

JOCELYN SIMONSON

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Brooklyn Law School

<i>Herman Badillo '54 Professor of Law</i>	2025 – present
<i>Professor of Law</i>	2020 – present
<i>Co-Director, Center for Criminal Justice</i>	2016 – present
<i>Associate Dean for Research & Scholarship</i>	2022 – 2025
<i>Assistant & Associate Professor of Law</i>	2015 – 2020

Columbia Law School

<i>Visiting Professor of Law</i>	Spring 2021
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Harvard Law School

<i>Visiting Associate Professor of Law</i>	Fall 2019
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New York University School of Law

<i>Acting Assistant Professor of Lawyering</i>	2012 – 2015
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PUBLICATIONS

Book

[RADICAL ACTS OF JUSTICE: HOW ORDINARY PEOPLE ARE DISMANTLING MASS INCARCERATION](#) (The New Press 2023)

- Shortlisted for the 2024 Goddard Riverside Stephan Russo Book Prize for Social Justice
- Excerpted in [the Nation](#), [Hammer & Hope](#), & [Inquest](#)
- Symposia/review essays in [Inquest](#), [Jotwell](#), the [Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought](#), the [Law and Political Economy Blog](#), & [n+1](#) magazine

Law Review Articles & Essays

The Movement Necessity Defense, 68 BOSTON COLLEGE LAW REVIEW __ (forthcoming 2027)

Law and the Anti-State State, 104 WASH. U. LAW REVIEW __ (forthcoming 2027) (symposium essay)

Movement Law and the State, 111 MINNESOTA LAW REVIEW __ (forthcoming 2027) (symposium keynote essay) (w/Amna Akbar & Sameer Ashar)

A Tale of Two RICOs: Collective Criminality in the Fight to Stop Cop City, 76 BUFFALO LAW REVIEW (forthcoming 2026) (w/Zohra Ahmed)

The Part IV Problem in Legal Scholarship, 126 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW FORUM 104 (2026) (w/Sabeel Rahman)

Expanding Sources of Knowledge in Legal Scholarship, 92 U. CHICAGO LAW REVIEW 351 (2026) (symposium essay) (w/Adam Davidson)

Abolition, Expertise, and the Law, 105 BOSTON U. LAW REVIEW 1175 (2025) (symposium essay)

The Idea and the Practice of Prison Abolition, 19 CRIMINAL LAW & PHILOSOPHY 451 (2024) (book review)

Police Reform Through a Power Lens, 130 YALE LAW JOURNAL 778 (2021)

Movement Law, 73 STANFORD LAW REVIEW 821 (2021) (w/Amna Akbar & Sameer Ashar)

The Institutional Design of Community Control, 108 CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 679 (2020) (w/Sabeel Rahman)

The Place of “the People” in Criminal Procedure, 119 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW 249 (2019)

Bail Nullification, 115 MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW 585 (2017)

- Selected as “Must Read” article by NACDL Getting Scholarship Into Courts Project
- Discussed in the *Atlantic*, *New Yorker*, *Pacific Standard*, *Ringer*, *Associated Press*, & more

Democratizing Criminal Justice through Contestation and Resistance, 111 NORTHWESTERN U. LAW REVIEW 1609 (2017) (symposium essay)

Beyond Body Cameras: Defending a Robust Right to Record the Police, 104 GEORGETOWN LAW JOURNAL 1559 (2016) (symposium essay)

- Cited in *Nieves v. Bartlett*, 587 U.S. 391, 429 (2019) (Sotomayor, J., dissenting)

Copwatching, 104 CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 391 (2016)

- Quoted in *Fields v. City of Philadelphia*, 862 F.3d 353 (3rd Cir. 2017)

The Criminal Court Audience in a Post-Trial World, 127 HARVARD LAW REVIEW 2173 (2014)

- Cited in *Weaver v. Massachusetts*, 582 U.S. 286, 298 (2017)

Thinking Like a Public Interest Lawyer: Theory, Practice, and Pedagogy, 34 N.Y.U. REVIEW OF LAW & SOCIAL CHANGE 455 (2010) (with Nisha Agarwal)

Rethinking “Rational Discrimination” Against Ex-Offenders, 13 GEORGETOWN JOURNAL ON POVERTY LAW & POLICY 283 (2006)

Breaking the Silence: Legal Scholarship as Social Change, 41 HARVARD CIVIL RIGHTS-CIVIL LIBERTIES LAW REVIEW 289 (2006) (symposium introduction as a student editor)

Selected Blog Posts

Blurring the Line Between Public Health & Public Safety, Bill of Health blog (Aug. 5, 2021)

Law and Political Economy blog posts (selected):

- *Beyond Feasibility in Legal Scholarship*, LPE Blog (Jan. 21, 2026) (w/Sabeel Rahman)
- *Movement Law Under Fascism*, LPE Blog (Oct. 15, 2025) (w/Amna Akbar & Sameer Ashar)
- *The Academy and the (Undoing of) the Carceral State*, LPE Blog (Oct. 14, 2020) (w/Shawn Ossei-Owusu)

- *What Comes After Money Bail? An LPE Perspective on Pretrial Detention*, LPE Blog (Feb. 10, 2020)
- *Movement Visions for a Renewed Left Legalism & Movement Visions for a Renewed Left Politics*, LPE Blog (Mar. 4 & 5, 2019) (w/Amna Akbar & Sameer Ashar)
- *Rethinking Criminal Law*, LPE Blog (Oct. 24, 2018) (w/Amna Akbar)

Popular Writing

Bail Funds are Essential to Democracy. A Georgia Bill Threatens to Stifle Them., TIME (Feb. 27, 2024) (w/John Legend)

Forget Trump, the Latest Georgia RICO Case is a Disaster for Civil Liberties, SLATE (Sept. 7, 2023)

The Details of the Atlanta Bail Fund Arrest Are More Horrific Than First Described, SLATE (June 1, 2023)

Tracy McCarter and the “Interests of Justice,” N.Y. LAW JOURNAL (Sept. 11, 2022)

What Movements Do to Law, BOSTON REVIEW (May 2022) (w/Amna Akbar & Sameer Ashar)

“They Are Throwing New Yorkers Into Cages on Rikers Island in Our Name!” THE NATION (Oct. 11, 2021)

The Power of Community Bail Funds, NEW YORK TIMES (Aug. 23, 2020) (w/ Mary Hooks)

The Bail Fund Moment, N + 1 (June 22, 2020)

Power Over Policing, BOSTON REVIEW (June 8, 2020)

The Danger of “Dangerousness,” N.Y. DAILY NEWS (March 10, 2020)

Don't let fear mongering sabotage criminal justice reforms, ALBANY TIMES UNION (Feb. 19, 2020) (w/Lauryl Gouldin & Elizabeth Nevins)

Discovery reform will bring true justice without threatening safety, N.Y. DAILY NEWS (Dec. 11, 2019)

Kamala Harris Says her Campaign is “For the People,” THE NATION (Feb. 5, 2019)

In the Name of Public Safety, BOSTON REVIEW (Oct. 2, 2018)

#SwipeItForward & the Decriminalization of Farebeating in New York City, IN JUSTICE TODAY / THE APPEAL (Aug. 30, 2017)

What is Community Justice?, N + 1 (July 2017)

Bail keeps these moms in jail on Mother’s Day, so strangers are posting it for them, WASHINGTON POST (May 12, 2017)

Why the Ferguson Consent Decree Matters for the First Amendment, JURIST (Mar. 29, 2016)

Let Citizens Film the Police, SALON (Apr. 16, 2015)

LAW SCHOOL TEACHING

Courses: Criminal Law; Evidence; Criminal Procedure (Investigations & Adjudication);
Seminars: Abolition; Contesting the Carceral State; Criminal Justice?: Making a Murderer

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, 2006
Editor-in-Chief, *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*
Irving Oberman Memorial Writing Prize in Law and Social Change

Yale College, B.A. in Sociology, *magna cum laude*, 2001
Thesis: *Juvenile Injustice: Racial Disparities in America's Juvenile Justice System*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Bronx Defenders
Supervising Attorney & Team Leader 2010 – 2012
Staff Attorney 2007 – 2010

Hon. Barrington D. Parker, Jr., U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
Judicial Clerk 2006 – 2007

Center for Court Innovation
Planner, Red Hook Community Justice Center 2001 – 2003

LAW SCHOOL & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Brooklyn Law School, Selected Committee Work:

- Center for Criminal Justice (2015-present) (Chair & Co-Director of the Center)
- Faculty Advisor, Journal of Law & Policy (2022-present)
- Public Safety Committee (2020-2022); Appointments Committee (2017-2019); Diversity Committee (2015-2018, 2020-present); Long Range Planning Committee (2016-17) (elected position); Strategic Planning Committee (2024-2025), Status Committee (2025-present)

Professional Service & Activities:

- Advisory Board, Community Justice Exchange, 2018-present
- Advisory Board, Institute to End Mass Incarceration at Harvard Law School, 2021-present
- Advisory Board, Appalachian Justice Research Center at University of Tennessee, 2024-present
- Academic Advisory Board, Supreme Court Fellows Program, 2017-2018
- Member, American Law Institute, 2025-present

BAR ADMISSION

New York (since 2007)