

ELIZABETH D. KATZ

University of Florida Levin College of Law
katz@law.ufl.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Florida Levin College of Law

Professor of Law 2023-present
Faculty Affiliate in the History Department

Harvard Law School

Howard J. and Katherine W. Aibel Visiting Professor of Law Fall 2023

Washington University in St. Louis School of Law

Associate Professor of Law 2019 – 2023
Associate Professor of Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies (by courtesy) 2019 – 2023
Faculty Affiliate in the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity 2020 – 2023

Boston College Law School

Visiting Professor of Law Spring 2023

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Jack N. Pritzker Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law Fall 2022

Duke University School of Law

Visiting Professor of Law (short visit) Fall 2022

Stanford Law School

Fellow, Stanford Center for Law and History 2017 – 2019

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Ph.D. History, 2019; M.A. History, 2015

Dissertation: *Courting American Families: The Enforcement of Marital Financial Duties and the Creation of Courts of Domestic Relations, 1880-1930* (Committee: Nancy F. Cott, Tomiko Brown-Nagin, Kenneth W. Mack, and John Fabian Witt)

University of Virginia, J.D., 2009; M.A. History, 2009

Honors: Order of the Coif
Virginia Law Review
Raven Society (University's "Oldest and Most Prestigious Honorary Society")

University of Virginia, B.A. History and Studies in Women and Gender, 2006

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa
Highest Distinction (one of two history majors to receive honor in 2006)
Richard Heath Dabney Prize for the Outstanding Thesis in United States History
Virginia Press Association 1st Place College Feature Writing Award

Thesis: *A Social History of Jews and Blacks in the Antebellum South*

PUBLICATIONS

"May It Please Her Honor": The United States' First Women Judges, 1870-1930, 102 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW (2025) (symposium).

Fostering Faith: Religion and Inequality in the History of Child Welfare Placements, 92 FORDHAM LAW REVIEW 2077 (2024).

Women in U.S. Law Schools, 1948-2021, 15 JOURNAL OF LEGAL ANALYSIS 48 (2023) (with Kyle Rozema and Sarath Sanga).

Sex, Suffrage, and State Constitutional Law: Women's Legal Right to Hold Public Office, 33 YALE JOURNAL OF LAW & FEMINISM 110 (2022).

- Haub Law Emerging Scholar Award in Gender and the Law (annual paper prize awarded by Pace Law School)
- Fishel-Calhoun Article Prize, Honorable Mention (biennial paper prize awarded by the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era)

"Racial and Religious Democracy": Identity and Equality in Midcentury Courts, 72 STANFORD LAW REVIEW 1467 (2020).

- Harold Berman Award for Excellence in Scholarship (annual paper prize awarded by the Association of American Law Schools Section on Law and Religion)
- Selected for American Constitution Society Junior Scholars Public Law Workshop

Criminal Law in a Civil Guise: The Evolution of Family Courts and Support Laws, 86 UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW REVIEW 1241 (2019).

- Reviewed in Philomila Tsoukala, *Family Courts as Criminal Courts: A Story of Origins*, JOTWELL: THE JOURNAL OF THINGS WE LIKE (LOTS), Jan. 8, 2019

"A Woman Stumps Her State": Nellie G. Robinson and Women's Right to Hold Public Office in Ohio, 53 AKRON LAW REVIEW 313 (2019) (symposium).

Judicial Patriarchy and Domestic Violence: A Challenge to the Conventional Family Privacy Narrative, 21 WILLIAM & MARY JOURNAL OF WOMEN AND THE LAW 379 (2015).

- Kathryn T. Preyer Award (annual paper prize awarded by the American Society for Legal History)
- *Republished in* WOMEN AND THE LAW 345 (Tracy A. Thomas ed., 2016)
- Selected for Law and Humanities Junior Scholars Workshop

Women's Involvement in International Constitution-Making, in FEMINIST CONSTITUTIONALISM: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES 204 (Beverly Baines, Daphne Barak-Erez, & Tsvi Kahana, eds., 2012).

- Zora Neale Hurston Award for best UVA graduate student paper on women or gender

How Automobile Accidents Stalled the Development of Interspousal Liability, 94 VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW 1213 (2008).

- Law School Alumni Association Best Note Award (selected by UVA Law faculty)

Differential Access to Quality Rural Healthcare: Professional and Policy Challenges, 29 FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH 186 (2006) (with Elizabeth Merwin and Audrey Snyder).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Baptized by Law: Religion and Adoption

Courting American Families: Domestic Debts and the Gendered Carceral State, 1830-1960 (book manuscript)

Women in Law (interdisciplinary historical and empirical project with Kyle Rozema and Sarath Sanga)

SELECTED COMMENTARY AND SHORTER WORKS

U.S. Gender Composition of Attorneys, SAGE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CRIME AND GENDER (forthcoming).

The History of Women's Right to Hold Office, STATE COURT REPORT, Sept. 23, 2024.

150 Years of Women's Progress Support Amending the Massachusetts Constitution, BOSTON GLOBE, Apr. 25, 2023.

Women's "Chilly Path" to the New York Judiciary, S.H.G.A.P.E. BLOG (Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era), Sept. 8, 2021.

Kamala Harris's Election Reinforces Women's Right to Hold Our Highest Offices, WASHINGTON POST, Jan. 20, 2021.

Missouri's Unique Contributions to Women's Rights to Vote and Hold Office, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH, Nov. 2, 2020, at A9.

American Society for Legal History Report: Women, "Aliens," and Citizenship, LEGAL HISTORY BLOG, Nov. 7, 2016.

MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND CITATIONS

Interviewed about child custody history in *The Divide* (documentary in production for 2026 release).

Quoted in Caroline Hansen, *How to Legally Change Your Name*, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, Oct. 12, 2023.

Guest, *Legal Tenzer* (Podcast), *The History of Women in the Law*, Oct. 5, 2023.

Quoted in Joedy McCreary, *False Claim New Dads Signing for Birth Certificates Must Take DNA Tests First*, USA TODAY, Sept. 8, 2023.

Quoted in Laura Spitalniak, *Top Law Schools Have Been Slow to Add Women Faculty Members, Research Finds*, HIGHER ED DIVE, Oct. 11, 2022.

Research discussed in Christine Charnosky, *"Pink Ghettos": New Study Finds Female Law Deans, Faculty Often Relegated to "Lower Status Positions,"* LAW.COM, Aug. 25, 2022.

Quoted in Stephanie Ward, *Law School Achievement Gap by Gender for Faculty and Deans Examined in New Paper*, ABA JOURNAL, Aug. 22, 2022.

Guest, *The Remedial Herstory Project*, Season 2, Episode 11: Why Was Women's Fight for Low Level Offices Needed?, Oct. 27, 2021.

Racial and Religious Democracy: Identity and Equality in Midcentury Courts, FACULTI, July 27, 2021.

Research discussed in Karin Wulf, *For Generations, Black Women Have Envisioned a Better, Fairer American Politics*, SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE, Sept. 8, 2020.

Quoted in *100 Years after Ratification*, THE SOURCE, Aug. 17, 2020.

Guest, *Ipsa Dixit (Podcast)*, Episode 481, Feb. 11, 2020.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

American Society for Legal History

Board of Directors, Nov. 2022 – present

Kathryn T. Preyer Memorial Committee (Chair), Jan. 2021 – Nov. 2022

Kathryn T. Preyer Memorial Committee (Member), Dec. 2019 – Dec. 2020

Standing Committee on the Annual Meeting, Dec. 2015 – Mar. 2019

University of Florida Levin College of Law

Appointments Committee, Fall 2025 – Spring 2026

Academic Success & Bar Strategy Committee, Spring 2025

Faculty Development Committee, Spring 2024

Florida Supreme Court Historical Society

Board of Trustees, July 2025 – June 2028

Legal History JOTWELL (The Journal of Things We Like (Lots))

Contributing Editor, May 2025 – present

Supreme Court Fellows Program Academic Advisory Board

Academic Advisor, October 2024 Term

American Journal of Legal History

Book Review Editor, Feb. 2020 – Nov. 2023

Association of American Law Schools Section on Law & Religion

Harold Berman Award for Excellence in Scholarship Committee (Chair), Jan. 2021 – Dec. 2022

Law and Society Association

Co-organizer of the Law & History Collaborative Research Network, Dec. 2019 – Oct. 2022

Washington University in St. Louis

Family Law Society Faculty Advisor, Fall 2020 – Spring 2022

Law School Racial Equity Task Force, Spring 2022

Honorary Degree Committee of the Board of Trustees, Fall 2019 – Spring 2022

Law School Appointments Committee, Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

Law School Clerkship Committee, Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School Chapter of the American Constitution Society

Selection Committee for 2021 Constance Baker Motley National Student Writing Competition

Stanford Law School

Co-organizer of the Stanford Center for Law and History's conference on "Legal Histories and Legacies of the Nineteenth Amendment," held May 3, 2019

Co-organizer of the Stanford Center for Law and History's inaugural conference on "Legal Histories of Policing and Surveillance," held Apr. 20, 2018

Cambridge University Press

Outside Reviewer (Book), May 2025

Stanford Law Review

Peer Reviewer (Article), February 2025

Crime and Justice

Peer Reviewer (Article), June 2024

Yale University Press

Outside Reviewer (Book), February 2023

Temple University Press

Outside Reviewer (Book), May 2020

SELECTED LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Covington & Burling LLP, Washington, D.C.

Associate, Sept. 2010 – July 2013, *Summer Associate*, Summer 2008

Represented clients at the trial and appellate levels in matters including white collar crime, legal ethics, and a pro bono Eighth Amendment challenge. Advised several leading global technology companies regarding data privacy laws and compliance with electronic surveillance requests from U.S. and foreign law enforcement agencies. Received recognition for pro bono work through the Washington Lawyers' Committee Outstanding Achievement Award (2012) and the D.C. Bar Capital Pro Bono High Honor Roll (2011, 2012).

Neighborhood Legal Services Program, Washington, D.C.

Pro Bono Lawyer on rotation from Covington & Burling, Sept. 2012 – Mar. 2013

Provided free legal services to low-income residents of the District of Columbia; litigated family law cases including custody and visitation, child support, and divorce.

United States District Court, District of Maryland, Baltimore, MD

Law Clerk, The Honorable J. Frederick Motz, Aug. 2009 – Aug. 2010

University of Virginia School of Law Supreme Court Clinic, Charlottesville, VA

Student Member, Fall 2008 – Spring 2009

Identified promising cases for Writs of Certiorari; contributed substantial research and writing to legal briefs submitted to U.S. Supreme Court, including the prevailing argument in *Bloate v. United States*, 559 U.S. 196 (2010), which involved interpretation of the federal Speedy Trial Act.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED WORKSHOPS

Atheism and Adoption: Lessons and Legacies

- Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, Amelia Island, July 31, 2025.
- International Society of Family Law North American Regional Conference, Temple University Beasley School of Law, June 16, 2025.

Children, Religion, and Family Law (Book Proposal)

- Annual Law and Religion Roundtable, Emory Law School, June 19, 2025.
- Family Law Scholars and Teachers and Teachers Conference, Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law, June 17-18, 2025.

Baptized by Law: Religion and Adoption

- University of Florida Faculty Workshop, March 24, 2025.
- Current Issues in Law, Faith and Religion Colloquium, Pepperdine Caruso School of Law, November 21, 2024.
- American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, San Francisco, October 26, 2024.
- Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, Fort Lauderdale, July 25, 2024.
- Annual Law & Religion Roundtable, University of Alabama Law School, June 20, 2024.
- Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, University of Baltimore School of Law, June 17, 2024.
- Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, Boston College School of Law, June 14, 2023.

Women and the Law

- Opening lecture for Virginia Law Foundation's Inaugural Women and the Law Institute, Richmond, Virginia, March 21, 2025 (participated remotely).

"May It Please Her Honor": The United States' First Women Judges, 1870-1970

- The 150th Anniversary of *Minor v. Happersett*: The Past and Future of Women's Rights, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, Sept. 27, 2024.
- Judicial Conference of the Fourth Circuit, Greensboro, NC, July 1, 2023.
- The History of Women, Gender & Sexuality Seminar, Massachusetts Historical Society, Feb. 21, 2023 (online).
- American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, Chicago, Nov. 11, 2022.
- Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, July 14, 2022 (online).
- Womanhood(s) in the United States Conference, Sorbonne Nouvelle, France and online, May 19, 2022.

Religion and the Contested History of Child Welfare Services

- Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, March 22, 2023 (online).
- Boston College Law School Legal History Roundtable, March 15, 2023.

Faith-Based Agencies, Foster Care, and Family Policing

- Duke University School of Law Faculty Workshop, Nov. 16, 2022.
- Indiana University Maurer School of Law Faculty Workshop, Nov. 3, 2022.
- University of Florida Levin College of Law Faculty Workshop, Oct. 27, 2022.
- Northwestern Pritzker School of Law Faculty Workshop, Oct. 17, 2022.
- Florida State University College of Law Faculty Workshop, Oct. 6, 2022.

Faith-Based Agencies and Child Welfare

- Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, Temple University Beasley School of Law, June 22, 2022.
- Washington University School of Law Faculty Workshop, May 4, 2022.

- Midwest LGBTQ+ Rights Conference, Washington University School of Law, March 24, 2022 (online).
- Law vs. Antisemitism Conference, Indiana University McKinney School of Law, March 15, 2022 (online).
- Civil Rights Section New Voices Panel, Association of American Law Schools Annual Conference, Jan. 7, 2022 (online).
- University of Chicago Law School Public Law and Legal Theory Workshop, Nov. 16, 2021 (online).

"The Heart and Soul of a Successful Family Court": The Symbiotic Development of Probation and Specialized Domestic Relations Courts

- 2022 Carmen Tortora Symposium on Topics in American Legal History, March 25, 2022 (invited online talk).

Faith and Family Formation: Jewish Lawyers and Interreligious Adoption Advocacy during the Civil Rights Movement

- American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, Nov. 6, 2021, New Orleans (panel withdrew due to COVID-19).

Women in Law: History and Trends

- Summer Feminist Legal Theory Workshop, June 16, 2021 (online).

Religion, Adoption, and Juvenile Delinquency

- Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, May 27, 2021 (online).

Stanford Law School Book Talk – Beyond Belief, Beyond Conscience: The Radical Significance of the Free Exercise of Religion with Jack N. Rakove

- Invited commenter, May 4, 2021 (online).

The Family Law of the Midwest, 1890-1920

- Organization of American Historians Annual Conference, Apr. 15-18, 2021 (prerecorded).

Religion and Adoption

- *Fulton, Faith, Families and Foster Care* Conference, University of Virginia School of Law, Jan. 22, 2021 (online).
- Association of American Law Schools Annual Conference, Jan. 8, 2021 (online).
- Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, Aug. 3, 2020 (online).
- Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, June 16, 2020 (online).

Women's Suffrage and the Legal Right to Hold Public Office

- "Shall Not Be Denied": The 15th and 19th Amendments at the Sesquicentennial and Centennial of Their Ratifications, The Massachusetts Historical Society's 2020 Conrad E. Wright Research Conference, Oct. 16, 2020 (online).
- Race, Sex, and Voting Rights: Past, Present, and Future, Access to Justice: Public Interest Law & Policy Speaker Series, Washington University School of Law, Sept. 21, 2020 (online).
- Feminist Legal Theory Summer Series, July 22, 2020 (online).

- Anniversaries of Independence, Washington University Libraries Panel, July 2, 2020 (online).
- Washington University School of Law Faculty Workshop, July 1, 2020 (online).
- Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, May 31, 2020 (online).
- University of Chicago Law School Workshop on Regulating Family, Sex, and Gender, May 20, 2020 (online).
- The 19th Amendment at 100: From the Vote to Gender Equality, Seventh Annual Constitutional Law Conference, University of Akron School of Law, Sept. 20, 2019.

Can We Move Beyond Race and Religion? Group Identity & Civil Rights in Jewish Historical Perspective

- Invited remarks for University of Virginia conference: "How the Law Treats Hate: Antisemitism and Anti-Discrimination Reconsidered," Sept. 10, 2020 (online).

Antisemitism and Law: A Conversation between History and Law

- Plenary panel at the American Jewish Historical Society Biennial Scholars Conference (with James Loeffler and Victoria Woeste), June 22, 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19).

The Religion Clauses

- Panel Chair and Commenter, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics Conference, Washington University in St. Louis, Jan. 24, 2020.

Women's Eligibility for Public Office and the Path to Judgeships, 1869-1960

- Association of American Law Schools Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., Jan. 3, 2020.
- 150 Years of Women at WashULaw Faculty Speakers Series, Washington University School of Law, Sept. 25, 2019.
- Stanford Center for Law and History Conference on Legal Histories and Legacies of the Nineteenth Amendment, Stanford Law School, May 3, 2019.

"Racial and Religious Democracy": Identity and Equality at Midcentury

- American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, Boston, Nov. 22, 2019.
- Southeastern Law Schools Junior/Senior Faculty Workshop, Tulane Law School, Nov. 1, 2019.
- Washington University School of Law Faculty Workshop, July 17, 2019.
- Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., May 30, 2019.
- Berkeley Law and History Workshop, Berkeley Law School, Apr. 2, 2019.
- Stanford Law Fellows Workshop, Stanford Law School, Feb. 4, 2019.

"Duty, not debt": Legal Challenges to Family Support Enforcement, 1830-1905

- The Newberry Seminar in the History of Capitalism, Newberry Library, Chicago, Oct. 25, 2019.

The Partial Revision of Marital Financial Rights and Duties

- Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, Howard University School of Law, May 29, 2019.

“Mending Broken Families”: Probation Oversight and the Enforcement of Gender Norms

- American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch, Santa Clara University, Aug. 3, 2018.

Family Law as Criminal Law: The Forgotten Criminal Origins of Modern Family Laws and Courts

- Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, Cardozo Law School, June 19, 2018.
- Stanford Law Fellows Workshop, Stanford Law School, Oct. 30, 2017.

The Forgotten Family Court Origins of Probation

- Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, June 9, 2018.

“Racial and Religious Democracy”: Identity, Employment, and Civil Rights in New York City

- Stanford Center for Law and History Workshop, Stanford Law School, May 24, 2018.
- Stanford Law Fellows Workshop, Stanford Law School, May 14, 2018.
- U.S. History Workshop, Stanford University History Department, Apr. 18, 2018.

Racial Politics in Juvenile Courts

- International Society of Family Law North American Regional Conference on Inequality and the Future of Family Law, University of Minnesota Law School, Apr. 27, 2018.

The Contentious History of Identity-Matching in Probation Treatment

- Stanford Center for Law and History Conference on Legal Histories of Policing and Surveillance, Stanford Humanities Center, Apr. 20, 2018.

The Criminalization of Men’s Family Support Duties

- American Society for Legal History Student Research Colloquium, Las Vegas, Oct. 26, 2017.
- 20th Century U.S. History Workshop, Harvard University, Apr. 12, 2017.

The Politics of Identity in the First Courts of Domestic Relations, 1910-1930

- Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities Annual Meeting, Stanford University, Mar. 31, 2017.

Courting American Families: The Creation and Evolution of Courts of Domestic Relations

- Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities Graduate Student Workshop, Stanford University, Mar. 30, 2017.
- Law and Society Association Graduate Student Workshop, New Orleans, June 1, 2016.

Globalization, Transnational Families, and the Harmonization of Private International Law: The Creation of the United Nations Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance

- Globalism & the Law in Historical Perspective Legal History Consortium Conference, Indiana University (Bloomington) Maurer School of Law, June 5, 2015.

Litigating Divorce in the Nation’s Capital during the Progressive Era

- Center for History and Economics Graduate Workshop, Harvard University, Apr. 9, 2015.
- Gender & Sexuality Workshop, Harvard University, Apr. 1, 2015.

Judicial Patriarchy and Legal Responses to Domestic Violence in the Early Twentieth Century: A Challenge to the Conventional Family Privacy Narrative

- Gender & Sexuality Workshop, Harvard University, Feb. 12, 2014.

For Love of Justice: Redefining Feminist Legal History

- Roundtable Participant, Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, University of Massachusetts Amherst, June 11, 2011.

"Wife Beating" and "Uninvited Kisses" in the Supreme Court and Society in the Early Twentieth Century

- Law & Humanities Junior Scholar Workshop, Columbia Law School, June 5, 2010.
- Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities Annual Meeting, Brown University, Mar. 19, 2010.
- Kathryn T. Preyer Scholar Panel, American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, Dallas, Tex., Nov. 13, 2009.

Women's Involvement in International Constitution-Making

- International Conference on Feminist Constitutionalism, Queen's College, Canada, Feb. 28, 2009.

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

District of Columbia
United States District Court for the District of Maryland
United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
Virginia

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association
American Society for Legal History
Law and Society Association
Organization of American Historians

Last updated September 4, 2025