

MELISSA MORTAZAVI

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law
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EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), Berkeley, CA.
J.D., 2005.

- American Jurisprudence Award, Legal Ethics
- Notes & Comments Editor, *California Law Review*
- Allen F. Broussard Fellowship
- FLAS Fellowship (Farsi)

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

B.A., Government & Theatre, 2001.

- *Magna cum laude*; Distinction in All Subjects
 - Phi Beta Kappa
 - Conger Wood Fellowship
 - Cornell Alumni Scholarship; Cornell Ambassador
 - Senior thesis: *The Promise and Limits of Political Quotas*
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PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

Setting the Table: What Food Litigation Tells Us About the Function of Tort Law (In Progress).

A Road Less Traveled: Alternatives to Tort in Legal Malpractice, HOFSTRA L. REV. (Forthcoming 2015) (Lawyers as Targets Symposium).

The Cost of Avoidance: Pluralism, Neutrality, and the Foundations of Modern Legal Ethics, 42 FLA. ST. U. L. REV. ____ (Forthcoming 2015).

Consuming Identities: Law, School Meals and What it Means to Be American, 24 CORNELL J. OF L. & PUB. POLICY, (Forthcoming 2014).

Lawyers Not Widgets: Why Private-Sector Attorneys Must Unionize to Save the Legal Profession, 96 MINN. L. REV. 1482 (2012).

Are Food Subsidies Making our Kids Fat? Tensions Between the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act and the Farm Bill, 68 WASH. & LEE L. REV. 1699 (2011).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, NY

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, 2012-Present

Courses: Torts, The Legal Profession, Professional Responsibility, Independent Research Advisor

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, New York, NY

General Commercial Litigation Associate, 2007-2011

- Founding Member of Sustainable Resource and Energy Management Group. Engaged in all aspects of commercial litigation, arbitration, and investigations in federal and state courts. Principal cases involved products liability, Food and Drug law, energy, and securities investigation
- Challenged the detention of Guantanamo detainees in motions and submissions to district, appellate and Supreme Court. Briefed significant voting rights actions in the 2008 election.
- Legal Aid Society of New York Pro Bono Award 2007 & 2008, Litigation Mentorship Chair (Gold Group), Pro Bono Committee, Diversity Committee

Judge Beverly B. Martin, United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta, GA
Law clerk, 2006–07.

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, New York, NY
Summer Associate, Summer 2004

- Prepared expert witness statements
- Researched and drafted portions of a death penalty certiorari petition

Thompson & Stedler, Berkeley, CA
Law Clerk, Summer 2003

- Analyzed *Furman* narrowing standards as applied to capital defendants
- Drafted habeas briefing regarding ineffective assistance of counsel claims
- Collected mitigation evidence through direct client interviews

Prof. Steven Shatz, University of San Francisco Law School
Research Assistant, Summer 2003

- Created and analyzed data set of murder cases challenging California’s death penalty statute
- Results published in: Steven F. Shatz & Terry Dalton, *Challenging the Death Penalty With Statistics: Furman, McCleskey, and a Single County Case Study*, 34 Card. L. 1227(2013); Steven F. Shatz, *The Eighth Amendment, the Death Penalty and Ordinary Robbery-Burglary Murders: A California Case Study*, 59 Fl. L. Rev. 719 (2007)

Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, CA
Special Education Teacher, 2002

- Substitute taught classrooms of 10-16 elementary aged special needs children

Cornell University (CAU), Ithaca, NY
Instructor, Summer 2001

- Taught introductory textual analysis and acting technique to incoming freshmen
- Developed original teaching materials

PRESENTATIONS

“Setting the Table: What Food Litigation Tells Us About the Function of Tort Law,” Kansas University Law School Faculty Workshop (September 2014).

“Institutional Actors and Protecting Clients in a Post-Monopoly World,” International Legal Ethics Conference VI (July 2014).

“The Cost of Avoidance: Pluralism, Neutrality, and the Foundations of Modern Legal Ethics,” New York Legal Ethics Scholars Roundtable (March 2014).

“Workshop for Law Professors on Risk, Injury, and Liability Insurance,” Law and Economics Center of George Mason Law School (January 2014) (participant).

“Innovations in Teaching Food Law and Policy,” AALS Annual Meeting (January 2014) (participant).

“The Cost of Avoidance: Pluralism, Neutrality, and the Foundations of Modern Legal Ethics,” Brooklyn Law School Faculty Workshop (September 2013).

“Topics in Food Justice,” West Coast Law and Society Retreat (September 2013).

“Coding and Decoding Legal Ethics,” Berkeley Law Boot Camp (August 2013).

“The Revolution Will Not Be Codified,” Brooklyn Law School Junior Faculty Workshop (July 2013).

“Consuming Identities: School Meals, Law, and What it Means to be American.” Brooklyn Law School Junior Faculty Workshop (January 2013).

“Lawyers Not Widgets: Why Firm Attorneys Must Unionize to Save the Legal Profession,” International Legal Ethics Conference V (July 2012).

“Ethics in the Private Sector and the Potential Solution of Unionization,” Kansas University Law School Faculty Workshop (December 2011).

“Antitrust: A Primer for Private Sector Litigants,” CLE Presentation with Molly Boast to New York and New Jersey Lawyers (May 2009).

BAR ADMISSIONS

California Bar.

New York Bar.

United States District Court of Southern District of New York.

United States District Court of Eastern District of New York.

REFERENCES

Professor Herma Hill Kay, Barbara Nachtrieb Armstrong Professor of Law
Berkeley Law School
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Professor Nelson Tebbe, Professor of Law
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Berkeley Law
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University of Kansas, Law School
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University of Akron, Law School
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The Honorable Beverly B. Martin, 11th Circuit Court of Appeals
Tel: (404) 335-6630
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