

Michelle Y. Ewert
Washburn University School of Law
1700 SW College Avenue, Topeka, KS 66621
(785) 670-1681 • michelle.ewert@washburn.edu

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Topeka, KS

Professor of Law, Director of Washburn Law Clinic
Associate Professor of Law

August 2023 - present
August 2017 - July 2023

Supervise legal intern case work including housing, criminal record expungement, consumer, public benefits, estate planning, name and gender marker change, and guardianship cases before administrative agencies and in state and municipal court. Teach weekly clinic seminar on core lawyering skills, substantive law, and lawyering philosophies. Organized and led clinic service-learning trips to rural Kansas during 2018 and 2020 spring breaks and 2018 summer term. Teach Writing for Law Practice class.

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW, Baltimore, MD

Clinical Teaching Fellow, Civil Advocacy Clinic

December 2013 - June 2017

Supervised student attorney case work including housing, consumer, public benefits, and other civil cases before administrative agencies and in state court. Taught weekly clinic seminar focused on lawyering skills. Oversaw student work on policy projects relating to legislation before Maryland General Assembly. Taught Family Law in Spring 2017 semester.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

HOMELESS PERSONS REPRESENTATION PROJECT, Baltimore, MD

Housing Law Supervisor
Staff Attorney

July 2012 - December 2013
September 2010 - July 2012

Litigated subsidized housing cases in state court and administrative agencies. Supervised attorneys and student law clerks in their housing cases. Participated in coalitions working on legislative advocacy, drafted written testimony, and provided oral testimony before legislative bodies and city and state agencies. Conducted community education presentations for case workers and community members at shelters, social service, and medical service agencies. Prepared grant reports and grant applications.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA LEGAL SERVICES, Visalia, CA

Staff Attorney

May 2007 – September 2010

Litigated domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse cases in state court. Drafted estate planning documents and advised seniors on legal issues. Advised small claims litigants on consumer matters. Conducted community education presentations about legal services at community centers and non-profit organizations.

HOPE FAIR HOUSING CENTER, Wheaton, IL
Staff Attorney

August 2006 – May 2007

Investigated cases, prepared fair housing complaints, and represented HOPE and its clients in administrative hearings and settlement negotiations. Prepared grant reports on program activities.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

CHICAGO PUBLIC HOUSING BUY-BACK RECYCLING PROGRAM, Chicago, IL
*Americorps*VISTA*

August 2000 - August 2001

Issued vouchers to public housing residents for their collection of recyclable materials. Maintained databases and prepared recycling truck route reports to track program progress. Conducted community education presentations about the importance of recycling in schools, community centers, and senior buildings.

PUBLICATIONS

The Dangers of Facial Recognition Technology in Subsidized Housing, 25 N.Y.U. J. OF LEGIS. & PUB. POL'Y ___ (forthcoming 2023).

Their Home is Not Their Castle: Subsidized Housing's Intrusion into Family Privacy and Decisional Autonomy, 99 N.C. L. REV. 869 (2021).

Things Fall Apart (Next Door): Discriminatory Maintenance and Decreased Home Values as the Next Fair Housing Battleground, 84 BROOK. L. REV. 1141 (2019).

One Strike and You're Out of Public Housing: How the Intersection of the War on Drugs and Federal Housing Policy Violates Due Process and Fair Housing Principles, 32 HARV. J. ON RACIAL & ETHNIC JUST. 57 (2016).

REPORTED OPINION

Drafted briefs for case before Maryland Court of Special Appeals in which Court found that use of a subsidized unit's address to receive mail did not prove that the person was living in the unit as an unauthorized occupant under the Housing Authority's visitor policy. *Matthews v. Hous. Auth. of Baltimore City*, 216 Md. App. 572, 88 A.3d 852, cert. denied, 439 Md. 330, 96 A.3d 145 (2014).

PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, "Challenges/Procedures with Subsidized Housing," Kansas Judicial Branch webinar, September 20, 2023 (Zoom).

Panelist, “Kansas Eviction Cases: Specific Situations, Suggestions, and Pitfalls,” Kansas Judicial Branch webinar, September 13, 2023 (Zoom).

Presenter, “Recent Fair Housing Developments Relating to Homeownership,” 2023 Kansas Housing Conference, Kansas Housing Resource Corporation, Overland Park, Kansas, August 23, 2023.

Presenter, “Housing Discrimination Against Homeowners of Color,” Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, Topeka, Kansas, June 26, 2023.

Presenter, “Using Expungement to Overcome the Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Record,” 2023 Selected Topics and Miscellany CLE, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas, June 23, 2023.

Presenter, “Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Conviction,” Kansas Public Defense Conference, Kansas State Board of Indigents' Defense Services, Topeka, Kansas, June 5, 2023.

Presenter, “Planning for When Youth with Disabilities Turn 18,” Children's Alliance of Kansas/KVC webinar, February 10, 2023.

Presenter, “Fighting Housing Discrimination to Promote Public Health,” KU Medical Center - Communities Organizing to Promote Equity (COPE), December 15, 2022 (Zoom).

Moderator, “The Disconnect: Exploring the Virtual Connection between Lawyers and Clients,” Washburn Law Journal Symposium, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas, November 3, 2022 (Zoom).

Panelist, “Race, Class, and Digital Technology,” ClassCrits XIII Conference, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Houston, Texas, October 21, 2022.

Presenter, “Overcoming Race-Based Housing Discrimination and Barriers to Capital,” 2022 Kansas Housing Conference, Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, August 31, 2022 (Zoom).

Presenter, “Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Record for Low-Income Individuals,” Kansas State Board of Indigents' Defense Services CLE webinar, June 9, 2022.

Presenter, “Overcoming Race-Based Housing Discrimination and Barriers to Capital,” FHLBank of Topeka webinar, June 2, 2022.

Co-presenter, “Capitalizing on Pandemic Relief Efforts to Effectuate Legislative, Judicial, and Administrative Changes for Low-Income Tenants,” Association of American Law Schools (AALS) 2022 Conference on Clinical Legal Education, May 10, 2022 (Zoom).

Presenter, “Fair Housing Implications of Domestic Violence, Sexual Harassment, and Criminal Records Screening,” Annual Fair Housing Seminar, City of Salina Community Relations Division, Salina, Kansas, April 22, 2022.

Presenter, “Overcoming Race-Based Housing Discrimination,” Women Attorneys' Association of Topeka (WAAT) Racial Equity Committee and Kansas Women Attorneys Association (KWAA) Outreach and Education Committee CLE webinar, February 16, 2022.

Presenter, “Facial Recognition Technology in Subsidized Housing,” Central States Law Schools Association (CSLSA) Annual Scholarship Conference, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas, September 24, 2021 (Zoom).

Presenter, “Housing Policy and Racial Equity,” Governor’s Commission on Racial Equity and Justice, Topeka, Kansas, July 29, 2021 (Zoom).

Presenter, “Supported Decision-Making and Promoting Independence,” 2021 Selected Topics and Miscellany CLE webinar, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas, June 17, 2021.

Co-presenter, “Taking Experiential Learning on the Road: The Benefits of Service Learning Projects,” Association of American Law Schools (AALS) 2021 Conference on Clinical Legal Education, May 1, 2021 (Zoom).

Presenter, “Reasonable Accommodations, Modifications and Assistance Animals,” Annual Fair Housing Seminar, City of Salina Community Relations Division, April 30, 2021 (Zoom).

Panelist, “Resisting Intrusions into Physical Privacy,” University of Baltimore 12th Feminist Legal Theory Conference, Applied Feminism and Privacy, April 23, 2021 (Zoom).

Co-Presenter, “The Federal Government's Role in Furthering Affordable Rental Housing: Support and Retrenchment,” American Bar Association (ABA) Professors’ Corner webinar, sponsored by the Legal Education and Uniform Laws Group of the ABA Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law, September 8, 2020.

Presenter, “Helping Clients Plan for Incapacity and Other End of Life Issues,” 2020 Selected Topics and Miscellany CLE webinar, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas, June 18, 2020.

Panelist, “The Ripple Effect of the Immigration Public Charge Rule,” LatCrit 2019 Biennial Conference, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia, October 19, 2019.

Co-presenter, “What the 🤔 👍 😡 📺: Law and Emojis,” Women Attorneys Association of Topeka (WAAT) CLE training, Topeka, Kansas, October 16, 2019 (with members of Inn of Court).

Presenter, “Fair Housing Update,” 2019 Kansas Housing Conference, Kansas Housing Resource Corporation, Wichita, Kansas, September 17, 2019.

Presenter, “The Next 50 Years of Fair Housing,” 2019 Selected Topics and Miscellany CLE, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas, June 28, 2019.

Panelist, “Access to Justice (and) Opportunities in Rural Areas and Small Towns - Educating Young Law Students to be Local Lawyer Leaders,” Association of American Law Schools (AALS) 2019 Conference on Clinical Legal Education, San Francisco, California, May 6, 2019.

Co-presenter, “Sexual Harassment in Housing,” Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, 2019 Fair Housing webinar, April 29, 2019 (with Andrea Boyack).

Presenter, “Sexual Harassment in Housing,” Annual Fair Housing Seminar, City of Salina Community Relations Division, Salina, Kansas, April 26, 2019.

Co-presenter, “Fair Housing Training,” Kansas Housing Resource Corporation, Topeka, Kansas, November 29, 2018 (with Andrea Boyack).

Presenter, “The Legal Landscape of Transgender Rights,” Q and A: Queers and Allies Discover the Law, Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, November 16, 2018.

Co-presenter, “Fair Housing: 50 Years Later,” Kansas Housing Conference, Topeka, Kansas, September 14, 2018 (with Andrea Boyack).

Panelist, “How to Foster Transgender Activism in a Clinical Setting and Provide Competent Legal Services to Transgender People,” Association of American Law Schools, 41st Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Chicago, Illinois, May 1, 2018.

Presenter, “Building on #MeToo: Disarming Efforts to Wield Power and Control over Female Tenants,” University of the District of Columbia School of Law, April 20, 2018, Washington, DC.

Moderator, “How Did We Get Here?,” Fair Housing and Financial Markets Diversity Symposium, Washburn University School of Law, March 6, 2018.

Presenter, “Contemporary Constitutional Issues in Housing,” Kanas State University, February 25, 2018, Manhattan, KS.

Presenter, Midland Care estate planning training for social workers, December 12, 2017, Topeka, KS.

Panelist, “The Scary Truth of Housing Segregation,” Washburn University School of Law, October 31, 2017, Topeka, KS (with Janet Thompson Jackson and Andrea Boyack).

Co-presenter, “Brief Service Fairs: Identifying Learning Goals and Navigating Ethical Challenges,” Midwest Clinical Legal Education Conference, University of Kansas School of Law, Lawrence, Kansas, October 13, 2017 (with Gillian Chadwick).

Symposium presenter, “Multifaceted Mass Incarceration: Confronting Varied Systems of Oppression of Black and Brown Bodies in the U.S. and Abroad,” Harvard Law School, March 31, 2016, Cambridge, MA.

Moderator, “Hunger, Homelessness and Hope,” University of Baltimore Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week panel, November 17, 2015, Baltimore, MD.

Panelist, “Law and Justice,” Conference on Inclusion and Diversity in Library and Information Science, October 16, 2015, College Park, MD.

Panelist, “Housing and Dignity,” Lat-Crit Conference, October 3, 2015, Anaheim, CA.

Presenter, Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Service landlord-tenant training for paralegals, July 10, 2015, Baltimore, MD.

Presenter, “Post Judgment Collection,” Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Service volunteer attorney training, June 25, 2015, Baltimore, MD.

Presenter, “How Poverty Creates Barriers to Justice that Influence the Outcomes in the Courtroom,” Judicial Institute of Maryland training, March 31, 2015, Baltimore, MD.

Presenter, “Understanding Poverty,” training for juvenile court system personnel, December 10, 2014, Baltimore, MD.

Panelist, Community Activist Panel for University of Baltimore Homelessness Awareness Week, November 20, 2014, Baltimore, MD.

Presenter, “Landlord-Tenant Training Nuts and Bolts,” Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Service volunteer attorney training, October 28, 2014, Baltimore, MD.

Presenter, “What Poverty Advocates Want Judges to Know About Their Clients,” Judicial Institute of Maryland training, October 16, 2013, Baltimore, MD.

Panelist, “Advancing the Human Right to Housing on the Ground in Maryland,” Partners for Justice conference, May 9, 2012, Baltimore, MD.

Guest lecturer, “The Intersection of Homelessness and the Legal System,” January term seminar at Johns Hopkins University, January 26, 2012, Baltimore, MD.

Presenter, “HCVP Boot Camp for Social Service Providers,” staff training at Health Care for the Homeless, November 17, 2011, Baltimore, MD.

Guest lecturer, “Legal Services for the Poor: The United States’ Experience,” Kyungpook National University, May 11, 2010, Daegu, South Korea.

Guest lecturer, “Legal Services for the Poor: The United States’ Experience,” Daegu University College of Law, May 7, 2010, Daegu, South Korea.

ORAL TESTIMONY AND POLICY ADVOCACY

Testimony before Kansas House Committee on Judiciary on HB 2556 and HB 2557 regarding proposed changes to expungement law that would increase access to expungement for indigent petitioners, February 7, 2022. Featured: NPR news summary, *Kansas Public Radio*, February 7, 2022.

Testimony before Maryland House Appropriations Committee on HB 559 regarding proposed restrictions on the practice of law school clinics, March 6, 2015.

Testimony before Baltimore City Council on Resolution 13-0097R regarding the City's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, March 13, 2013.

Testimony before Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee on SB 642 regarding non-judicial evictions, March 5, 2013.

Testimony before Baltimore City Council on Resolution 13-0097R regarding the City's disbanding of the I-83 homeless encampment, March 4, 2013.

Testimony before Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee on SB 620 regarding landlord retaliation, February 21, 2011.

Annual testimony before Housing Commissioner Paul Graziano on the Housing Authority of Baltimore City's proposed Annual Plan (March 25, 2013; March 26, 2012; and March 28, 2011).

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL

Juris Doctor, May 2006

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA – HUMPHREY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Master of Public Policy, May 2003

Professional Paper: *Informal Economic Activity in the CHA Developments*

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

B.A. in International Studies, May 2000

Magna cum laude with research honors

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

State bar memberships

- Kansas (admitted in 2017, currently active)
- Maryland (admitted in 2012, currently active)
- California (admitted in 2008, currently inactive)
- Illinois (admitted in 2006, currently inactive)
- Wisconsin (admitted in 2006, currently inactive)

Federal bar memberships

- United States District Court for the District of Maryland (admitted in 2013)
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (admitted in 2007)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, AWARDS, AND ACTIVITIES

Board of Directors, State Board of Indigents' Defense Services, 2022 – present.

Member, Kansas Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on Best Practices for Eviction Proceedings, October 2021 – present.

Board of Directors, LGBTQ Bar Association of Greater Kansas City, 2021 – present.

Honorable Mention for the Award for Excellence in a Public Interest Case or Project, Clinical Legal Education Association, 2020 (for work done in rural Kansas during spring 2020 semester).

Board of Directors, Topeka Symphony Orchestra, June 2019 – present.

Outstanding Service Award, Kansas Bar Association, 2019 (for work done in rural Kansas in 2018).

Barrister, The Hon. Sam A. Crow American Inn of Court, August 2017 – present.

Council member, Maryland State Bar Association Delivery on Legal Services Section, April 2014 – May 2017.

Chair, SHARP Coalition (Stop Homelessness and Reduce Poverty), April 2013 – December 2013.

Board of Directors, Legal Aid Association of California, January 2009 – June 2010.