

JOHN BLISS

University of Denver Sturm College of Law

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, 2018-present
Courses: Legal Profession, Property

Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession, Postdoctoral Fellow, 2016-2018

EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, Jurisprudence and Social Policy, 2016
Dissertation: “The Dynamics of the Professional Self: Findings from Law School and Early Law Careers” (Calvin Morrill, chair)

J.D., University of California, Berkeley, 2010
Legal Aid Society Employment Law Center, workers’ rights clinic, 2007–08
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, asylum representation clinic, 2007–09
East Bay Community Law Center, health and immigration summer associate, 2008

Double B.A., University of Washington, 2004
Anthropology, Comparative History of Ideas

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Denver Sturm College of Law
Legal Profession, 2018
Property, 2019 (scheduled)

UC Berkeley Department of Legal Studies, Graduate Student Instructor
Sociology of Law, 2014
Introduction to Legal Studies, 2013
Law in Chinese Society, 2012, 2013, 2015 “Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor” award
Theories of Law and Society, 2011
Law, Self, and Society, 2010, 2011

UC Berkeley School of Law, Graduate Student Instructor
Introduction to Quantitative Methods, 2010

PUBLICATIONS

Divided Selves: Professional Role Distancing Among Law Students and New Lawyers in a Period of Market Crisis, 42 LAW & SOC. INQUIRY 855 (2017).

From Idealists to Hired Guns? An Empirical Analysis of “Public Interest Drift” in Law School, 51 U.C. DAVIS L. REV. 1973-2032 (2018).

Transitioning into Practice: Lawyer Socialization in the Chinese Corporate Bar, in THE CHINESE LEGAL PROFESSION IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION, Sida Liu & David B. Wilkins, eds. Cambridge University Press __ (forthcoming 2019).

Rationalizing Pro Bono: Corporate Social Responsibility and the Reinvention of Legal Professionalism in Elite American Law Firms (with Steven Boutcher), in GLOBAL PRO BONO: CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES, AND CONTESTATION, Scott Cummings, Fabio de Sa e Silva & Louise Trubek, eds. Cambridge University Press __ (forthcoming 2019).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Exporting the Liberal Lawyer: Civic Professionalism in the U.S. and China

Property in a Sociological Vacuum: Lawyering for Social Change in the Racial Covenant Cases

ONGOING RESEARCH

The Micropolitics of Soft Power in American L.L.M. Classrooms (with Calvin Morrill, Rachel Stern, and Lawrence Liu)

Teaching Professional Identity and Purpose: An Experimental Application of the Good Work Toolkit in Legal Education (with Howard Gardner)

OTHER WRITING

Drifting Law Students: Public Interest Caught in the Law Firm Pipeline (lead article), THE PRACTICE (May 2018) <https://thepractice.law.harvard.edu/article/drifting-law-students>.

Rethinking the First Year Curriculum (Interview with Erwin Chemerinsky), THE PRACTICE (May 2018) <https://thepractice.law.harvard.edu/article/rethinking-the-first-year-curriculum>.

A Summary of Legal Education Research Presented at LSA 2018, NEW LEGAL REALISM CONVERSATIONS (June 2018) <http://newlegalrealism.org/2018/06/20/a-summary-of-legal-education-research-presented-at-lsa-2018>.

The Law School Laboratory: A Call for Developing the “Third Apprenticeship” Through Experimental Research, NEW LEGAL REALISM CONVERSATIONS (February 2018) <http://newlegalrealism.org/2018/02/12/bliss-on-law-teaching-reform>.

The Professional Identity Formation of Lawyers: How Does Becoming a Lawyer Change You? (lead article), THE PRACTICE (March 2016) <https://thepractice.law.harvard.edu/article/the-professional-identity-formation-of-lawyers>.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“From Idealists to Hired Guns? An Empirical Analysis of ‘Public Interest Drift’ in Law School”

Presented at:

Indiana U. Maurer School of Law, Center for Law, Society, and Culture. Oct. 2017.
UCLA School of Law, Legal Ethics Workshop. July 2017.
UC Irvine Law, Center for Empirical Research on the Legal Profession. June 2017.
Harvard Law School, Legal Profession Seminar. March 2017.
American Anthropological Association. Denver, CO. November 2015.

“Divided Selves: Professional Role Distancing Among Law Students and Lawyers”

Presented at:

Stanford Law School, Law and Society Conference for Junior Scholars. May 2015.
Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia. May 2015.
UC Davis School of Law, ClassCrits VII. Nov. 2014.
American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA. August 2014.
Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research. Syracuse, NY. June 2014.
Law and Society Association. Minneapolis, MN. May 2014.
University of Virginia School of Law, Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities. March 2014.

“Property in a Sociological Vacuum: Lawyering for Social Change in the Racial Covenant Cases”

Presented at:

Law and Society Association. Toronto, ON. June 2018.
Harvard Law School, Progressive Property Workshop. May 2018.
Northeastern Law, Property Works in Progress Conference. Sept. 2017.
University of Michigan, Association for Law, Property & Society. May 2017.

“Becoming Global Lawyers? Mapping Professional Identity Formation in the U.S. and China”

Presented at:

Harvard Law, Comparative and International Law Workshop. Sept. 2017.
American Sociological Association. Montreal, QC. August 2017.
Law and Society Association. Mexico City, CDMX. June 2017.
Harvard University, China-US Lawyers Forum. March 2017.
American Bar Foundation, “Legal Education in Crisis?” Conference March 2017.
Yale Law School Doctoral Scholarship Conference. Nov. 2016.

“Rationalizing Pro Bono: Corporate Social Responsibility and the Reinvention of Legal Professionalism in Elite Law Firms”

Presented at:

UCLA School of Law, Global Pro Bono Conference. Nov. 2017.
Law and Society Association. New Orleans, LA. May 2016.

OTHER CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Law and Society Association

Founding Co-organizer: Legal Education Collaborative Research Network.

Author-Meets-Reader Session Chair: “Incidental Racialization: Performative Assimilation in Law School.” June 2018.

Paper Session Chair: “Legal Education and the Legal Profession in Realist/Empirical Perspectives.” June 2018.

Panel Organizer and Chair: “Race and Privilege in Legal Education.” May 2015.

American Sociological Association

Table Presider and Presenter: “Sustaining the Integrated Self in Law School: Pushing Back Against Thin Professional Identity.” August 2015.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2014–2015

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley, 2014

Jurisprudence and Social Policy Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2013–14

UC Berkeley Dean’s Normative Time Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2012–13

UC Berkeley Graduate Division Summer Grant, UC Berkeley, 2012, 2013

Selznick Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2009–10

Bonderman Travel Fellowship, University of Washington, 2003–04

Mary Gates Leadership Fellowship, University of Washington, 2002–03

Evans Scholarship, University of Washington, 2000–04

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

“Teaching Professional Identity and Purpose,” Harvard Law School. 2017–current

Principal Investigator. In collaboration with Howard Gardner, developed an intervention and outcome measures for a study of first-year law pedagogy. Pilot study conducted April 2018 at Harvard Law School.

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University. 2014

Departmental Representative. Selected to participate in an intensive two-week workshop on qualitative research methods.

Professor Jonathan Simon, UC Berkeley School of Law. 2010–11

Research Assistant. Conducted archival and secondary research on the relationship between housing patterns and fear of crime.

Alameda County Department of Public Health, Oakland, CA. 2009–12

Researcher. Led a team of researchers examining racially restrictive covenants and local historical roots of residential segregation.

Professor Jeffrey Selbin, UC Berkeley School of Law. 2009–10

Research Assistant. Assisted in the early stages of writing a casebook on law and poverty.

AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Law, Property, and Society

Law and Society Association

Socio-legal Approaches to Property CRN, Law and Society Association

Legal Education CRN, Law and Society Association (founding co-organizer)

International Association of Legal Ethics

AALS Section on Empirical Study of Legal Ed. and the Profession (original signatory)

American Sociological Association

PEER REVIEW REFEREE

LAW & SOC. INQUIRY

LAW & SOC'Y REVIEW