

Alexandra Harrington

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EDUCATION

Yale Law School, New Haven, CT J.D., 2014

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN B.A., 2009
summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Honors in the College of Arts and Science

PROFESSIONAL AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University at Buffalo School of Law, Buffalo, NY Fall 2020-present
Associate Professor of Law
Director, Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic
Director, Innocence & Justice Project

Supervise students representing incarcerated clients in second-look proceedings, including resentencing applications, parole hearings, clemency petitions, and parole and resentencing appeals. Supervise students advocating for statewide criminal system reforms. Meet weekly with student attorney teams, in addition to twice-a-semester individual meetings, to provide feedback and guidance. Review all student work product and offer detailed commentary on drafts. Lead clinic seminar that teaches substantive lawyering skills, strategic analysis of clinic work, and critical thinking about historical and contemporary failures and promise of criminal legal system. Manage clinic administration and funding. Outside of clinic, teach seminar, *Criminal Law: Sentencing & Prisons* on state and federal sentencing practice and possibilities for reform.

Yale Law School, New Haven, CT 2018-2020
The Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law
Senior Liman Fellow in Residence

Supervised students researching and advocating for reforms to solitary confinement, women’s experience in prison, state habeas corpus, and other issues. Co-produced reports that provide nationwide data on the use of solitary confinement in U.S. prisons. Collaborated on testimony to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights regarding women in prison. Co-taught the Liman workshop, a weekly seminar class on *Poverty and the Courts* (2019) and *The Criminal System at a Crossroads* (2020). Planned and led conference for undergraduate Liman Summer Fellows, and helped shape annual Colloquium.

Lecturer in Law, Tutor in Legal Studies

Liman Workshop	Spring 2019, Spring 2020
Introduction to Legal Analysis and Writing	Fall 2018, Fall 2019
Samuel Jacobs Criminal Justice Clinic	Spring 2019
Media Freedom & Information Access Clinic	Spring 2020

Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services

Connecticut Innocence Project / Post-Conviction Unit, Rocky Hill, CT

2014-2018

Yale Public Interest Fellow, Deputy Assistant Public Defender

Miller-Graham coordination: Developed and coordinated Division's efforts to apply recent Supreme Court decisions to remedy state's practice of imposing lengthy prison terms on children. Trained and provided resources to attorneys representing clients serving long sentences for crimes committed as juveniles. Managed Division's oversight and appointment of counsel in newly created juvenile parole hearings. Drafted parole guide for attorneys. Created materials and orientation program for juvenile parole applicants.

Individual representation: Represented clients in habeas corpus proceedings, appeals, parole hearings, and on motions to correct an illegal sentence. Obtained early parole release for clients who served decades in prison for crimes committed as teenagers. Argued case before Connecticut Supreme Court advocating for resentencing of juveniles sentenced as adults. Litigated habeas trials, including case with actual innocence claim. Second-chaired felony trials from investigation through jury selection, motions, and plea negotiations.

Quinnipiac University School of Law, North Haven, CT

Spring 2016

Adjunct Professor

Habeas Corpus

Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project, New Haven, CT

Supervising Attorney

2014-16

Oversaw Yale Law School students in successful representation of Iraqi refugee applying for resettlement to United States via P-2 and SIV programs.

TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS

Clinical Teaching

Criminal Law, Sentencing, Parole, Second-Look, Prisoners' Rights, Prison & Post-Conviction Litigation, Juvenile Justice, Access to Justice

Doctrinal & Research

Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Constitutional Law, Sentencing, Parole, Prisoners' Rights, Juvenile Justice, Access to Justice

PUBLICATIONS

Second Look Myopia: State Sentencing Reform and the Local Prosecutorial Response, 114 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 827 (2025)

Racially Disparate and Disproportionate Punishment of Felony Murder: Evidence from New York, 110 IOWA L. REV. 1055 (2025) (with Guyora Binder)

The Constitutionalization of Parole: Fulfilling the Promise of Meaningful Review, 106 CORNELL LAW REVIEW 1173-1254 (2021)

COVID and Prisons: Grappling with the Effects of the Pandemic on Incarceration, The Baldy Center Blog, May 11, 2021

TIME-IN-CELL 2019: A SNAPSHOT OF RESTRICTIVE HOUSING BASED ON A NATIONWIDE SURVEY OF U.S. PRISON SYSTEMS 1-149 (September 2020) (with Correctional Leaders Association and Liman Center for Public Interest Law at Yale Law School)

REFORMING RESTRICTIVE HOUSING: THE 2018 ASCA-LIMAN NATIONWIDE SURVEY OF TIME-IN-CELL 1-195 (October 2018) (with Judith Resnik, Anna VanCleave, Kristen Bell, Greg Conyers, Catherine McCarthy, Jenny Tumas & Annie Wang)

I'M GOING TO MOVE FORWARD: STORIES OF CHANGE FROM MEN IMPRISONED AS CHILDREN IN CONNECTICUT 1-38 (May 2013) (with Gillian Quandt)

YOUTH MATTERS: A SECOND LOOK FOR CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN SERVING LONG PRISON SENTENCES 1-42 (March 2013) (with Civil Justice Clinic, Quinnipiac University School of Law & Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, Yale Law School)

SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS

People v. K.B., 81 Misc.3d 1224(A) (N.Y. Co. Ct. 2023)

Under the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, reducing from ten years to five years the sentence for Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic client over opposition from District Attorney's Office. Rejecting "transactional" analysis and adopting "full picture" approach to resentencing.

State v. Belcher, 2022 WL 2000040 (Conn. Jan 21, 2022)

Groundbreaking case litigated and briefed while at Connecticut Public Defender's Office. Holding that defendant convicted of crimes that occurred when he was 14 must be resentenced where initial sentence improperly relied on "superpredator" theory. Recognizing theory's material falsehood, harms, and racial undertones.

People v. S.M., 150 N.Y.S.3d 562 (N.Y. Co. Ct. 2021)

Granting resentencing to Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic client. One of the first cases to recognize that the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act applies to people currently on parole or post-release supervision. Adopting clinic's argument that "strict constraints of post-release supervision can mimic...abusive relationships...".

Martinez Brooks v. Easter, 459 F.Supp.3d 411 (D. Conn 2020) (co-counsel)

Issuing temporary restraining order in class action proceeding that alleged Eighth Amendment violations for failure to adequately protect individuals incarcerated in federal facility during COVID-19 pandemic. Ordering expedited consideration for home confinement, which resulted in review for hundreds of individuals and early release of several dozen people.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

When the Record Is Wrong: Revisiting the Crime in the Context of a Second Look May 2025
University at Buffalo School of Law Faculty Workshop

<i>When the Record Is Wrong: Revisiting the Crime in the Context of a Second Look</i> Works in Progress, 2025 Clinical AALS Conference	Apr. 2025
<i>The Central Park Five: Panel</i> University at Buffalo School of Law (panelist)	Aug. 2024
<i>Navigating Backlash & Geographic Disparities: Inter-clinic and Interdisciplinary Efforts to Implement Sentencing Reform in New York State</i> , AALS Clinical Legal Education Conference (with Carmen Cong)	May 2024
<i>Statewide Sentencing Reform in New York and the Local Prosecutorial Response</i> Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology Symposium, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law	Feb. 2024
<i>Racial Disparity and Disproportionate Punishment in Felony Murder Law: Evidence from New York</i> , University at Buffalo School of Law Faculty Workshop (with Guyora Binder)	Jan. 2024
<i>The Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act</i> , NYSBA Annual Meeting 2024 Criminal Justice Section (with Sheila DiTullio & Risa Gerson)	Jan. 2024
<i>Bail Reform in New York State</i> , Fredonia University (panelist)	Apr. 2023
<i>Race, the Supreme Court, and Police Power</i> , University at Buffalo School of Law Spring 2023 Mitchell Lecture (discussant)	Apr. 2023
<i>Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act</i> , NYSDA Criminal & Family Defense Update (trainer)	Oct. 2022
<i>Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act</i> , Assigned Counsel Program of Erie County (trainer)	Sept. 2022
<i>Longer Sentences Won't Create More Safety: Confronting Extreme Sentences</i> , NACDL State Criminal Justice Network Conference (panelist)	Aug. 2022
<i>Clinic Advocacy During and Post COVID: Collaboration Across Clinics</i> , AALS Clinical Legal Education Conference (with Betsy Ginsberg, Marisol Orihuela & Sarah Russell)	May 2022
<i>What Comes Next? Law Schools, Centers, Fellowships, and Funding: A Critical Assessment in Complex Times</i> , Liman Center for Public Interest Law at 25 LSO & YLS's Clinical Program at 50, Yale Law School (panelist)	Apr. 2022
<i>Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act</i> , Pearls of Wisdom: 30 Years of UB Law Clinics Confronting Family Violence in Western New York and Beyond, UB Law School (panelist)	Apr. 2022
<i>Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act</i> , Project Mona's House All Hands Meeting	Feb. 2022
<i>Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act</i> , Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP	May 2021
<i>The Racial and Economic Underpinnings—and Impact—of Mass Incarceration</i> ,	Nov. 2020

University at Buffalo School of Law (moderator)	
<i>The Constitutionalization of Parole: Fulfilling the Promise of Meaningful Review</i> , Progressive Scholarship Workshop, Yale Law School	Fall 2019
<i>The Constitutionalization of Parole: Fulfilling the Promise of Meaningful Review</i> , Clinical Law Review Clinical Writer's Workshop	Sept. 2019
<i>The Constitutionalization of Parole: Fulfilling the Promise of Meaningful Review</i> , Works in Progress, 2019 Clinical AALS Conference	May 2019
<i>Solitary Confinement Circa 2018: A National Picture on the Number of People in Isolation in US Prisons</i> , Yale Law School (panelist)	Oct. 2018
<i>Restrictive Housing</i> , Association of State Correctional Leaders Annual Conf.	2018, 2019, 2020

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Law School Committees and Service

Member, Committee on Committees	2025-2026
Member, Academic Standards and Standing Committees	2025-2026
Member, Law School Mitchell Lecture Committee	2021-2023; 2025-2027
Member, Law Library Committee	2021-2025
Member, Academic Policy and Program Committee	2023-2024
Member, Law School Committee on Faculty-Student Engagement	2022-2023
Member, Law School Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	2021-2022
Member, Comprehensive Examination Committee, Nicole Capozziello, PhD Candidate, School of Social Work	2021-2022
Independent Study Advisor, Undergraduate Program in Law	2023

Other Professional Service

Amicus Curiae Brief of Scholars of Felony Murder and Constitutional Proportionality, <i>Sellers v. People</i> , Colorado Supreme Court (mandatory LWOP for felony murder is unconstitutionally cruel and unusual)	2023
Attorney Advisor, Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart Mock Trial Team	2022

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act Defenders Task Force	2020-present
Co-Chair; Member, Steering Committee	2022-present
Criminal Justice Reform Task Force, Minority Bar Association of WNY	2020-2023
Planning Committee, Session on Race and Criminal Justice, New York Commission on Access to Justice Law School Conference	2021
Subcommittee on Successive Petitions, Habeas Corpus Matters Task Force, Connecticut Legislature	2020

AWARDS

Liberty Bell Award from the Bar Association of Erie County, awarded to Criminal Justice Reform Task Force, Minority Bar Association of WNY	2021
Connecticut Law Tribune, New Leader in the Law	2017

MEDIA COVERAGE

Jesse McKinley and Danny Hakim, <i>His Murder Conviction Was Overturned. Why Is He Still in Prison?</i> , NEW YORK TIMES (quoted in story about wrongful conviction case out of Western New York)	Aug. 12, 2024
Michael Mroziak, <i>When the accused is just 18: How brain science complicates 'adult' criminal justice</i> , WBFO (interview)	Jul. 24, 2022
James Foreman, <i>The Superpredator Myth Did a Lot of Damage. Courts Are Beginning to See the Light.</i> , NEW YORK TIMES (guest essay about case litigated as a public defender in Connecticut)	Apr. 20, 2022
Letter to the Editor, <i>Parole Board did right in release of Gilbert</i> , THE BUFFALO NEWS	Nov. 5, 2021
University at Buffalo Law Links, <i>Clinic students speak up for the voiceless</i> (interview and story about clinic case)	Mar. 2021
Roni Caryn Rabin, <i>Vulnerable Inmates Left in Prison as Covid Rages</i> , NEW YORK TIMES (Sunday front page story about clinic case)	Feb. 27, 2021
Lisa Backus, <i>Delays in releasing inmates from Danbury prison amid pandemic, poor conditions alleged by lawyers</i> , CTINSIDER (quoted in story about clinic case)	Jan. 7, 2021
University at Buffalo School of Law Admissions Blog, <i>Making Strides for Criminal Justice Reform: An Interview with Professor Alexandra Harrington</i> (blog post/interview)	Nov. 5, 2020
Liz Lewin, <i>Patrice Smith freed after serving years in prison for murder</i> WGRZ (interview regarding DVSJA case)	Sept. 17, 2020
Gilat Melamed, <i>UB Law School works to reduce sentences of imprisoned trauma survivors, receives grant</i> , WKBW Buffalo (interview about DVSJA)	Sept. 9, 2020
University at Buffalo Law Links, <i>Grant awarded to Advocacy Institute to fund help for imprisoned DV survivors</i>	Aug. 2020

BAR ADMISSION

Connecticut	2014
New York	2020
United States District Court for the District of Connecticut	2020