

JESSICA K. STEINBERG

George Washington University Law School
2000 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20052

(202) 994-3943

jsteinberg@law.gwu.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

George Washington University Law School · 2011-present

John Marshall Harlan Dean's Research Professor of Law (2024-present)

Professor of Law (2022-2024)

Professor of Clinical Law (2021-2022)

Associate Professor of Clinical Law (2011-2020) (tenured 2017). Founder and Director of the Prisoner & Reentry Clinic.

Stanford Law School · 2007-2010

Lecturer in Law (2009-2010)

Jay M. Spears Fellow (2007-2009)

OTHER LEGAL EXPERIENCE

City of Salinas, Office of the City Attorney · Salinas, CA · 2006-2007

Deputy City Attorney. Litigated claims in state and federal court, advised city departments, drafted legislation.

Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County · San Mateo, CA · 2004-2006

Equal Justice Works Fellow. Represented indigent clients in housing and public benefits cases, litigated impact cases against government agencies, represented tenant groups facing mass evictions.

EDUCATION

Stanford Law School · J.D.

- California State Bar Foundation Public Interest Scholarship
- Stanford Public Interest Fellow

Barnard College, Columbia University · B.A., *magna cum laude*

- Phi Beta Kappa (selected as a junior)
- Dean's List (all 4 years)

- Departmental Honors in English Literature
- Senior Thesis (award of Distinction), *Conventions of Epic Literature: The Individual in the Clockwork State*

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Judges and Justice Work (in THE FUTURE OF JUSTICE WORK: PEOPLE, POWER, POLITICS, AND PLACE, Rebecca Sandefur, ed., UC Press) (forthcoming, 2026)

The Uptake Puzzle in Expungement of Criminal Records, 100 IND. L. J. 999 (2025).

Lawyerless Law Development, 75 STAN. L. REV. ONLINE 64 (2023) (with Anna Carpenter, Colleen Shanahan & Alyx Mark)

The Gender of Gideon, 69 UCLA L. Rev. 1130 (2023) (with Kathryn Sabbeth)

- Appeared as featured research in Harvard Law School, Access to Justice Lab blog, *Who Deserves a Lawyer? The Hidden Gender Bias in Right to Counsel?* (Sept. 8, 2025)
- Reprinted in part in Lee and Richardson, *Criminal Procedure: Cases and Materials*, 3rd ed. (2022)
- Reviewed in JOTWELL by Maureen Carroll, *A Gendered Right to Counsel?* (Sept. 3, 2021)
- Quoted in *Brief for Amicus Curiae the Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts not in Support of Either Party and Supporting a Finding of Right to Counsel for Both Parties*, *Massachusetts v. Dufresne*, No. SJC-13123, 2021 WL 4340997, *21 (Mass. Sept. 15, 2021) (Massachusetts Supreme Court case regarding right to counsel in protective order proceedings)

The Democratic (Il)Legitimacy of Assembly-Line Adjudication, 135 HARV. L. REV. F. 359 (2022) (with Colleen, Shanahan, Anna Carpenter & Alyx Mark)

The Institutional Mismatch of State Civil Courts, 120 COLUM. L. REV. 1471 (2022) (with Colleen Shanahan, Anna Carpenter & Alyx Mark)

Racial Capitalism in the Civil Courts, 120 COLUM. L. REV. 1243 (2022) (with Tonya Brito, Lauren Sudeall & Kathryn Sabbeth)

- Reviewed in JOTWELL by Brooke Coleman, *State Civil Courts of Racial Oppression* (Apr. 23, 2023)

Judges in Lawyerless Courts, 110 GEO L. J. 509 (2022) (with Anna Carpenter, Colleen Shanahan & Alyx Mark)

Judges and the Deregulation of Lawyers, 89 FORDHAM L. REV. 1315 (2021) (with Anna Carpenter, Colleen Shanahan & Alyx Mark)

- Reviewed in JOTWELL by Nora Engstrom, *Effective Deregulation: A Look Under the Hood of State Civil Courts* (Oct. 31, 2022)
- Reviewed in JOTWELL by Elizabeth Chambliss, *PL on the DL, Domestic Violence Courts' "Quiet Partnership" with Nonlawyer Advocates* (July 6, 2021).
- Reviewed in the REGULATORY REVIEW, *Piercing the Lawyer's Monopoly* (Feb. 9, 2022).

COVID, Crisis and Courts, 99 TEX. L. REV. ONLINE 10 (2020) (with Anna Carpenter, Colleen Shanahan & Alyx Mark)

A Theory of Civil Problem-Solving Courts, 93 N.Y.U. L. REV. 1579 (2018)

Law School Clinics and the Untapped Potential of the Court Watch, 6 IND. J. L. & SOC. EQUALITY 176 (2018)

Studying the "New" Civil Judges (with Anna Carpenter, Colleen Shanahan & Alyx Mark) 2018 WIS. L. REV. 249

Informal, Inquisitorial, and Accurate: An Empirical Look at a Problem-Solving Housing Court, 42 LAW & SOC. INQUIRY 1058 (2017)

Adversary Breakdown and Judicial Role Confusion in "Small Case" Civil Justice, 2016 B.Y.U. L. REV. 899

Demand Side Reform in the Poor People's Court, 47 CONN. L. REV. 741 (2015)

In Pursuit of Justice? Case Outcomes and the Delivery of Unbundled Legal Services, 18 GEO. J. ON POVERTY LAW & POL'Y 453 (2011)

- Reprinted in part in Abrams, Cahn, Ross, Meyer, *Contemporary Family Law*, 3rd ed. (2012)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

America's Lawyerless Courts, ABA LAW PRACTICE MAGAZINE, Big Ideas Issue (July/Aug 2022)

Compassionate Release in the District: Step-by-Step Guide to Representing Incarcerated Clients in the Federal Bureau of Prisons (2020)

Fair Practices After Sentencing: A Proposal to Reform Good Time, Earned Time and Compassionate Release (2019) (resulted in adoption of two major pieces of legislation reforming good time and compassionate release in the District of Columbia)

Parole Practice Manual for the District of Columbia (2018) (first-ever treatise to provide legal advice and information to *pro se* prisoners representing themselves in parole hearings)

Local Experimentation and the Evolving Role of the Civil Judge, TRENDS, National Center for State Courts, June 2017

How and Why Representation Matters, JOTWELL, Aug. 17, 2016

Law School Clinics' Vital Role in Clemency Cases, NEW YORK TIMES, Sept. 1, 2015

Income and Assets Test for Section 8 Housing, 15 LEGAL NETWORK NEWS 4, Winter 2004

AWARDS AND HONORS

Judith Welch Wegner Award, 2026 (awarded for “outstanding contributions” to empirical scholarship by the AALS Section on the Empirical Study of Legal Education and the Legal Profession)

Deborah L. Rhode Award, 2025 (awarded to a “trailblazer in legal education and the legal profession” who “exemplifies groundbreaking work, imagination, and inspired action”)

- Awarded jointly by four Sections of the Association of American Law Schools—Section on Leadership, Section on Pro Bono & Service Opportunities, Section on Professional Responsibility and Section on Women in Legal Education

Wiley A. Branton Award, Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, 2021 (for “dismantling injustice” for prisoners during the COVID-19 pandemic by founding the compassionate release clearinghouse)

Bellow Scholar, Association of American of Law Schools, 2017-2019 (for empirical work on lawyerless courts)

Association of American of Law Schools, Poverty Law Section and Section on Clinical Legal Education, 2011 (selected paper)

LEGISLATION

Good Time Credits for Felony Offenses, codified at D.C. Code § 24–403.01a (2020) (increases good time credits for prisoners incarcerated longer than 20 years and creates retroactive good time credits for rehabilitated prisoners who never received credit toward early release)

⇒ 420 prisoners released early pursuant to this legislation

Compassionate Release for Individuals Convicted of Felony Offenses, codified at D.C. Code § 24–403.04 (2020) (creates judicial resentencing opportunities for older prisoners and prisoners with serious or chronic health conditions)

⇒ 100+ prisoners granted compassionate release pursuant to this legislation

Fair Criminal Record Screening Act of 2014, codified at D.C. Code § 32–1342 (2014) (a “Ban the Box” antidiscrimination measure aimed at increasing employment opportunities for people with criminal records)

SELECTED PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- ◆ *Missing Evidence in Lawyerless Courts*, Annual Evidence Workshop, Vanderbilt Law School (2025)
- ◆ *The Uptake Puzzle in Expungement of Criminal Records*, DC-area A2J Roundtable (2025)
- ◆ *The Due Process Gap*, State and Local Courts Roundtable, Penn Law School (2025)
- ◆ *Judges and Justice Workers*, Access to Justice Roundtable, Vanderbilt Law School (2025)
- ◆ *The Uptake Puzzle in Expungement of Criminal Records*, Markelloquium (2024)
- ◆ *America’s Lawyerless Courts*, NY Judicial Institute (2024)
- ◆ *The Uptake Puzzle in Expungement of Criminal Records*, Law & Society Annual Meeting (2024)
- ◆ *Judges and State Civil Courts*, Bolch Judicial Institute, Duke Law School (2024)
- ◆ *Judges and Justice Work*, Justice Futures, Arizona State University (2024)
- ◆ *The Uptake Puzzle in Expungement of Criminal Records*, International Access to Justice Forum, UC Irvine (2023)
- ◆ *The Uptake Puzzle in Expungement of Criminal Records*, A2J Collaborative (2023)
- ◆ *The Uptake Puzzle in Expungement of Criminal Records*, Law & Society Annual Meeting (2023)
- ◆ *Lawyerless Law Development*, Stanford Law Review Symposium (2023)
- ◆ *Policy Debates in Access to Justice*, ABF/Access to Justice Scholars Forum, Georgetown (2022)
- ◆ *The Institutional Mismatch of State Civil Courts*, plenary session, Seventh Annual Civil Procedure Workshop (2022)
- ◆ *The Gender of Gideon*, Seattle University School of Law Faculty Workshop (2022)
- ◆ *The Gender of Gideon*, Catholic University School of Law Faculty Workshop (2022)
- ◆ *A Turn Toward the States*, AALS Annual Meeting, Federal Courts Section Program (2022)
- ◆ *The Gender of Gideon*, Berkeley Law School, Civil Justice Initiative (2021)
- ◆ *Access to Justice Roundtable*, Ethical Tech Initiative of D.C. (2021)
- ◆ *Access to Justice and the Pandemic*, plenary session, Annual D.C. Judicial and Bar Conference (2021)
- ◆ *Judges in Lawyerless Courts*, Columbia Law School Faculty Workshop (2021)
- ◆ *The Gender of Gideon*, AALS Annual Meeting, Poverty Law Section Program (2020)
- ◆ *Judges and the Deregulation of Legal Services*, Fordham Law School Colloquium on Judging (2020)
- ◆ *Studying the “New” Civil Judges*, Law, Society & Psychological Science Research Series (2020)
- ◆ *COVID and Criminal Justice*, GW Alumni Series: COVID Legal Briefing (June 2020)
- ◆ *The Untapped Potential of the Court Watch*, Self-Represented Litigants Network (2019)
- ◆ *Regulatory Reform and Access to Justice*, Stanford Law School and Stanford d.school, (2019)

- ◆ *Beyond Federal Courts: Civil Procedure and Access to Justice*, plenary session, Fifth Annual Civil Procedure Workshop (2019)
- ◆ *NSF Workshop: Computing, Data Science, and Access to Justice*, NSF Workshop: Computing, Data Science, and Access to Justice (2019)
- ◆ *Advancing Research on State Courts and Agencies*, Law & Society Annual Meeting (2019)
- ◆ *The Gender of Gideon*, Law & Society Annual Meeting (2019)
- ◆ *A2J Summit*, Fordham Law School (2018)
- ◆ *A Theory of Civil Problem-Solving Courts*, Temple University Law School Faculty Workshop (2018)
- ◆ *Studying the “New” Civil Judges*, Wisconsin Law Review Symposium (2017)
- ◆ *Judges and Lay Litigants*, Empirical Access to Justice Workshop, University of South Carolina (2017)
- ◆ *Studying the “New” Civil Judges*, NYU Law School Clinical Writers’ Workshop (2017)
- ◆ *Judges and Self-Represented Litigants*, Bellow Scholars’ Conference (2017)
- ◆ *A Theory of Civil Problem-Solving Courts*, Law & Society Association Annual Meeting (2017)
- ◆ *Judges and Self-Represented Litigants*, Bellow Scholars’ Conference (2017)
- ◆ *Active Judging 2.0*, Self-Represented Litigant Network (2017)
- ◆ *Access to Justice Problems and Needs*, Indiana Journal of Law & Social Equality Symposium (2017)
- ◆ *A Theory of Civil Problem-Solving Courts*, SEALS (2016)
- ◆ *The Future of Ethics Scholarship: Are We in the End Days or Just Getting Started?*, SEALS (2016)
- ◆ *Technology and the Delivery of Legal Services to the Poor and Middle Class*, International Legal Ethics Conference (2016)
- ◆ *Income Inequality and Access to Justice*, plenary session, Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference (2016)
- ◆ *Reform and the Housing Conditions Court*, District of Columbia Bar Association (2016)
- ◆ *Informal, Inquisitorial, and Accurate: An Empirical Look at a Housing Court Experiment*, Self Represented Litigant Network (2016)
- ◆ *Empirical Advocacy*, plenary session, Poverty Law Conference, University of Seattle School of Law (2016)
- ◆ *Adversary Breakdown and Judicial Role Confusion in “Small Case” Civil Justice*, Mid-Atlantic Clinical Theory Workshop (2015)
- ◆ *High-Volume Accuracy: An Empirical Look at an Inquisitorial Housing Experiment*, Hastings-Stanford Access to Justice Conference, UC Hastings College of the Law (2015)
- ◆ *Hot Topics in Access to Justice*, SEALS (2015)
- ◆ *Inquisitorialism and Substantive Justice: An Empirical Look at an Experimental Housing Court*, AALS Clinical Conference (2015)
- ◆ *Inquisitorialism and Substantive Justice: An Empirical Look at an Experimental Housing Court*, Access to Justice Empirical Methods Workshop, University of Wisconsin Law School (2015)
- ◆ *Demand Side Reform in the Poor People’s Court*, Cornell Law School Faculty Workshop (2014)
- ◆ *Demand Side Reform in the Poor People’s Court*, SEALS New Scholars’ Colloquium (2014)
- ◆ *Empirically Studying Access to Justice*, Law & Society Annual Meeting (2014)
- ◆ *Inquisitorialism and Access to Justice: A Case Study of an Experimental Court*, Access to Justice Empirical Methods Workshop, University of Wisconsin Law School (2014)
- ◆ *Demand Side Reform in the Poor People’s Court*, George Washington University Law School Faculty Workshop (2014)

- ◆ *Demand Side Reform in the Poor People's Court*, Poverty Law Conference, American University Washington College of Law (2013)
- ◆ *Demand Side Reform in the Poor People's Court*, Mid-Atlantic Clinical Theory Workshop (2013)
- ◆ *Demand Side Reform in the Poor People's Court*, NYU Clinical Writers' Workshop (2013)
- ◆ *Demand Side Reform in the Poor People's Court*, District of Columbia Junior Clinical Workshop (2013)
- ◆ *The Debt Crisis and the National Response: Big Changes or Tinkering at the Edges*, AALS Annual Meeting, Poverty Law Section Program (2013)
- ◆ *Access to Justice Through Community Collaboration and Clinic Design*, Society of American Law Teachers Conference (2012)
- ◆ *Mind the Gap: (Re)Designing Clinical Teaching to Serve Cross-Generational Student Needs*, AALS Clinical Conference (2012)
- ◆ *In Pursuit Justice: Case Outcomes and the Delivery of Unbundled Legal Services*, National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel (2012)
- ◆ *District of Columbia Housing Conditions Court: Final Report*, Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia (2011)
- ◆ *Careers in Public Interest*, George Washington University Law School 1L Orientation (2011)
- ◆ *Justice Through Unbundled Legal Services?*, Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy Symposium (2011)
- ◆ *The Delivery of Unbundled Legal Services*, Stanford-Berkeley Clinicians' Writing Workshop (2010)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

- *COVID and Criminal Justice*, GW Law Summer Workshop Series (2020)
- *Race, Policing, and the Criminal Legal System*, GW Criminal Law Society Townhall (2020)
- *Introduction to Empirical Research*, Bellow Scholars' Workshop (2019)
- *Teaching Professional Responsibility and Legal Ethics*, SEALS (2019)
- *Bench-Bar-Media Dialogue: The Right to Be Forgotten and Expungement of Criminal Records*, public program, Council for Court Excellence (2018)
- *Criminal Record Expungement and Re-entry: Putting Policy into Practice*, American Bar Association (2017)
- *Clinicians and Empirical Research*, AALS Clinical Conference (2017)
- *Parole and Supervised Release*, Public Defender Service Symposium on Prisoners and Returning Citizens (2017)
- *Empirical Advocacy*, AALS Clinical Conference (2016)
- *Executive Clemency: What's Next*, National Clemency Conference, Catholic University Law School (2016)
- *Executive Clemency*, George Washington University Law School Faculty Workshop (2015)
- *A Second Chance for Mr. Norris: A Presidential Commutation After Over 20 Years in Prison*, dialogue with clemency recipient, George Washington University Law School (2015)
- *Litigating Under the United States Parole Commission Guidelines*, Corrections Information Council (2015)
- *Teaching Cross-Cultural Lawyering*, SEALS (2014)
- *Organizational Clients*, AALS Clinical Conference (2013)

- *Civil Protection Order Court Watch*, Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment (2012)
- *Things I Wish Someone Had Told Me When I Started*, AALS New Law Teachers' Conference (2012)
- *Fostering Justice and Public Service: Preparing Students to be Active Participants in Developing the Law, Legal Processes, and Legal Systems*, AALS Annual Meeting (2011)

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

- ◇ Council of the District of Columbia, Second Look Amendment Act of 2019 (2019)
- ◇ Council of the District of Columbia, Removing Barriers to Occupational Licenses Amendment Act of 2017 (2017)
- ◇ Council of the District of Columbia, Clemency Board Establishment Act of 2017 (2017)
- ◇ United States Parole Commission, *Paroling, Recommitting, and Supervising Federal Prisoners: Prisoners Serving Sentences Under the United States and District of Columbia Codes* (2015)
- ◇ Council of the District of Columbia, *Fair Criminal Record Screening Act of 2013* (2014)
- ◇ Council of the District of Columbia, *Re-Entry Facilitation Amendment Act of 2012* (2012)
- ◇ East Palo Alto Rent Board, *Rent Stabilization Ordinance Rules and Regulations* (2008)
- ◇ East Palo Alto City Council, *Rent Stabilization Ordinance* (2008)
- ◇ San Mateo County Public Housing Authority, *Housing Authority of San Mateo County Administrative Plan* (2006)

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Great start, Mr. President. Bring on more mass pardons. (op-ed), LA TIMES, Oct. 13, 2022

As D.C. Prepares to Reopen, What Will We Incorporate Into Our New Normal?, WASHINGTON CITY PAPER, May 13, 2021.

Sick, elderly prisoners are at risk for covid-19. A new D.C. law makes it easier for them to seek early release, WASHINGTON POST, December 30, 2020.

Interview, WPFM radio, *COVID and Criminal Justice*, July 6, 2020

D.C.'s Broken Parole System, WASHINGTON CITY PAPER, September 30, 2016

How to Solve the Housing Crisis: More Lawyers, BLOOMBERG NEWS, April 8, 2016

GW Law Clinic Team Gains Presidential Clemency for Client, GW TODAY, August 17, 2015

With Clemency from Obama, Drug Offender Embraces Second Chance, NEW YORK TIMES, August 15, 2015

We Don't Need Fewer Lawyers. We Need Cheaper Ones, WASHINGTON POST, June 2, 2015.

City Councils, EEOC Grapple with Employment Protections for Ex-Convicts, CORPORATE COUNSEL, October 18, 2012

Recent Studies Compare Full Representation to Limited Assistance Representation in Eviction Cases, THE NATIONAL HOUSING LAW BULLETIN, Vol. 42, March 2012

Wells Fargo Reducing Rents at 437 ex-Page Mill units, SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS, May 6, 2010

Official Eviction Data Exposes Disproportionate Displacement of Page Mill Tenants, BUSINESS & FINANCE WEEK, May 23, 2009

Ruling Sways in Favor of Tenants in Page Mill Properties Hearing, PALO ALTO DAILY NEWS, May 21, 2009

Hearing Examiner Rules for 136 Tenants against East Palo Alto Landlord, SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS, May 20, 2009

East Palo Alto Landlord Evicting Many Residents, SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS, May 14, 2009

Page Mill Properties Target of Lawsuit, PALO ALTO DAILY NEWS, July 27, 2008

Arbor Hotel Tenants Face Eviction, THE INDEPENDENT, March 19, 2005

Ordinance Helps Compensate Evicted Motel Tenants, SAN MATEO DAILY NEWS, March 18, 2005

Hotel Tenants Feel Cheated, SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER, March 17, 2005

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Advisor, American Law Institute, Principles of the Law, High-Volume Civil Adjudication (2024-present)
- Associate Reporter, American Law Institute, Principles of the Law, High-Volume Civil Adjudication (2023-2024)
- Commissioner (appointed), D.C. Access to Justice Commission (2023-present)
- Member (elected), The American Law Institute (2023-present)
- Advisory Council, American Bar Foundation, Access to Justice Scholars Program (2019-2021)
- Pew Charitable Trusts Civil Court Modernization Working Group (2021-present)
- Committee, National Equity Institute (an interdisciplinary research program founded by Dean Dayna Matthew to support racial equity work at GW) (2021-2022)
- Founding organizer, DC Compassionate Release Clearinghouse (building the capacity of lawyers to take compassionate release cases by developing training materials, webinars, resources, and sample documents) (2020-present)
- Peer Reviewer, Law & Society Review (2019-present)
- Peer Reviewer, Pew Charitable Trusts (review white papers on state courts) (2019-2020)
- Council for Court Excellence, Reentry Advocacy Network (2018-2022)
- Thrive Under 25 (local criminal justice coalition) 2019-2022
- American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Project on Access to Justice, Housing Subcommittee (2019)
- Bellows Scholars, Member of Advisory Committee, 2018-2021

- Expert Advisory Panel, National Center for Access to Justice, *Tracking Outcomes: A Guide for Civil Legal Aid Providers & Funders* (2018-2019)
- Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Resource Team for Legal Ethics & Legal Profession (2016-present)
- Executive Committee, Poverty Law Section, American Association of Law Schools (2014-2018)
- Chair, Poverty Law Section, American Association of Law Schools (2013)
- Member, District of Columbia Reentry Task Force (2012-2022)
- Chair-Elect, Poverty Law Section, American Association of Law Schools (2012)
- Planning Committee, *National Conference on Civil Right to Counsel Pilot Projects* (2012)
- Co-Chair, Joint Program of the Poverty Law Section and Clinical Legal Education Section, *The Debt Crisis and the National Response: Big Changes or Tinkering at the Edges*, American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting (2012-2013)
- Member, DC Consortium on Legal Services Providers (2011-2022)
- Member, DC Housing Case Handlers Working Group (2011-2015)
- Reviewer, Equal Justice Works fellowship applications, 2007 and 2013
- Member, Clinical Legal Education Association (2007-2022)
- Member, Western Center on Law & Poverty Housing Task Force, 2004-2006
- Bar Admissions: District of Columbia, California, Northern District of California