



COLLEGE OF LAW

Melissa Mortazavi  
Professor of Law  
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510.290.8155

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Oklahoma College of Law Fall 2020- present  
*Professor of Law*  
*Second Century Presidential Professor*

*Associate Professor of Law* Fall 2015-2020  
Courses: Torts, Professional Responsibility, Agricultural & Food Law, Administrative Law

Brooklyn Law School 2012-2015  
*Visiting Assistant Professor of Law,*  
Courses: Torts, The Legal Profession, Professional Responsibility

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley School of Law, J.D., 2005.  
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 2006-2007  
United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia

ACADEMIC HONORS & AWARDS

2021 PRESIDENT'S ASSOCIATES SECOND CENTURY PROFESSORSHIP (CAMPUS WIDE)  
2020 AALS TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
2020 OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBER OU COLLEGE OF LAW (STUDENT SELECTED)  
2019 Dean's Placement Award For Outstanding Faculty Scholarship (2)  
2018 Dean's Placement Award For Outstanding Faculty Scholarship  
2016 Merrick Teaching Award College of Law Nominee

## PUBLICATIONS

*The New Reasonable Parent* (in progress).

2044: *Lanyering in a Majority Minority America* (in progress).

*Incivility as Identity*, 2020 MICH. ST. L. REV. 939 (2020).

*Institutional Independence: Lawyers and the Administrative State*, 87 FORDHAM L. REV. 5 (2019).

*Code of Silence*, 5 CARDOZO L. REV. 40 (2019).

Peer nominated to the Fred C. Zacharias Prize for Scholarship in Professional Responsibility

*Food, Fracking and Folly*, 50 ARIZ. ST. L. J. 2017 (2018).

*Rulemaking Ex Machina*, 117 COLUM. L. REV. ONLINE 6 (2017).

*Tainted*, 81 BROOKLYN L. REV. 1463 (2016)

*Cited in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Restatement of Torts*

*Tort at 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).

## SERVICE

- Conceived of, proposed, and launched and supported the creation of a crowdsourced capital campaign to create the Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Chair in Civil Rights, Race and the Law. This culminated in full funding of the chair with over a \$1,000,000 endowment in less than one year.
  - Member, Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Chair Search Committee (2021- present).
- Chair, Curriculum Committee (2020-2021)
- Chair, Faculty Hiring Committee (2020-2021)
- Chair, University of Oklahoma Provost's Advisory Committee on Women's Issues (2020-present).
- Law School Diversity Liaison (2019-present)
- Faculty Representative, College of Law Diversity Equity and Inclusion Working Group (2019-present)
- Covid 19 SAFER Working Group (2020-present)
- Black Law Students Organization Faculty Adviser (2017-present)
- Oklahoma Law Review Faculty Adviser (2017-present) (including overseeing course credit)
- Agricultural Law Society Faculty Advisor (2019-present)
- Selection Committee OU College of Law, Awards and Scholarships (2015-2020)
- Faculty Hiring Committee (2017-2018)
- Academic Disciplinary Committee (2017-2020)
- Curriculum Committee (2016-2017)
- Judge, ABA Moot Court Competition (ongoing)
- Judge, BOA Intra-school Negotiation Competition (ongoing)
- Judge, IP Moot Court Competition
- Ad-Hoc Faculty Committee on Portraits
- Ad-Hoc Faculty Working Group on Goals/Strategic Plan (2018-2019)
- Ad-Hoc Faculty Working Group on Clerkships (2015-2017)
- Code of Academic Responsibility Hearing Tribunal: Academic Misconduct (2015-16; 2018-2019)

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Executive Officer, Chair Elect, AALS Professional Responsibility Section (2020-2021)

Executive Officer, AALS Torts Section (2020-present)

Executive Officer, Secretary, AALS Professional Responsibility Section (2019-2020)

Chairperson, Academy of Food Law and Policy (2019-2020)

Board Member, Academy of Food Law and Policy (2017-2019)

Executive Committee, AALS Professional Responsibility Section (2016-2019)

Executive Committee, AALS Agricultural Law Section (2015-2017)

Conference Committee, Academy of Food Law and Policy (2017-2019)

Historic District Commissioner, City of Norman, OK (2015-2017)

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

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

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

## SELECT PRESENTATIONS

“Incivility as Identity,” National Workshop on Law and Gender, (July 2020).

“Institutional Independence: Lawyers and the Administrative State,” American Association of Law Schools (January 2019).

“Lawyers as Intermediaries” & “Code of Silence,” Melbourne University, International Legal Ethics Conference 8 (December 2018).

“Institutional Independence: Lawyers and the Administrative State,” Fordham Law School (October 2018).

“Regulatory Factions,” Harvard Law School, Academy of Food Law and Policy Annual Conference (October 2018).

“Socio Technical Imaginaries of Food and the Paris Accords,” Arizona State University, Sustainability Conference (May 2018).

“Conspiracy of Silence,” UCLA School of Law, Legal Ethics Schmooze, (July 2017).

“Food, Fracking and Folly,” Arizona State University, Sustainability Conference (May 2017).

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

“Food Policy and Sustainability: The Role of Litigation,” Arizona State University (May 2016).

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

“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).

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

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

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