Poverty Law: Cases, Teaching, and Scholarship
American University Washington College of Law
4801 Massachusetts Ave, NW – Washington, DC

Friday Oct. 25

8:30-8:50 am  Registration (6th Floor) – with light refreshments

8:50-9:00 am  Welcome – Dean Claudio Grossman (American)

9:00-9:30 am  Opening Speech – Peter Edelman (Georgetown)

9:35-10:50 am  Session 1

Cases


Henry Freedman (National Center for Law and Economic Justice) – King v. Smith (1968)

Elisa Alvarez Minoff (University of South Florida) – Shapiro v. Thompson (1969)

Teaching

Clare Huntington (Fordham) – “Constructing a Poverty Law Syllabus from Scratch, or What is Poverty Law Anyway?”

Noah Zatz (UCLA) – “Designing and Teaching a Public Benefits Course”

Davida Finger (Loyola New Orleans) – “New Perspectives on Teaching Poverty Law: Social Justice Lawyering”

Scholarship

Richard Chused (New York Law School) – “The Shack Case: Derelict or Prophet”

Allyson E. Gold (Loyola Chicago) – “Escaping the Trap of Unhealthy Housing: Analysis of Remedies for Tenants in Substandard Housing”

Thomas Mitchell (Wisconsin) – “Uniform/Model Laws and Social Justice: Combining Social Movement and Top-Down Approaches”
10:55-12:10 pm Session 2

Cases

Julie Nice (University of San Francisco) – Dandridge v. Williams (1970)

Scholarship

Deborah Beth Medows (Supreme Court of Israel) – “Justice as a Luxury?: The Inefficacy of Middle Class Pro Se Litigation and Exploring Unbundling as a Partial Solution”
Danielle Cover (Baltimore) – “Pro Bono Grievances”

Scholarship

Robert J. Miller (Arizona State) – “Creating Functioning Economies and Sustainable Communities in Indian Country”
Amy L. Wax (Univ. of Pennsylvania) – “Worlds Apart: Charles Murray and Inequality in White America”


1:30-2:45 pm Session 3

Cases

Michele Gilman (Baltimore) – Wyman v. James (1971)
Marie Failinger (Hamline) – Jefferson v. Hackney (1972)

Teaching

Lisa R. Pruitt (UC Davis) – “A Pedagogical Experiment in Rural Community Advocacy”
Deborah Weimer (Maryland) – “Teaching Lawyering in Context – Teaching Interdisciplinary Practice, Advocacy, and Problem Solving to Law Students – Missed Opportunities in Interdisciplinary Practice/Education”

Chitra Aiyar (African Services Committee) & Chaumtoli Huq (New York Law School) – “Countering Student Disengagement, Discomfort, and Disillusionment: Grounding Poverty Law Learning Within a Socio-Historical Framework”

Scholarship

Lauren Sudeall Lucas (Georgia State) – “Flawed by Formalism: Re-envisioning the Right to “Counsel” in the Civil Context”

Jason Parkin (Pace) – “Due Process Disaggregation”

Janet Moore (Cincinnati) – “A Peculiar Sacredness: Inequality Aversion and the Right to Counsel”

2:50-3:40 pm  Session 4

Teaching

Scott Cummings (UCLA) – “Discussion of “Public Interest Lawyering: A Contemporary Perspective” (co-authored with Alan Chen)”

Jeff Selbin (Berkeley) and Clare Pastore (USC) – “Discussion of “Poverty Law, Policy, and Practice” (co-authored with Juliet Brodie and Ezra Rosser)”

Scholarship

Susan Bennett (American) – “Immigrant Entrepreneurship as Anti-Poverty Work”

Giovanni Esposito (Free Univ. of Brussels, Belgium), Rita Urbani (Univ. of Florence, Italy) & Cecilia Vigilanti (University of Pisa, Italy) – “The Constitutional Limits to Poverty in Italy: The Principles of Solidarity and Substantive Equality”

Scholarship


Lisa T. Alexander (Wisconsin) – “Law, Culture & Social Movements 2.0”

3:40-4:00 pm  Break
4:00-4:50 pm  Session 5

Scholarship

Regina Jefferson (Univ. of the District of Columbia) – “Restructuring the Three Legged Stool to Provide Greater Retirement Support for Low and Middle-Income Workers”

Brendan Kearns (HUD) - “Emptier Stomachs: The Troubling Rise of Laws that Restrict Feeding the Poor”

Scholarship

Anna Lund (Univ. of British Columbia) & Anne Stevenson (City of Edmonton) – “Geography of Debt”

Kristen Barnes (Akron) – “Inequities in the Mortgage Loan and Foreclosure Process: Making the Case for Anti-Deficiency Legislation”

Evening  Dinner on your own

Saturday Oct. 26

8:30-9:00 am  Registration (6th Floor) – with light refreshments

9:00-10:15 am  Session 6

Scholarship

Emily Suski (Georgia State) – “Dark Sarcasm in the Classroom: The Failure of the Courts to Recognize Students’ Emotional Harm as Unconstitutional”

Nareissa Smith (North Carolina Central University) & Meron Wondwosen (Young Doctors DC) – “Stealing Education: The Injustice of Prosecuting Poor African-American Mothers for Transferring their Children to Better School Districts without Permission”

Gabriele Sapio & Joao E. das Neves Araújo (Brazil) – “Education, Poverty and Social Quotas for the Access to Public Higher Education in Brazil: The Issue of Merit and the Place of Ethnic Minorities in Inclusion Policies”

Scholarship

Anthony V. Alfieri (Miami) – “Community Education and Access to Justice in a Time of Scarcity: Notes from the West Grove Trolley Garage Case”

Scholarship

Lauren E. Bartlett (American) – “The Use of Human Rights Advocacy by Legal Aid Attorneys in the U.S.”

Paul Prettitore (World Bank) – “The Use of a Poverty Law Approach in International Development”

Rebecca Rafart de Seras Hoffmann (Panama) – “The Instruments of International Legal Action for Poverty Reduction”

10:20-11:20 am Plenary Discussion – Poverty and Race TBD

11:25-12:40 pm Session 7

Cases

Camille Walsh (Univ. of Washington) - San Antonio Independent School District v. Rodriguez (1973)

Henry Rose (Loyola Chicago) – United States v. Kras (1973)


Scholarship

Jasmine Harris (American) – “Expanding Expertise: The Role of Community Health Workers in Remediying Disparities in Health Care Access and Quality for Indigent and Ethnically Diverse Populations”

Emily A. Benfer (Loyola Chicago) – “Health Justice: An Equity Approach to the Elimination of Health Disparities Among Low-Income and Minority Populations”


Scholarship
Courtney Lauren Anderson (Georgia State) – “Redistrict, Remove, Reduce”

Bertrall Ross (Berkeley) – “Poverty Districts”

Patience Crowder (Denver) – “The Space Between: Achieving Regional Equity Through Regional Interest Convergence”

12:45-2:00 pm  Lunch Plenary – TBD

2:05-3:20 pm  Session 8

Cases

Tonya Brito (Wisconsin) – Zablocki v. Redhail (1978)

Clare Pastore (USC) – Saenz v. Roe (1999)

Kelly S. Terry (Univ. of Arkansas Little Rock) – Turner v. Rogers (2011)

Teaching

Sarah Lugtig (Manitoba) - “Incorporating Experiential Learning in Non-Clinical Poverty Law Courses”

Sara Ainsworth (Univ. of Washington) – “Incorporating the Teaching of Reproductive Justice in the Poverty Law Curriculum”

Tirien Steinbach (Berkeley) – “East Bay Community Law Center: A Case for Putting the Community in the Center of Law Clinics”

Scholarship

Daniel Hatcher (Baltimore) – “The Poverty Industry: State Misuse of Funds for Poor Families and Children”


Amy Myers (American) – “Presumption of Failure: Family Courts’ Narratives About Poor Parties”

3:20-3:40 pm  Break

3:40-4:30 pm  Session 9

Scholarship
Colleen F. Shanahan (Georgetown) – “Representation matters: A Study of Representation and Access to Justice”

Jayesh Rathod (American) – “Reimagining the Law of Self-Employment: Comparative Perspectives”

Scholarship

Elizabeth MacDowell (UNLV) – “From Victims to Litigants: Access to Justice, Domestic Violence, and the Politics of Self-Help”

Robin Runge (Wider Opportunities for Women) – “The Role of Empowerment Law in Ending Violence Against Women and Poverty”

Scholarship

Michael Diamond (Georgetown) – “Poverty, Power, and Paradox: A Look at Law, Lawyers and Community Through a Narrowed Lens”

Jessica Steinberg (George Washington) - “Reform in the Poor People’s Court”

4:30-4:45 pm  Closing Remarks – Marie Failinger (Hamline)