

CURRICULUM VITAE

HEATHER R. ABRAHAM (she/her)

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EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center

Master of Laws in Advocacy (LL.M.), *with distinction*, 2020

Clinical Graduate Teaching Fellowship (Civil Rights Clinic & Voting Rights Institute)

University of Minnesota Law School

Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, 2012

- University of Minnesota Law Review, Articles Submission Editor, Lead Managing Editor.
- Awards: Leonard, Street & Deinard Award for Outstanding Board Publication, Dr. Matthew Stark Civil Rights & Civil Liberties Award, Human Rights Law Award, Robina Public Policy Fellowship, Equal Justice America Fellowship

University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Master of Public Policy, 2012

- Coursework concentration in housing policy and community development
- Thesis: *Mothering While Homeless: A Qualitative Analysis of Access to Child Services by Young Mothers in Hennepin County, Minnesota*

Kalamazoo College

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Urban Public Policy concentration, *magna cum laude*, 2005

- Thesis: *Talk Doesn't Harvest Rice: A Handbook on Living* (book manuscript on strategies for engaging youth in community building)
- Awards: James & Rosalynn Carter Center Award (for volunteer work as student director of the AMIGOS migrant youth mentorship program), AmeriCorps Community Impact Award, Babette Trader Campus Citizenship & Leadership Award, Beaumont Scholarship for Humanitarian Concern, Benjamin Gilman Congressional Scholarship, awarded for study abroad (Thailand), Romance Language Award – Spanish Department, Eugene P. Stermer Award for Public Administration (Political Science), Phi Beta Kappa, “Most Outstanding Senior” Award (peer-elected)

PUBLICATIONS

Law Review Articles & Essays

Sheltering Discrimination: Fourth Amendment Challenges to Source-of-Income Fair Housing Laws (work in progress) (2026).

[*Agencies “Shall Cooperate”:* A Blueprint for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing](#), 57 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO LAW REVIEW 469–505 (2024) (article selected for inclusion in the ZONING AND PLANNING LAW HANDBOOK by Thomson Reuters).

[*Appraisal Discrimination: Five Lessons for Litigators*](#), 76 SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 205–61 (2023).

[*Segregation Autopilot: How the Government Perpetuates Segregation and How to Stop It*](#), 107 IOWA LAW REVIEW 1963–2025 (2022).

[*Just a “Planning Rule”: Enforcing the Duty to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing*](#) (lead author), with Jason Knight, Russell Weaver, and Christopher Holtkamp, 31 JOURNAL OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LAW 203–25 (2022) (article selected for inclusion in the ZONING AND PLANNING LAW HANDBOOK by Thomson Reuters).

[*“Don’t Blame Stokeley Carmichael”: The Need for Federal Fair Housing Leadership*](#), 29 JOURNAL OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LAW 555–66 (2021).

[*Fair Housing’s Third Act: American Tragedy or Triumph?*](#), 39 YALE L. & POL’Y REV. 1–81 (2021).

[*Legitimate Absenteeism: The Unconstitutionality of the Caucus Attendance Requirement*](#), 95 MINN. L. REV. 1003–33 (2011) (student note).

Refereed Articles

Middle States Geographer Series (co-authored series on fair housing in Erie County, NY):

[*Persistent Impediments and the Geography of “Affirmatively Furthering” Fair Housing: The Case of Erie County, NY*](#), with Jason Knight (lead author), Christopher Holtkamp, and Russell Weaver, 55 MIDDLE STATES GEOGRAPHER 55–66 (2023).

[*Regionalization and Access to Fair Housing in Erie County, NY*](#), with Christopher Holtkamp (lead author), Jason Knight, and Russell Weaver, 55 MIDDLE STATES GEOGRAPHER 67–77 (2023).

[*On Fragmentation, Boundary Problems, and Movement Toward a Regional Fair Housing Regime in Erie County, NY*](#), with Russell Weaver (lead author), Christopher Holtkamp, and Jason Knight, 55 MIDDLE STATES GEOGRAPHER 78–91 (2023).

Other Media

[*New York’s Unregulated Litigation Lending Industry*](#), with Maura Graham (research assistant), NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION JOURNAL (November/December 2023) (state bar journal).

[*Realizing the Promise of the Fair Housing Act*](#), EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS BLOG (April 5, 2023) (blog).

[*How to Fix the Over-Sealing of Federal Court Records*](#), with Jonathan Manes & Alex Abdo, JUST SECURITY (Oct. 21, 2021) (blog).

CLINICAL LEGAL PRACTICE & SUPERVISION

State University of New York at Buffalo Law School - Civil Rights & Housing Clinic (formerly the Civil Rights & Transparency Clinic from 2020-2025).

Associate Professor of Law and Clinic Director, Sept. 2020–present

- Litigation & Supervision: Supervise 10–12 student attorneys on pro-bono docket of civil rights and civil liberties cases, including fair housing, employment discrimination, LGBTQIA+ rights, New York Voting Rights Act, administrative law, First Amendment, police misconduct, Section 1983, and legislative advocacy projects.
- Teaching: Design curriculum and teach twice-weekly clinic seminar spanning doctrinal and litigation skills topics, including client counseling, legal writing, ethics, and trauma-informed lawyering; doctrinal law in civil rights, civil liberties, and landlord-tenant law.
- Docket Overview: Our clinic has represented a total of over 500 unique clients in over 250 litigation and non-litigation advocacy matters since my tenure began in 2020.
- Civil rights impact litigation docket: Represented 26 unique clients in 20 litigation and non-litigation advocacy matters; briefed, argued, and unanimously prevailed in appellate fair housing case, reversing the lower court on a matter of statutory interpretation of the NY Human Rights Law; filed a federal fair housing complaint against one of the region’s largest landlords, resulting in a mediated settlement and collaborative working relationship with landlord; settled several fair housing cases involving source of income discrimination and advised and represented clients facing other forms of discrimination in housing; drafted and filed public comments to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding proposed fair housing regulations.
- Government transparency and freedom of information docket: Provided full representation to clients in 30 litigation matters, gave advice and counsel to 60 unique clients in 74 government transparency matters, and filed amicus curiae briefs in 3 matters for 33 total clients since commencing the docket in 2020.
- Gender Equity Initiative: Advised or represented more than 40 clients in a variety of gender equity matters, including transgender client legal name changes, Title IX matters, and economic security and debt relief matters. In recognition of our work on our gender equity docket, we were awarded an additional, unsolicited grant of \$60,000 in 2025.
- Eviction Prevention: Represented over 390 clients (including all adults and children in household) in approximately 150 eviction cases, and provided short-term legal advice to dozens of additional clients through a housing helpline telephone service, preventing eviction for at least 73 households since establishing this docket in June 2023.

Georgetown University Law Center - Civil Rights Clinic & Voting Rights Institute, Clinical Graduate Teaching Fellowship

Teaching Fellow and Supervising Attorney, July 2018–July 2020

- Teaching: Redesigned curriculum for litigation skills seminar; prepared lesson plans and taught weekly seminar on topics ranging from negotiations to taking depositions.
- Litigation & Supervision: Supervised a dozen student attorneys on full-time basis on docket of federal civil rights cases and legislative policy projects.
- Pedagogical Coursework: Actively participated in year-long teaching methods course on adaptive supervision strategies and providing effective student feedback.

LEGAL PRACTICE

State University of New York at Buffalo Law School - Civil Rights & Housing Clinic
Clinic Director, August 2020–present

Georgetown University Law Center - Civil Rights Clinic & Voting Rights Institute
Supervising Attorney, July 2018–July 2020

Legal Services of Northern Michigan
Equal Justice Works Fellow, Housing Division, 2016–2018

Awarded the Robert Griffin Award by the Michigan State Courts for founding the Community Outreach Court of the 86th District Court of Michigan.

Federal Judicial Clerkships

The Honorable Richard A. Griffin, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
Judicial Clerk, 2014–2016

The Honorable Robert J. Jonker, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan
Judicial Clerk, 2013–2014

The Honorable Gordon J. Quist, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan
Judicial Clerk, 2012–2013

Institute on Race and Poverty (renamed the Institute for Metropolitan Opportunity)
Research Assistant to Professor Myron Orfield, University of Minnesota, 2012

U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota, U.S. Department of Justice
Legal Intern, Spring 2011

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
Policy Fellow, Summer 2011

Minneapolis Legal Aid Society
Law Clerk, Housing Division, Fall 2010–Spring 2011

Federal Election Commission - Office of General Counsel
Law Clerk, Summer 2010

Legal Services of South Central Michigan (“Family Law Project”)
Law Clerk, Domestic Violence Division, Summer 2009

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar
Legislative Aide; Legislative Correspondent; Supervisor of Internship Program, 2007–2008

Amy Klobuchar for U.S. Senate Campaign
Regional Field Organizer, 2006

U.S. Peace Corps - Guatemala - Municipal Government Development Program
Peace Corps Volunteer, 2005–2006

SELECT PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Board of Directors, Neighborhood Legal Services, Board Member, July 2025–present
Affordable Housing Task Force, City of Buffalo Common Council, February 2023–2025
Bar Association of Erie County, Human Rights Committee, 2021–present, Co-chair, 2022–2025
Volunteer Lawyers Project, Eviction Defense Attorney of the Morning, 2021–2023
Equal Justice Works Alumni Advisory Committee, Committee Member, 2021–present, Outreach
Committee Chair, 2023–present
AALS-Clinical, Membership, Outreach & Training Committee, Committee Member, 2019–2021,
and Co-Chair, 2021–present
Racial Justice Committee, Association of American Law Schools (AALS), Clinical Legal Education
Section, Member, 2021–2022
Clinicians Crews (AALS Clinical Section), Program Organizer, 2021–present
African American Health Equity Task Force, Committee Member, 2020–present
New York State Bar Association, Civil Rights Committee, Committee Member, 2020–2021
Community Outreach Court, 86th District Court Michigan, Steering Committee Member, 2016–2018
State Bar of Michigan, Access to Justice Policy Committee, Committee Member, 2013–2018
State Bar of Michigan, Twenty-First Century Practice Task Force, Member, 2015–2016

SELECT UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Diversity, Equity and Belonging Committee (Law School), 2023–present
Pro Bono Scholars Committee (Law School), 2025–present
Mitchell Lecture Committee (Law School), 2024–2025
Orientation and Commencement Committee (Law School), 2022–2025
Career Services Committee (Law School), 2022–2023

SELECT COMMUNITY SERVICE

Friends of Night People, Dinner Service Volunteer, January 2024–present
National Portrait Gallery, Volunteer Docent, 2019–2020
Justice for Our Neighbors (immigration legal services), Board Member, Fundraising Chair, 2014–2018
Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter & Interfaith Network, Evening and Overnight Shelter Host, 2013–2018
Habitat for Humanity, Habitat Young Professionals, Steering Committee Member, 2012–2014
Kalamazoo College Pre-Law Society, Alumni Mentor and Externship Host, 2013–present
AMIGOS Mentoring Program, Student Director & Mentor, 2002–2005

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association of American Law Schools, Member 2020–present
Clinical Legal Education Association, Member, 2020–present
New York State Bar Association, Member, 2020–present
Bar Association of Erie County, Member, 2020–present

LAW SCHOOL COURSES

Civil Rights & Housing Clinic & Seminar, 2025–present
Civil Rights & Transparency Clinic & Seminar, 2020–2025
Housing Law & Policy, 2026 (scheduled)

GRANT AWARDS

Current

Western New York – Eviction Prevention Program – New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

- \$164,609 annual grant (variable annual amount between approximately \$150,000-200,000)
- Awarded as subgrantee of Neighborhood Legal Services to support eviction prevention legal services, including eviction defense in housing court
- Third year – renewed annually at fiscal year since 2022
- Role on Grant: Administrator, non-PI (under Law School practice, Vice Dean for Experiential Education serves as PI)

Past Awards

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

- \$60,000 unrestricted general-purpose grant (variable annual amount) (2025)
- Awarded as unsolicited annual donation after successful completion of competitive grant process in 2022 to support gender equity civil rights legal work
- Past awards: \$50,000 (2022), \$25,000 (2024)
- Role on Grant: Administrator, non-PI

The Legal Clinic Fund for Local News

- \$450,000 (2019-2022) with additional \$225,000 (two-year renewal) (2022-2024)
- Administered by fiscal sponsor, The Miami Foundation, with the support of the following private foundations: Democracy Fund, the Klarman Family Foundation, Solidarity Giving
- \$60,000 annual grant (variable annual amount) (2025)
- Awarded to support legal services for government transparency and local journalism
- Original three-year grant was secured by preceding clinical director but managed by me beginning in mid-2020 and successfully renewed in 2022
- Role on Grant: Administrator, non-PI

PRESENTATIONS & TRAININGS

Source of Income Discrimination (Legal Updates), Keynote Speaker, Lakeshore Friends of Fair Housing – 19th Annual Conference, Fair Housing Center of West Michigan, October 2025.

Source of Income Discrimination Law: Legal Developments and New Challenges, Presenter, University of Illinois Chicago Annual Fair Housing Conference, September 2025.

Recent Changes in Federal Housing Policy, National Fair Housing Month Presentation, Presenter, Human Rights Committee, Bar Association of Erie County, April 2025.

Trends in Fair Housing, National Fair Housing Month Presentation, Presenter, Human Rights Committee, Bar Association of Erie County, April 2024.

Segregated by Design, Guest Lecturer, Irus Braverman Property Law Class, University at Buffalo School of Law, April 2024.

Agencies “Shall Cooperate”: A Government Blueprint for Tackling Housing Segregation, University of Illinois Chicago Law Review Symposium, Presenter, September 2023.

Panel Discussion: The New HUD Rule [Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing], University of Illinois Chicago Law Review Symposium, Panel Moderator, September 2023.

Frontiers in Fair Housing, National Fair Housing Month Presentation, Presenter, Human Rights Committee, Bar Association of Erie County, April 2023.

How to Find and Finance a Career in Public Interest, Presenter, University at Buffalo School of Law Office of Admissions, March 2023, recording and blog available at www.law.buffalo.edu/blog/Public-Interest-Law.html.

Civil Rights & Transparency Clinic: Advancing Diversity, Equity & Inclusion through Student Advocacy, Presenter, Dean's Advisory Council Meeting, March 2023.

Frontiers in Fair Housing, Presenter with Stephen M. Dane, Civil Rights Étouffée, Federal Bar Association, Civil Rights Law Section, February 2023.

Risk and Racial Bias: Workshop on Improving Minority and Low-Income Homeownership Experiences, Presenter, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, October 2022.

Affordable Housing Cohort Breakout Discussion, Facilitator, Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Training, October 2022.

How White Faculty Can Support Faculty of Color, Facilitator, Association of American Law Schools, Conference on Clinical Legal Education, May 2022.

Assessing the Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, Presenter, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, February 2022.

New Voices in Poverty Law, Presenter, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, January 2022.

Oral Testimony, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Listening Session, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, November 2021.

The Harder We Run: The State of Black Buffalo in 1990 to the Present, Panelist, Buffalo Center for Health Equity and University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning, October 2021.

What Comes Next?: Teaching in a Law School Clinic, Presenter, Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Training, October 2021.

Oral Testimony, Academics Panel, Invited Panelist, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, New York Advisory Committee, Public Hearings on Potential Racial Discrimination in Residential Rental Eviction Policies and Enforcement, June 2021.

Works in Progress Panel, Presenter, Association of American Law Schools, Conference on Clinical Legal Education, May 2021.

Fair Housing: A Legal Primer and Update in Buffalo and the Nation, Human Rights Committee, Bar Association of Erie County, April 2021.

Progressive Scholarship Workshop, Featured Presenter, Yale Law School, March 2021.

It Takes a Bar Association, Featured Presenter, Federal Practice Committee, Bar Association of Erie County, March 2021.

Creating New Paths for Fair Housing Services, Panelist, Fair Housing for Our Future: Law & Litigation Conference, February 2021.

New Voices in Administrative Law & Legislation, Presenter, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, January 2021.

Lawyering for Social Justice, Featured Podcast Guest, Law Talk Podcast, Lawyering for Social Justice Series, University of Minnesota Law School, February 2021.

What Comes Next?: Teaching in a Law School Clinic, Presenter, Equal Justice Works Leadership Development Training, October 2020.

Victories Won & Battles to Come: The State of Civil Rights Today, Panelist, University at Buffalo School of Law American Constitution Society, August 2020.

New Voices in Civil Rights, Presenter, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, January 2020.

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, Guest Lecturer, Fair Housing Clinic, Howard University School of Law, October 2019.

Access to Justice in U.S. Civil Rights Law, U.S. Department of State, International Visitor Leadership Program, June 2019.

Opening Remarks and Facilitation, First Annual Homeless Courts Forum, Ann Arbor, Michigan for the Michigan State Trial Courts, April 2017.

“Street Law” Program, Joshua Veith’s Civics Class, Traverse City High School, 2017–2018.

How the Eviction Diversion Program Benefits Landlords & Tenants, Rental Property Owners Association of West Michigan, April 2017.

Community Outreach Court Service Provider Training, Monthly, 2017–2018.

Expungement Clinic: Pro Bono Training & Clinic Facilitation, June & November 2017.

Landlord-Tenant Law: Eviction Defense Pro Bono Training (multiple), Spring 2018.

Local Services for Incarcerated Persons and Their Families, Panelist, Before During After Incarceration (BDAI) Forum, October 2016.

Remarks on Rural Homelessness, Equal Justice Works Annual Dinner, October 2016.

SELECT AWARDS & HONORS

Jacob D. Hyman Professor of the Year Award, 2023

“Change Now!” Award, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, 60th Anniversary Gala, 2023

STATE BAR ADMISSIONS

New York, 2020

District of Columbia, 2019

Michigan, 2012

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish (professional working proficiency)