

HEATHER R. ABRAHAM

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EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center

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

University of Minnesota Law School

Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, 2012

- University of Minnesota Law Review, Articles Submission Editor, Lead Managing Editor.
- 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, concentration in urban public policy, *magna cum laude*, 2005

- Thesis: *Talk Doesn’t Harvest Rice: A Handbook on Living (book manuscript)*
- James & Rosalynn Carter Center Award, awarded for my work as student director of the AMIGOS migrant youth mentoring 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 for outstanding class performance, Eugene P. Stermer Award for Public Administration (Political Science Department), Phi Beta Kappa, Peer-elected “Most Outstanding Senior”

PUBLICATIONS

Just a “Planning Rule”: Enforcing the Duty to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing, with Jason Knight, Russell Weaver, and Christopher Holtkamp, 31 J. AFFORDABLE HOUS. & COMM. DEV. L. (forthcoming 2022).

Segregation Autopilot: How the Government Perpetuates Segregation and How to Stop It, 107 IOWA L. REV. (forthcoming 2022).

How to Fix the Over-Sealing of Federal Court Records (with J. Manes & A. Abdo), JUST SECURITY (Oct. 21, 2021).

“Don’t Blame Stokely Carmichael”: The Need for Federal Fair Housing Leadership, 29 J. AFFORDABLE HOUS. & COMM. DEV. L. 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).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

State University of New York at Buffalo Law School, Civil Rights & Transparency Clinic

Associate Professor and Director of the Civil Rights & Transparency Clinic, Sept. 2020–present

- Teaching: Design curriculum and teach twice-weekly civil rights clinic seminar on topics including litigation skills, client counseling, legal writing, cultural humility, ethics, and substantive law in civil rights, civil liberties, and the First Amendment.
- Litigation & Supervision: Supervise ten student attorneys on pro-bono docket of civil rights and civil liberties cases, including housing and employment discrimination, administrative law, First Amendment, police misconduct, and legislative policy projects; supervise and co-counsel with staff attorney supported by the Clinic Legal Fund.
- Recent highlights: Submitted proposed Federal Rule of Civil Procedure on uniform court record sealing procedures to the U.S. Advisory Committee on Civil Rules (Sept. 2021), settled fair housing case involving source of income discrimination (summer 2021), advised or represented as a firm over 86 unique clients in 66 matters and 8 non-litigation clients (academic year 2020–21).

Georgetown University Law Center, Civil Rights Clinic & Voting Rights Institute

Teaching Fellow and Supervising Attorney, July 2018–July 2020

- Teaching: Prepare lesson plans and teach weekly litigation skills seminar.
- Litigation & Supervision: Supervise a dozen student attorneys on full-time basis on docket of federal civil rights cases and legislative policy projects.
- Pedagogy Coursework: Actively participate in year-long pedagogy course taught by clinical faculty, subjects ranging from effective student feedback to adaptive supervision.

LEGAL PRACTICE

Legal Services of Northern Michigan

Equal Justice Works Fellow, Housing Division, 2016–2018

- Recipient of the Michigan state judiciary's Robert Griffin Award for founding the Community Outreach Court of the 86th District Court of Michigan

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 (now 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, 2011

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

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

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

Volunteer Lawyers Project, Eviction Defense Unit, Monthly Volunteer, December 2021–present
Racial Justice Committee, Association of American Law Schools (AALS), Clinical Legal Education
Section, Member, 2021–present

Equal Justice Works Alumni Advisory Committee, Committee Member, 2021–present

Clinicians Crews (AALS-Clinical), Program Organizer and Crew Facilitator, 2021–present

New York State Bar Association, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Committee Member, 2021–present

New York State Bar Association, Legislative Policy Committee, Committee Member, 2021–present

African American Health Equity Task Force, Committee Member, 2020–present

AALS-Clinical, Membership, Outreach & Training Committee, Committee Member, 2019–2021,
and Co-Chair, 2021–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

COMMUNITY SERVICE

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

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York, 2020
District of Columbia, 2019
Michigan, 2012

PRESENTATIONS & TRAININGS

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 Class, 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.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish (professional working proficiency)