



COLLEGE OF LAW

**Melissa Mortazavi**

Associate Professor of Law

melissa.mortazavi@ou.edu

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**APPOINTMENTS**

**University of Oklahoma College of Law, Norman, OK**

*Associate Professor of Law*, Fall 2015- present

Courses: Administrative Law, Professional Responsibility, Agricultural and Food Law

**Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, NY**

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Law*, 2012-Summer 2015

Courses: Torts, The Legal Profession, Professional Responsibility

**EDUCATION**

**University of California, Berkeley Law, J.D.**, 2005.

Notes & Comments Editor, *California Law Review*; President, *American Constitution Society*

Honors: American Jurisprudence Award, Legal Ethics; Allen F. Broussard Fellowship; FLAS Fellowship (Farsi)

**Cornell University, B.A. in Government & Theatre**, 2001

Honors: Magna cum laude; Distinction in All Subjects; Phi Beta Kappa; Conger Wood Fellowship; Cornell Alumni Scholarship; Cornell Ambassador

**JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP**

**The Honorable Beverly B. Martin**

United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia

2006-2007

**LAW REVIEW PUBLICATIONS**

*Tainted: Food, Identity, and the Search for Dignitary Redress*, 81 BROOKLYN L. REV. 1463 (2016).

*Tort as Democracy: Lessons from the Food Wars*, 57 ARIZONA L. REV. 929 (2015).

*Blind Spot: The Inadequacy of Neutral Partisanship*, 63 UCLA L. REV. DIS. 16 (2015).

*A No-Fault Remedy for Legal Malpractice?*, 44 HOFSTRA L. REV. 471 (2015).

*The Cost of Avoidance: Pluralism, Neutrality, and the Foundations of Modern Legal Ethics*, 42 FLA. ST. U. L. REV. 1(2014).

*Consuming Identities: Law, School Meals, and What it Means to Be American*, 24 CORNELL J. OF L. & PUB. POLICY 1 (2014).

*Lawyers Not Widgets: Why Private-Sector Attorneys Must Unionize to Save the Legal Profession*, 96 MINN. L. REV. 1482 (2012).

*Are Food Subsidies Making our Kids Fat? Tensions Between the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act and the Farm Bill*, 68 WASH. & LEE L. REV. 1699 (2011).

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

*Justice for Sale: Ethics and Lawyer Debt*

*Equally Encumbering Access to Law*

*The Market Behind Legal Ethics*

*Fracking, Farming and Folly*

*The Canons of Food Law*

*Gender Disparity in Federal Entitlement Programs: A Case Study of WIC v. SNAP*

*Conspiracy of Silence*

## **RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

“Justice for Sale: Ethics and Lawyer Debt,” Southeastern Association of Law Schools (August 2016)

“Justice for Sale: Ethics and Lawyer Debt,” University of Oklahoma College of Law, Junior Faculty Symposium (July 2016).

“Justice for Sale: Ethics and Lawyer Debt,” University of Oklahoma College of Law, Summer Faculty Research Series (July 2016).

“Equally Encumbering Access to Law,” International Legal Ethics Conference VI (July 2016).

“Food Policy and Sustainability: The Role of Litigation,” Arizona State University

“Equally Encumbered Access to Law,” University of Oklahoma College of Law, Junior Faculty Workshop (October 2015).

“Tort as Democracy,” University of Oklahoma College of Law, Junior Faculty Symposium (July 2015).

“Alternatives to Tort in Legal Malpractice,” Hofstra Law School, Lawyers as Targets Symposium (March 2015).

“The Cost of Avoidance: Pluralism, Neutrality, and the Foundations of Modern Legal Ethics,” University of Idaho College of Law Faculty Workshop (November 2014).

“A Place at the Table: What Food Litigation Tells Us About the Function of Tort Law,” University of Memphis College of Law Faculty Workshop (November 2014).

“A Place at the Table: What Food Litigation Tells Us About the Function of Tort Law,” Louisiana State University Law Center Faculty Workshop (November 2014).

“The Cost of Avoidance: Pluralism, Neutrality, and the Foundations of Modern Legal Ethics,” University of Oklahoma College of Law Faculty Workshop (October 2014).

“The Cost of Avoidance: Pluralism, Neutrality, and the Foundations of Modern Legal Ethics,” University of Arkansas Law School Faculty Workshop (September 2014).

“The Cost of Avoidance: Pluralism, Neutrality, and the Foundations of Modern Legal Ethics,” Kansas University Law School Faculty Workshop (September 2014).

“Institutional Actors and Protecting Clients in a Post-Monopoly World,” International Legal Ethics Conference VI (July 2014).

“The Cost of Avoidance: Pluralism, Neutrality, and the Foundations of Modern Legal Ethics,” New York Legal Ethics Scholars Roundtable (March 2014).

“Workshop for Law Professors on Risk, Injury, and Liability Insurance,” Law and Economics Center of George Mason Law School (January 2014) (participant).

“The Revolution Will Not Be Codified,” Brooklyn Law School Faculty Workshop (September 2013).

“Topics in Food Justice,” West Coast Law and Society Retreat (September 2013).

“Coding and Decoding Legal Ethics,” Berkeley Law Boot Camp (August 2013).

“The Revolution Will Not Be Codified,” Brooklyn Law School Junior Faculty Workshop (July 2013).

“Consuming Identities: School Meals, Law, and What it Means to be American.” Brooklyn Law School Junior Faculty Workshop (January 2013).

“Lawyers Not Widgets: Why Firm Attorneys Must Unionize to Save the Legal Profession,” International Legal Ethics Conference V (July 2012).

“Ethics in the Private Sector and the Potential Solution of Unionization,” Kansas University Law School Faculty Workshop (December 2011).

“Antitrust: A Primer for Private Sector Litigants,” CLE Presentation with Molly Boast to New York and New Jersey Lawyers (May 2009).

#### **LAW SCHOOL SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

Curriculum Committee  
Member, University of Oklahoma Provost’s Advisory Committee on Women’s Issues  
Judge, BOA Intra-school Negotiation Competition  
Judge, IP Moot Court Competition  
Ad-Hoc Faculty Working Group on Clerkships  
Selection Committee OU College of Law, Awards and Scholarships (2015)  
Code of Academic Responsibility Hearing Tribunal: Academic Misconduct (2015)

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Executive Committee, AALS Professional Responsibility Section  
Conference Committee, Academy of Food Law and Policy  
Historic District Commissioner, City of Norman, OK

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Debevoise & Plimpton LLP**, New York, NY. *General Litigation Associate*, 2005-2006; 2007-2011

- Engaged in all aspects of commercial litigation, arbitration, and investigations in federal and state courts. Principal cases involved products liability, professional ethics and corporate governance, food and drug law, sustainable resource and energy management, and securities investigations.
- Founding Member of Sustainable Resource and Energy Management Group.
- Challenged the detention of Guantanamo detainees in motions and submissions to district, appellate and Supreme Court. Briefed significant voting rights actions in the 2008 election.
- Legal Aid Society of New York Pro Bono Award 2007 & 2008, Litigation Mentorship Chair (Gold Group), Pro Bono Committee, Diversity Committee

**Thompson & Stedler**, Berkeley, CA. *Law Clerk*, Summer 2003

**Prof. Steven Shatz**, University of San Francisco Law School. *Research Assistant*, 2003

**Los Angeles Unified School District**, Los Angeles, CA. *Special Education Teacher*, 2002

### **BAR ADMISSIONS**

California

New York

United States District Court of Southern District of New York

United States District Court of Eastern District of New York

