MELISSA A. FRYDMAN

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EDUCATION

YALE LAW SCHOOL, J.D., May 2000

Activities: Arthur Liman Public Interest Program, Student Research Associate
The Initiative for Public Interest Law, Vice-President for Grant Selection
Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization, Student Board Member
Temporary Restraining Order Project for Battered Women, Project Director
Yale Journal of Law and Feminism, Editor

Honors: Equal Justice America Fellow, in conjunction with New Haven Legal Assistance Association

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, B.A. with High Honors in English, May 1994

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa
Prytanean Women's Honor Society

Honors Thesis: *Primo Levi & Frederick Douglass: A Presentation of the Ambiguous Nature of Extremes in Reality*

TEACHING AND LEGAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF LAW, Champaign, IL April 2010 – Present

Clinical Professor/Family Advocacy Clinic Director. Design and develop all aspects of a new clinic where students represent parents and children in juvenile abuse and neglect cases. Teach clinical seminar supporting student casework and introducing students to child welfare law and practice. Oversee and support students in weekly supervision meetings. Engage in grant writing and reporting to financially support the clinic work.

Director of Clinical Education. August 2016 – Present

Oversee all of the College of Law Clinics and coordinate efforts between and amongst clinics. Organize the administrative side of the clinical programs. Planned our 20th Clinics Reunion in September 2016. Engage with the community to build clinical and public interest programming at the College of Law. Develop new clinics and additional advocacy opportunities for students.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, New York, NY June 2007 – April 2010

Acting Assistant Professor of Lawyering. Taught year-long, first-year course on legal process, writing, research, fact development, advocacy, and strategic interaction. Used experiential and collaborative methods to introduce students to the practice of law through simulations in counseling, interviewing, litigation, negotiation, and mediation. Trained students in methods of peer and self-evaluation.

LEGAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, San Francisco, CA March 2002 – June 2007

Senior Staff Attorney/Dependency Project Director. Counseled, advised, and provided direct legal representation to children and youth in dependency, guardianship, school discipline, special education, immigration, and other juvenile law matters. Managed an active caseload of up to 65 minors' cases with special emphasis on foster care and education issues. Pursued systemic education reform through impact litigation against West Contra Costa Unified School District resulting in major overhaul of their school discipline policies. Participated in legislative and policy advocacy on local and state issues relating to at-risk youth. Conducted community education and outreach. Provided training and mentorship for staff and pro bono attorneys and advocates. Hired and supervised legal interns. Supervised Skadden Fellow and legal assistant.

BAY AREA LEGAL AID, Oakland, CA September 2000 – March 2002

Equal Justice Works Fellow/Staff Attorney. Developed and managed a fellowship project designed to provide civil legal services to youth involved with the juvenile justice and foster care systems in Alameda County. Represented youth in educational matters involving school discipline and special education issues. Presented trainings for youth advocates on the education rights of youth. Collaborated with local youth advocates to develop strategies to better serve the legal needs of youth in education matters.

JEROME N. FRANK LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION, Yale Law School
ADVOCACY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES CLINIC January 2000 – May 2000

Legal Intern. Represented parents and youth with mental and physical disabilities in guardianship proceedings in the probate court and in special education matters in the public schools. Drafted and filed motions, researched guardianship and special education laws, conducted factual investigations, interviewed clients, and presented arguments in court and in individualized education plan (IEP) meetings.

JEROME N. FRANK LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION, Yale Law School
LANDLORD/TENANT CLINIC January 1999 – May 2000

Legal Intern (Spring 1999). Represented low-income tenants in eviction proceedings. Drafted and argued motions, researched case strategy, investigated tenant complaints, negotiated settlements, and interviewed clients in preparation for hearings.

Student Director (Fall 1999-Spring 2000). Assisted in curriculum development for the companion clinical course.

PROFESSOR JUDITH RESNIK, Yale Law School September 1999 – January 2000

Teaching Assistant. Planned and taught discussion section classes for first-year civil procedure course. Developed assignment and assisted with course materials. Evaluated students' written work.

SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION (SFNLAF)
(Now BAY AREA LEGAL AID), San Francisco, CA June 1999 – August 1999

Legal Intern. Represented clients in administrative hearings involving CalWORKS and SSI benefits. Drafted and filed briefs, researched legal strategy, and interviewed clients in preparation for hearings. Researched social services available to teenage parents for publication in a self-help brochure. Developed survey to determine frequency and reasons for verbal welfare benefits denials. Attended community meetings to develop strategy for advocating for the rights of welfare recipients.

PROFESSOR JEAN KOH PETERS, Yale Law School June 1998 – June 1999

Research Assistant. Researched legal issues related to the representation of children in child protective hearings. Edited manuscript for publication.

JEROME N. FRANK LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION, Yale Law School
ADVOCACY FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN CLINIC January 1998 – May 1999

Legal Intern (Spring 1998). Represented parents and children in abuse and neglect proceedings. Drafted and filed motions, researched case strategy, conducted factual investigations, and took depositions in preparation for a termination of parental rights hearing.

Student Supervisor and Director (Fall 1998 - Spring 1999). Supervised and trained new clinical student interns in their representation of parents and children. Assisted in curriculum development for the companion clinical course.

LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW, Washington, D. C.
June 1998 – August 1998

Legal Intern. Researched and drafted memoranda in preparation for settlement negotiations in a class action school desegregation case. Assisted in drafting a Fourth Circuit amicus brief concerning the use of race-conscious admissions programs in elementary public education. Researched and wrote memoranda on racial discrimination in special education. Interviewed potential clients and investigated claims of racial discrimination in public schools.

TEACH FOR AMERICA/COMPTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, Compton, CA
September 1994 – June 1995

Elementary School Teacher. Lesson planned, taught, and coordinated a year-long program for 32 students in a second grade, bilingual class at Ralph J. Bunche Elementary School. Supervised production of a monthly school newsletter. Developed a scholarship program to send a student to NASA's summer space camp. Created a corporate sponsorship program which provided additional classroom support and resources.

PUBLICATION

School Discipline 101: Students' Due Process Rights in Expulsion Hearings, 40 CLEARINGHOUSE REV. 370 (Sept.-Oct. 2006) (with Shani King)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

"Contextualizing the Data—Legal System Realities of the Family Regulation System for Black Illinois Families," Illinois Black Advocacy Institute, as part of the "Catalyzing Justice for Black Communities in the Illinois Family Regulation System" symposium, November 2023.

"Cultivating DEI and Racial Justice Practices in Law School," PILI Law School Pro Bono Roundtable, July 2021.

"Voice and Storytelling," Symposium: A Thing of Beauty: Celebrating the Teaching and Advocacy of Jean Koh Peters, New Haven, CT, November 2018.

"Conflict and Community: A Pedagogical Approach," AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Baltimore, MD, May 2016.

"Erasing Boundaries Across the Curriculum," AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Rancho Mirage, CA, May 2015.

"What Does Quality Representation Look Like?" Region V Parent Representation Leadership Forum, Chicago, IL, December 2014.

"Current Issues in Child Advocacy," Midwest Clinical Law Teachers Conference, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, September 2014.

"Family/Child Advocacy," AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Small Group Leader, April/May 2013.

"The New Normal: Collaborating Between Isolated Clinics in One Law School to Meet Client, Student, and Faculty Needs," Midwest Clinical Law Teachers Conference, Northwestern University Law School, Chicago, IL, November 2010.

"Representing Children in Dependency Proceedings," University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, Children and the Law course, Guest Lecturer, Fall 2006.

"School Discipline: A Brief Guide to Students' Rights," Alameda County Bar Association, Oakland, CA, April 2006.

"Ethics in the Representation of Juveniles," Latham & Watkins, San Francisco, CA, January 2006.

"Representation of Youth in Foster Care: Legal, Practical, and Ethical Issues," University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, Child Welfare and Policy Seminar, Guest Lecturer, Spring 2005

"School Discipline: Effective Representation in Expulsion Hearings," Administrative Office of the Courts, Center for Families, Children and the Courts, San Francisco, CA, January 2005.

"Advocating for Your Clients in School Discipline Matters: An Overview of the Law on Suspension and Expulsion," Northern California Association of Counsel for Children, San Francisco, CA, April 2003.

GRANTS

Family Advocacy Clinic, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, Principal Investigator, 2010-2024 ($125,000 to 67,500 annually)

TRAININGS PRESENTED

"Representing Parents in Abuse and Neglect Cases: The Basics," in conjunction with the Illinois Parent Attorney Network (IPAN), Springfield, IL, June 22, 2018.

"Representing Parents in Abuse and Neglect Cases: The Basics of Evidence and Administrative Proceedings," in conjunction with the Illinois Parent Attorney Network (IPAN), Champaign, IL, June 5, 2015.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Appointed by the Governor to serve on the Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare Task Force for the State of Illinois, March 3, 2022 to present.

Appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to serve on the Illinois Judicial College's Standing Committee on Guardian *ad litem* Education, May 2017 to present. Co-Chair of the Abuse and Neglect Course Development Sub-Committee. Appointed as Chair of the Guardian *ad litem* Education Committee, August 2022 to present.

Invited Faculty for the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts Reasonable Efforts Attorney Academy, August 2022.

Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) Sixth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee, *Member*.

Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Working Group, *Member*.

Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Cross Circuit Working Group, *Member*.

Supreme Court of Illinois, Judicial College's Committee on Judicial Education, Juvenile Courts Workgroup, *Member.*

Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, Court Improvement Project, Parent Attorney Training Working Group, *Member.*

University of Illinois School of Social Work Field Advisory Committee, *Member*.

Illinois Parent Attorney Network Steering Committee, *Member*.

MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Law Schools (AALS) Section on Clinical Legal Education
Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA)
National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC)
American Bar Association (ABA), Center on Children and the Law, Parents' Attorney Group
East Central Illinois Women Attorneys Association (ECIWAA)
Champaign County Bar Association

BAR ADMISSIONS

Admitted to the State Bars of California and Illinois