

Alexandra Harrington

507 O'Brian Hall, North Campus
Buffalo, NY 14260
716-984-2453 • aharr@buffalo.edu

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 and working on criminal system reforms. Clinic case work includes resentencing applications under the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, representing clients appearing before parole board and in parole appeals, settlement enforcement in a class action lawsuit against the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and research and policy drafting for local police oversight agencies. Meet weekly with student attorneys to provide feedback and guidance. Run clinic seminar teaching substantive lawyering skills, exploring themes of clinic work, and analyzing issues in criminal system reforms. 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 engaging in advocacy on issues including solitary confinement, the experience of women in prison, and state habeas corpus reform. Helped produce 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 seminar. Planned, led conference for undergraduate Liman Summer Fellows, and helped shape annual Colloquium.

Lecturer in Law, Tutor in Legal Studies

Liman Workshop:

The Criminal System at a Crossroads (Spring 2020);

Poverty and the Courts: Fines, Fees, Bail and Collective Redress (Spring 2019)

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 for 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 2014-16
Supervising Attorney
Oversaw Yale Law School students in successful representation of Iraqi refugee applying for resettlement to United States via P-2 and SIV programs.

Law Student Intern 2012-14

Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, New Haven, CT 2012-14
Student Director, Law Student Intern

Capital Punishment Clinic, New Haven, CT 2013-14
Law Student Intern

Capital Area Immigrants’ Rights Coalition, Washington, D.C. Summer 2013
Legal Intern

Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Los Angeles, California Summer 2012
Law Clerk – LGBTQ Access to Justice Unit

M.A. Jacobson, P.S., Inc. (Employment Rights Law), Seattle, Washington 2009-2011
Paralegal

TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS

Clinical Teaching

Criminal Law, Sentencing, Parole, 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

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

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

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

Holding that defendant convicted of crimes that occurred when he was 14 years old must be resentenced based on reliance on materially false superpredator theory. Groundbreaking case that recognized the harms and racial undertones of the theory, and that for the first time ruled that reliance on such theories could require resentencing. Client was the youngest person in Connecticut serving a life sentence. I litigated and briefed the case while at the Connecticut Public Defender's office; Attorney Michael Brown took over the reply brief and oral argument after I left the office.

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 the abusive relationships that domestic violence survivors experienced...".

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

Issuing temporary restraining order in case alleging Eighth Amendment violations for failure to adequately protect individuals incarcerated in federal facility during COVID-19 pandemic. Decision led to expedited consideration for home confinement of hundreds of individuals and release of several dozen. I was part of a team litigating the class action.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Panelist, Bail Reform in New York State, Fredonia University	Apr. 2023
Discussant, Race, the Supreme Court, and Police Power, University at Buffalo School of Law Spring 2023 Mitchell Lecture	Apr. 2023
Presenter, Training on Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, NYSDA Criminal & Family Defense Update	Oct. 2022
Presenter, Training on Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, Assigned Counsel Program of Erie County	Sept. 2022
Panelist, Longer Sentences Won't Create More Safety: Confronting Extreme Sentences, NACDL State Criminal Justice Network Conference	Aug. 2022
Presenter, Clinic Advocacy During and Post COVID: Collaboration Across Clinics, AALS Clinical Legal Education Conference	May 2022
Panelist, What Comes Next? Law Schools, Centers, Fellowships, and Funding: A Critical Assessment in Complex Times, Liman Center for Public Interest Law at 25/LSO & YLS's Clinical Program at 50, Yale Law School	Apr. 2022
Panelist, Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, Pearls of Wisdom: 30 Years of UB Law Clinics Confronting Family Violence in Western New York and Beyond, UB Law School	Apr. 2022
Presenter, Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, Project Mona's House All Hands Meeting	Feb. 2022
Panelist, Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP	May 2021
Moderator, The Racial and Economic Underpinnings—and Impact—of Mass Incarceration, University at Buffalo School of Law	Nov. 2020
Paper Presentation, Progressive Scholarship Workshop, Yale Law School	Fall 2019
Paper Presentation, Clinical Law Review Clinical Writer's Workshop	Sept. 2019
Paper Presentation, Works in Progress, 2019 Clinical AALS Conference	May 2019
Panelist, Solitary Confinement Circa 2018: A National Picture on the Number of People in Isolation in US Prisons, Yale Law School	Oct. 2018
Presenter, Restrictive Housing, Association of State Correctional Leaders Annual Conference	2018, 2019, 2020

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Member, Law School Mitchell Lecture Committee	2021-present
Member, Law Library Committee	2021-present

Member, Law School Committee on Faculty-Student Engagement	2022-present
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
Attorney Advisor, Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart Mock Trial Team	2022

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act Task Force Co-Chair; Member, Steering Committee	2020-present 2022-present
Criminal Justice Reform Task Force, Minority Bar Association of Western New York	2020-present
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 the Criminal Justice Reform Task Force, Minority Bar Association of Western New York	2021
Connecticut Law Tribune, New Leader in the Law	2017

MEDIA COVERAGE

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 I 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	Jan. 7, 2021

clinic case)

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 regarding 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