

Zohra Ahmed

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Georgia School of Law

6/2021

Assistant Professor of Law

- Teaching criminal law, criminal procedure and a seminar on the carceral state

Cornell Law School

Clinical Teaching Fellow, Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide

6/2018- 5/2021

- Co-taught and co-supervised law students in the International Human Rights Clinic.
- Represented capital defendants in the United States and Tanzania.
- Oversaw United Nations advocacy on behalf of an organization in the Occupied Syrian Golan.
- Co-taught and co-developed a seminar entitled Struggles for Liberation and Equality: Human Rights in the 21st Century and a course entitled Racism and the Law.
- Participated in bi-lingual training for capital defenders in Anglophone and Francophone SubSaharan Africa.

Award: Anne Lukingbeal Award for Service to Women Students in 2020.

WRITING

Scholarship

Self Determination Inside Out (in progress).

The Right to Counsel in a Neoliberal Age, 69 UCLA Law Review __ (forthcoming).

[The Sanctuary of Prosecutorial Nullification](#), 83 Alb. L. Rev. 239 (2020).

[Youth at the Nexus: Ideology in HIV Prevention](#), Nairobi, Kenya, SEX EDUCATION 11(2) (2011) (peer reviewed).

Book Reviews

[Pressing Charges](#), review of [Crook County: Racism and Injustice in America's Largest Criminal Court](#), 26 NEW LABOR FORUM 109 (2017).

Selected Briefs

[Petition on Behalf of Lisa Montgomery to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights](#) (co-author and co-counsel) (requesting precautionary measures to prevent the execution of Lisa Montgomery, a survivor of sexual assault and the only woman on federal death row).

[Brief of Amicus Curiae the Legal Aid Society and seven other amici on behalf of Appellant, Vargas v. City of New York](#) (primary author and co-counsel) (demonstrating the illegality of NYPD's transit recidivist database and the harms its use inflicts on Black and Latinx New Yorkers).

Brief of Amicus Curiae mental health professionals on behalf of Appellant, *Silverstein v. Fed. Bureau of Prisons*, 559 F. App'x 739 (10th Cir. 2014) (student co-author) (outlining the impact of 30 years of solitary confinement on an individual's mental health).

Selected Advocacy Reports

Court Watch NYC, [Same Game, Different Rules: Lessons From the First 100 Days of New York's Bail Reform](#) (July 2020) (consultant) (documenting the implementation of New York State's short lived bail reform).

Court Watch NYC, [Broken Promises: A CWNYPC Response to Drug Policing and Prosecution in New York City](#) (Oct. 2018) (co-designed and co-authored) (documenting drug prosecutions in New York City arraignments).

5 Boro Defenders, [A Guide to Electing a Brooklyn District Attorney](#) (Aug. 2017) (co-designed and co-authored) (comparing DA candidates' commitments to ending mass incarceration).

EDUCATION

Fordham University School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2013

Honors: Dean's List (2011-2013), Ruth Whitehead Whaley Scholar, Stein Scholar for the Public Interest, New York Women's Bar Association Foundation Fellow, Crowley Scholar, Moot Court Associate Editor

University of Cambridge, MPhil in Social Anthropology, high pass, 2010

University of Pennsylvania, B.A., *cum laude*, 2008

Major in Anthropology (Distinction) and minor in Economics

Honors: Dean's List, Ruth Marcus Kanter College Alumni Society Undergraduate Research Grant, Civic House Public Interest Award, Penn Institute for Urban Research Grant

PRESENTATIONS & PANELS

Self Determination Inside Out, Global Scholars Academy, Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School (upcoming, Aug. 2021)(accepted after competitive application)

Training Anti-Racist Advocates at How Can WE Achieve Racial Justice?, Cornell University Reunion 20201 (June 12, 2021).

The Right to Counsel in a Neoliberal Age

- University of Connecticut School of Law Faculty Workshop (Nov. 19, 2020);
- Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College Faculty Workshop (Nov. 5, 2020);
- University of South Carolina School of Law Faculty Workshop (Oct. 12, 2020);
- Clinical Law Review Workshop (Sept. 21, 2019);
- Cornell Law School Faculty Workshop (July 17, 2019).

The Sanctuary of Prosecutorial Nullification, Seton Hall Law School Faculty Workshop (Feb. 2, 2020).

How Can You be a Feminist and Represent a Rapist? Cornell Law School (Feb. 26, 2020).

Storytelling in Individual Cases, Who, How, and Why Do We Execute? Regional Convening on the Death Penalty in South Asia and the Middle East, Kathmandu, Nepal (Oct. 27, 2019).

Is “Progressive Prosecution” an Oxymoron?, Cornell Law School (Oct. 7, 2019).

Abolishing the War on Terror, Prison Abolition, Human Rights, and Penal Reform, The University of Texas at Austin (Sept. 27, 2019).

Interviewing a Client and Cross Examination, Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide Makwanyane Institute (July, 2019).

Moving Beyond the War on Drugs: Mass Incarceration Today, Cornell Law School (March 4, 2019).

U.S. Deployment of the Consent Exception as a Justification for Drone Strikes in Pakistan, IntLawGrrls! 10th Birthday Conference, Dean Rusk International Law Center, University of Georgia School of Law (March 3, 2017).

Coming Back to Anthropology through the Law, invited address to the Department of Anthropology Graduation Ceremony, University of Pennsylvania (May 12, 2013).

Documenting Obama's Wars: A Roundtable Discussion, event hosted by the Center for Constitutional Rights (Dec. 6, 2012).

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Criminal Defense Practice, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY 2/2014-5/2018
Staff Attorney

- Represented indigent clients in misdemeanor and felony cases, including homicides, from arraignment to trial or plea in New York State Supreme Court and New York City Criminal Court.
- Developed trial and mitigation strategy, engaged in motion practice, consulted experts, conducted investigations, performed legal research and negotiated pleas.
- Lead counsel in five trials.

American Civil Liberties Union, New York, NY Summer 2012
Intern

- Researched Article III standing for Supreme Court brief filed in *Clapper v. Amnesty International* and supervisory and municipal liability for NYPD surveillance of Muslim community.

Center for Constitutional Rights, New York, NY Summer 2011
Ella Baker Fellow

- Researched the legality of the CIA's drone program in Pakistan.

AGHS Legal Aid Cell, Lahore, Pakistan

11/2008- 6/2009

Intern

- Documented persecution of religious minorities for the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief, Asma Jahangir.
- Conducted intake for female inmates in prisons.

ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE

Community Justice Exchange/National Bail Fund Network

4/2020-present

Strategic Advisor

- Provide technical expertise and strategic consultation on local and national campaigns to end incarceration, supervision, and surveillance.

Court Watch NYC

12/2017- 7/2020

Co-founder & Collective member

- Designed, launched, and managed community court watching program in New York City.
- Created and led training for volunteers.
- Mobilized watchers in public campaigns to hold elected prosecutors accountable to their promises and community demands.

Languages: French (native), Urdu (native), Mandarin (proficient)