisor to the Public Interest Public Service Fellowship.

EDUCATION

1995 - 98 **HARVARD LAW SCHOOL**, J.D., *cum laude*

Cambridge, MA

Honors Hewlett Law and Negotiation Research Fellowship
Honorary Irving Kaufman Fellowship for Public Interest

Activities *Harvard Women's Law Journal*: Articles Editor
Board of Student Advisers (student teacher selected through competitive process)
Battered Women's Advocacy Project: Court Director & Advocate
Court Appointed Special Advocate: Guardian ad Litem for Foster Children
Children and Family Rights Project: Board Member

1997 - 98 **BOALT HALL SCHOOL OF LAW, U.C. BERKELEY**

Berkeley, CA

Visiting Student. *Berkeley Women's Law Journal*: Recent Developments Contributor

1989 - 93 **HARVARD UNIVERSITY**, A.B. Social Studies, *magna cum laude with distinction*

Cambridge, MA

Honors Thomas T. Hoopes Prize for excellence in undergraduate work (awarded *summa cum laude* on
thesis about women in the French Resistance during World War II based on archival
research).

Phi Beta Kappa; Harvard College Scholarship; Agassiz Award for academic achievement;
Center for European Studies Research Grant for senior thesis research.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS-IN-PROGRESS**Articles**

- Cynthia Godsoe, *Disrupting Carceral Logic in Family Policing*, 121 Mich. L. Rev. (forthcoming Apr. 2023) (reviewing Dorothy Roberts, *Torn Apart* (2022))
- *The Place of the Prosecutor in Abolitionist Praxis*, 69 UCLA L. REV. 164 (2022)
- *#MeToo and the Myth of the Juvenile Sex Offender*, 17 OHIO ST. J. CRIM. L. 335 (2020)
- *Redrawing the Boundaries of Relational Crime*, 69 ALA. L. REV. 169 (2017)
- *Recasting Vagueness: The Case of Teen Sex Statutes*, 74 WASH. & LEE L. REV. 173 (2017)
- *Adopting the Gay Family*, 90 TUL. L. REV. 311 (2015)
- *Punishment as Protection*, 52 HOUSTON L. REV. 1313 (2015)
- *Parsing Parenthood*, 17 LEWIS & CLARK L. REV. 113 (2013)
- *All in the Family: Towards A New Representational Model for Parents and Children*, 24 GEO. J. LEGAL ETHICS 303 (2011).
- *Caught Between Two Systems: How Exceptional Children in Out-of-Home Care Are Denied Equality in Education*, 19 YALE L. & POL'Y REV. 81 (2000).

Law Review Online Essays

- *Perfect Plaintiffs*, 125 YALE L. J. FORUM 136 (2015)
- *Marriage Equality and the New Maternalism*, 6 CAL L. REV. CIRCUIT 145 (2015)

Books, Book Chapters & Symposia Contributions

- Caitlyn Garcia & Cynthia Godsoe, *Divest, Invest, and Mutual Aid*, 12 COLUM. J. RACE & L. (forthcoming 2022).
- Cynthia Godsoe, *The Victim/Offender Overlap & Criminal System Reform*, 87 BROOK. L. REV. 1319 (2022)
 - Cynthia Godsoe, Abbe Smith & Ellen Yaroshefsky, *Can You Be A Legal Ethics Scholar and Have Guts?*, 35 GEO. J. LEGAL ETHICS 429 (2022)
 - *Rewritten Supreme Court opinion in Sessions v. Morales-Santana*, 582 U.S. ___ (2017), in FEMINIST JUDGEMENTS: FAMILY LAW OPINIONS REWRITTEN (Rachel Rebouche ed., Cambridge Univ. Press (2020))
 - (Book Chapter) *Parental Love and Purposeful Violence*, THE POLITICIZATION OF SAFETY (Jane Stoeber ed., NYU Press 2018)
 - *Participatory Defense: Humanizing the Accused & Ceding Control to the Client*, 69 MERCER L. REV. 715 (2018) (symposium on disruptive innovations in criminal defense)
 - *Redefining Parental Rights: The Case of Corporal Punishment*, 32 CONSTIT. COMM. 281 (2017)
 - (Book Chapter) A rewrite of the Supreme Court opinion in *Michael M. v. Sonoma Cty*, 450 U.S. 464 (1981) (statutory rape) in FEMINIST JUDGEMENTS: REWRITTEN OPINIONS OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT (Kathryn M. Stanchi, Linda L. Berger and Bridget J. Crawford eds., (Cambridge Univ. Press 2016))
 - *Contempt, Status and The Criminalization of Non-Conforming Girls*, 35 CARDOZO L. REV. 1091 (2014)
 - *Permanency Puzzle*, 2013 MICH. STATE L. REV. 1113 (2013)
 - *Just Intervention: Differential Response in Child Protection*, 21 J.L. & POL'Y 73 (2012)
 - *Introduction, Adolescents in Society: Their Evolving Legal Status*, 20 J.L. & POL'Y 1 (2012)

Works-in-Progress

- *An Abolitionist Horizon for Child Welfare*
- *Non-Criminal Harms & Offenses*
- *Disentangling Exploitation and Morality*

OPINION PIECES & MEDIA

- Quoted in Christina Carrega, *Framed Brooklyn Man Wants Judge to Vacate \$40G Child Support Bill*, NY DAILY NEWS (Feb. 12, 2018)
- KGO 810: [The Chip Franklin Show: Too drunk to consent?](#) (June 19, 2017) (interviewed on radio show about rape allegations on TV reality show “The Bachelor”)
- Quoted in Ginia Bellafante, [Getting Rid of Bail Is Only the Start](#), NY TIMES (June 1, 2017)
- Quoted in *Your 5 Most Common Questions About Alcohol and Consent – Answered*, www.everydayfeminism.com (May 2016)
- Letter to the Editor, NY TIMES (Dec. 10, 2015) (calling for better treatment of non-violent juvenile offenders)
- Quoted in Joanna Rothkopf, *Comedian Avenges Sidewalk Assault by Launching Social Media Campaign Against Popular Brooklyn Bar*, JEZEBEL (Nov. 3, 2015)
- Panelist on HUFFINGTON POST LIVE, [Setting The Record Straight On Marital Rape](#) (August 3, 2015)
- Quoted in [Why 20 States Treat Raping Your Wife as a Lesser Crime](#), TPM (July 30, 2015)
- Quoted in *Challenges Continue for Both Defense and Prosecution in Gurley Case: Questions About NYPD Policy May Factor into Legal Arguments*, BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE (Feb. 25, 2015)
- Quoted in [Pregnant Women Rarely Face Charges for Drug Use](#), MCALL (Jan. 24, 2015)
- Quoted in [Trek Leather Increases Threat of Corporate Officer Liability](#), INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER (Dec. 4, 2014)
- Interviewed on NY1 television station regarding the Eric Garner grand jury (Dec. 3, 2014)
- Quoted in [School District: Student Is Partly to Blame for Sex with Teacher](#), TIME MAGAZINE (Nov. 14, 2014)
- Quoted in [Dispute Over Judges Leaves Family Courts in Limbo](#) NY TIMES (June 15, 2014)
- Quoted in [Reduced Charge for Boy in Fatal Bronx Stabbing](#), NY TIMES (June 30, 2014) & [Lawyer Says Boy in Killing May Go Before Grand Jury](#) (June 24, 2014)
- *Give Restitution to Victims of Child Pornography, But Also Recognize All Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation*, HUFF POST., Jan. 28, 2014.
- *Good Enough to Parent But Not to Marry*, HUFF POST, June 24, 2013.
- *Wedding off, who keeps the ring?*, BROOKLYN EAGLE, Apr. 29, 2013.
- *Debate Continues: Are Parents Accountable for Injuries Caused By Their Children*, BROOKLYN EAGLE, Dec. 19, 2012.
- *Blame Poverty, Not Parents*, NAT'L L. J., May 17, 2012.
- Guest blogger, PRAWFSBLAWG, August 2012, June 2013.
- *Age Matters*, NAT'L L.J., Apr. 4, 2011.
- *Restoring Families*, NAT'L L.J., May 31, 2010.
- *Finally, a Safe Harbor for Exploited Youth*, NAT'L L.J., Nov. 10, 2008.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Panelist, *Rape Law in the Era of #metoo*, sponsored by the Section on Criminal Justice (AALS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, January 2019)
- Panelist, *Parents' and Children's Rights in a Post-Obergefell World* for the AALS Section on Family and Juvenile Law (AALS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, January 2019)
- Co-Organizer, Criminal Justice Ethics Schmooze (Brooklyn Law School, June 2018)
 - Presented a work-in-progress, *Client Dignity & Defense*
- *Non-Criminal Harms & Offenses* at the following places:

- Law and Society Annual Meeting (Toronto, June 2018)
- NYC Family Law Colloquium (Cardozo Law School, March 2018)
- Crimfest Criminal Law Conference, Cardozo Law School (July 2018)
- *Parental Love and Purposeful Violence* (selected from a competitive call for papers) at The Politicization of Safety Conference, UC Irvine Law School (April 2017). As noted above, my piece will be included in a volume of works from the conference, published by NYU Press (forthcoming 2018)
- *Disentangling Exploitation and Morality* at the following places:
 - SEALS, Workshop on Family Law (August 2017)
 - Junior Scholars Criminal Justice Roundtable (Brooklyn Law School & St. Johns Law School, July 2017)
 - Law and Society Annual Meeting (Mexico City, June 2017)
 - Family Law Scholars and Teachers Annual Meeting (Fordham Law School, June 2017)
- *Redrawing the Boundaries of Relational Crime* at the following places:
 - American Constitution Society Junior Scholars Public Law Workshop (January 2017) (selected through a call for papers)
 - Invited faculty workshop at Chapman University Law School (March 2017)
 - Crimfest Criminal Law Conference, Cardozo Law School (July 2016)
 - Law and Society Annual Meeting (June 2016)
 - Family Law Scholars and Teachers Annual Meeting (June 2016)
 - Harry Krause Emerging Family Law Scholars Workshop at the University of Illinois Law School (May 2016) (selected through a call for papers)
- *Participatory Defense: Humanizing the Accused & Ceding Control to the Client*, at SEALS, Criminal Justice Workshop (August 2017)
- *The Perils of "Doing God's Work": Prosecutors and Child Abuse Cases*, Criminal Justice Ethics Schmooze at New York Law School (June 2017)
- Reading of book contribution to the FEMINIST JUDGMENTS PROJECT, New York University (December 2016)
- *Balancing Client Dignity and Mitigation in Juvenile Defense* (work-in-progress) Criminal Justice Ethics Schmooze at Cardozo Law School (June 2016)
- Moderator, a panel on ethics in the representation of children and youth for PLI's Children and the Law Institute (July 2016)
- *Vulnerable Offenders: Girls in the Juvenile Justice System*, Workshop on Children, Vulnerability and Resilience at Emory Law School (December 2015)
- Panelist, *After Obergefell: The Next Steps on the Path to Equality* (Brooklyn Law School, November 2015)
- *Recasting Vagueness: The Case of Teen Sex Statutes*, Faculty Workshop (Hofstra Law School, October 2015)
- *Recasting Vagueness: The Case of Teen Sex Statutes*, SEALS Junior Scholars Workshop (Boca Raton Florida, August 2015)
- *Recasting Vagueness: The Case of Teen Sex Statutes*, 2015 Crimfest (Cardozo Law School, July 2015)
- *Victims and Offenders in Intimate Crimes*, AALS Mid-year Meeting on Shifting Foundations in Family Law (June 2015)
- *Victims and Offenders in Intimate Crimes*, Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference (Florida A & M School of Law, June 2015)
- *Recasting Vagueness: The Case of Teen Sex Statutes*, AALS Mid-year Meeting on Next Generation Issues in Sex, Gender and the Law (June 2015)
- Chair and Discussant, *Roundtable on Governance Feminism*, LSA Annual Meeting (May 2015)

- Panelist, *Forum on Race & Policing Post-Ferguson*, (Brooklyn Law School, January 2015)
- Panelist, *Conflicts of Interest*, 18th Judicial Conference of the United States Court of International Trade (Dec. 2014)
- *Victims and Offenders in Intimate Crimes*, 2014 Crimfest (Rutgers Newark, July 2014)
- *Adopting the Gay Family*, AALS Mid-Year Meeting on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (June 2014)
- *Adopting the Gay Family*, Fordham Junior Faculty Colloquium (May 2014)
- Organizer and Chair, *Youth & Gun Violence*, AALS Annual Meeting (Jan 2014)
- *Bias in Administering the Family*, State of the Family 2013 Symposium, University of Richmond School of Law, Richmond, VA (September 2013)
- Practicing Law Institute (PLI), 16th Annual Children's Law Institute, Panelist on The Rights of Adolescents (July 2013)
- *Punishment as Protection*, 2013 Law and Society Annual Meeting, (May 2013)
- *Administering the Family Making and Teaching Real Family Law Conference*, (University of Wisconsin Law School, April 2013)
- *Permanency Puzzle* Michigan State School of Law, Symposium on, In Search of Equality in Family Law, (April 2013)
- Co-Chair, Symposium on *Reforming Child Protection Law: A Public Health Approach*, Brooklyn Law School (April 2012)
- AALS Annual Meeting, *Punishment as Protection* (January 2012)
- Columbia Law School, 17th Annual Paul Robeson Conference, *Realizing Justice: Incarceration, Advocacy and the Consequences of the Juvenile Justice System*, Panelist (April 2011)
- William and Mary School of Law, Family/Children & Law Junior Faculty Workshop, *All in the Family: Towards A New Representational Model for Parents and Children* (July 2010)

CLERKSHIP

1998 – 99 **U. S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y., HON. R. EDWARD KORMAN** **Brooklyn, NY**
Judicial Clerk.

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

2006 - 07 **CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER** **New York, NY**
Appellate Attorney. Wrote and argued appeals for children clients on custody/visitation, paternity and domestic violence issues.

2004-06 **ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK, INC.** **New York, NY**
Impact Litigation Attorney. Litigated impact cases on education and juvenile justice issues, including two federal class actions of children illegally discharged or excluded from schools. Provided technical assistance and training to attorneys and other advocates on juvenile justice, reentry and special education.

1999-01 **JUVENILE RIGHTS DIVISION, LEGAL AID SOCIETY** **New York, NY**
Staff Attorney & Skadden Fellow, Special Litigation and Law Reform Unit & Brooklyn & Bronx offices. Represented children and youth in delinquency and abuse/neglect trials. Litigated impact cases in federal court and did state legislative advocacy relating to juvenile justice and foster care reform. Testified before NYC City Council on juvenile justice policies.

1999-00 **CHILD CARE LAW CENTER,** **San Francisco, CA**
 Developed family violence project and represented parents in subsidized child care hearings and welfare impact litigation.

1997 **HELLER EHRMAN WHITE & MCAULIFFE** **San Francisco, CA**
Summer Associate. Researched and wrote memos on topics including banking law and prison conditions. Drafted civil rights pleadings.

1996 - 1998 **PUBLIC INTEREST INTERNSHIPS**

Legal Services for Children (San Francisco, CA); National Center for Youth Law (San Francisco, CA); Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (San Francisco, CA); Boston Child Care Alliance (Boston, MA); Crown Attorney's Office of Ontario (criminal prosecution) (Toronto, Canada); Lawyers for Children (New York City, NY).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Chair**, American Association of Law Schools (AALS) Section on Criminal Justice (current)
- **Reporter**, American Bar Association Committee Drafting Standards on Victims (current)
- **Chair**, AALS Section on Family and Juvenile Law (2019); **Executive Committee Member** (2014-current)
- **Chair**, AALS Section on Children and the Law (2014); **Executive Committee Member** (2012-current)
- **Board Member**, EDNY Civil Litigation Fund (2012-current) (court fund to administer funds for depositions, experts etc. to pro bono attorneys in the EDNY)
- **Board Member**, GEMS (serves commercially sexually exploited girls and young women) (2011-2019)
- **Mentor**, Harvard's Center for Public Interest Careers (2010-current)
- **Signatory**, Brief of Amici Curiae of Law Professors in a case on the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) (U.S. District Court, District of Colorado, Dec. 2018)
- **Signatory**, Comment by Family Law Scholars and Teachers in Response to Proposed Rulemaking: Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds (DHS) (Dec. 2018)
- **Signatory**, Open Letter to the United States Senate from Law Professors Around the Country (regarding judicial temperament and the Kavanaugh confirmation hearing) (Oct. 2018)
- **Signatory**, Open Letter from Lawyers to Members of Congress and the American People (urging Congress to protect the Mueller investigation from Presidential interference and to uphold the rule of law) (Nov. 2018)
- **Signatory**, Letter in Opposition to the Confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh by Law Professors with "significant experience teaching, research, and writing about issues of gender violence" (Sept. 2018)
- **Signatory**, Letter in Opposition to the Confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh by Law Professors Concerned About Reproductive Rights and Justice (July 2018)
- **Signatory**, Letter of Family Law & Human Rights Law Scholars to AG Sessions Regarding His Decision in Matter of AB, advocating that he reaffirm domestic violence as a basis for refugee status (July 2018)
- **Signatory**, Letter of Family Law Scholars in Opposition to Trump's Family Separation Policy (June 2018)
- **Signatory**, Brief of Amici Curiae of Ethics and Criminal Justice Scholars in Comm. for Public Counsel Services v. Attorney-General of Massachusetts in the Mass. SJC on ethics and prosecutorial misconduct (Apr. 2018).
- **Signatory**, Brief of Amici Curiae of Family Law Professors in an Appeal to the Second Circuit regarding the marital presumption (Sept. 2017)
- **Signatory**, Merit Brief of Amicus Curiae The Human Trafficking Pro Bono Legal Center to the Ohio Supreme Court regarding trafficked minors and state Safe Harbor Laws (Sept. 2017)
- **Signatory**, Letter of Legal Ethics Professors to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary re the Nomination of Jeff Sessions as Attorney General (2017)

- **Signatory**, Amicus Briefs of Family Law Professors in two state high court cases, *Conover v. Conover* (Maryland LGBT parentage case); *Brooke B. v. Elizabeth C.* (New York LGBT parentage case)
- **Chair**, Feminist Legal Theory Critical Research Network (CRN) for the 2015 LSA Annual Meeting
- **Signatory**, Amicus Brief of family law scholars in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (U.S. Supreme Court marriage equality case) (March 2015)
- **Chair**, Juvenile Justice Committee of the New York City Bar Association (2008-11)
- **Court Appointed Next Friend/Guardian ad Litem** for minor plaintiff in class action lawsuit on behalf of foster children in psychiatric facilities, *A.M. v. Mattingly*, CV-10-2181 (E.D.N.Y.) (2010-12)
- **Court Appointed Next Friend/Guardian ad Litem** for minor plaintiff in class action lawsuit on behalf of developmentally disabled foster children, *City v. Maul*, Index 400207/04 (N.Y. State Ct.) (2007-11)
- **Board Member**, Brooklyn Autism Center (2007-2011)
- **Member**, Education Committee of the New York City Bar Association (2003-06)
- **Member**, New York and California bars. Admitted to practice before the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.