Kristen Holmquist

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

UC Berkeley School of Law

Teaching Professor of Law

Courses (2008-present)

Constitutional Law, course for first-year JD students, designed to improve learning and lawyering skills

Constitutional Law for LL.M. Students, course for Executive Track LL.M. students

Constitutional Law for Undergraduate/High School Students, lower division Legal Studies course designed to introduce students to the Constitution's principles of equality and liberty

Contracts, required course for first-year JD students

Estates & Trusts, doctrinal course with a focus on lawyering skills

Lawyering as Problem Solving, experiential seminar for third-year JD students and LL.M. students on decision-making and persuasion when lawyering

Remedies for LL.M Students, course for Executive Track LL.M. students

Satisfaction in Life and Law, seminar on the psychology of happiness and the legal profession

How to Be Happy in Law School, one-unit seminar for first-year JD students on the psychology of happiness and the law student experience

Experiential Education (Associate Director, 2011-17; Director, 2017-2024)

Berkeley Law's Experiential Education program allows students to engage in hands-on learning throughout their time in law school. The program houses six independent, but related, components: academic skills; advocacy competitions; field placements; pro bono; practicums; and simulated lawyering skills courses (including first-year legal research and writing courses).

Director responsibilities included:

- Developed and implemented program's strategic plans and policies
- Planned and assessed needs in experiential curriculum
- Managed budgets
- Hired, trained, mentored, collaborated with and assessed effectiveness of simulation course and practicum instructors

- Hired and supervised directors of academic skills, advocacy competitions, and pro bono programs; hired and supervised field placement administrator
- Wrote/conducted research on lawyering and legal education
- Represented the program both internally and externally
- Served as liaison between full-time experiential instructors/administrators and other Senior Administrators

Academic Skills (Director, 2008-2019)

As Berkeley Law's Director of Academic Skills, I created a comprehensive Academic Support Program that is designed to diminish systemic barriers to law student excellence. The program offers a pre-orientation program, classes, workshops, and individual and group tutoring.

Director responsibilities included:

- Hired, trained, and supervised Assistant Director of Academic Skills
- Hired, trained, and supervised student Graduate Assistant Tutors
- Developed and taught courses, workshops, and pre-orientation
- Met one-on-one with students
- Partnered with faculty who teach in the first year to support students

Awards

U.C. Berkeley Distinguished Teaching Award, 2023
Rutter Award Winner for Teaching Distinction, 2017
Women Advancing the Law Award, Women of Berkeley Law, 2015
Commencement, Faculty Speaker (selected by graduating class), 2014, 2025

Service

Law School

ABA Accreditation Committee, 2026
Hiring Committee, Assistant Dean for Academic Planning, 2026
Hiring Committee, Associate Director of Academic Skills, 2026
Faculty Advisor, Disability Justice Coalition, 2024-26
Clinical Committee, 2019-20
Visual Display Committee, 2019-2021
Hiring Committee, Field Placement Administrator, 2019
Hiring Committee (Chair), Professors of Legal Writing, 2018
Lecturer Review Committee, 2018-2024
Hiring Committee, Director of Advocacy Competitions, 2017
Faculty Advisor, Coalition for Diversity, 2015-2021
Mentorship Working Group, 2015-16

Task Force on Experiential Education, 2014-2016
Equity and Inclusion Working Group (later called Committee), 2014-2017
Post-Ferguson Working Group, 2014-15
Student Affairs /Curriculum Committee, 2013-2026 (Chair 2024-25, 2025-26)
Hiring Committee (Chair), Assistant Director of Academic Support, 2013, 2017
Acting Director of Professional Skills, Spring 2012
Faculty Advisor, La Raza Law Journal, 2011-2014
Professional Skills Advisory Committee, 2009-2016
Clinic and Skills Committee, 2009-2012
Admissions Committee, 2009-2012
Hiring Committee, Director of Professional Skills, 2008-09

Campus
Sawyer Seminar Participant, 2026-27
Divisional Council, Elected Member, 2025-27
Free Speech, Academic Freedom, and Campus Climate Task Force, 2025-26
Diversity, Equity and Campus Climate Committee 2023-25

University of California Systemwide
Academic Council, 2025-26
Assembly of the Academic Senate, 2025-26
University of California Adaption to Disruptions, 2025-26
University Committee on Diversity, and Equity, 2023-26 (Vice Chair 2024-25; Chair 2025-26)

UCLA School of Law

Director of Academic Support and Lecturer in Law (2002-08)

Courses

Constitutional Law, course for first-year JD students, designed to improve learning and lawyering skills
Wills and Trusts, course with a focus on lawyering skills
Advanced Judicial Procedure, seminar on courts and judging

Academic Support

Recruited, hired, and trained student Graduate Assistant Tutors
Directed and taught in summer pre-orientation program
Developed and taught courses and workshops

Awards

Black Law Students Association, Service Award 2008
La Raza Law Students Association, Special Recognition 2008

Service

Program in Public Interest Law and Policy Admissions, 2005-07
Academic Support Committee, 2002-03; Chair, 2003-06
Curriculum Committee, 2002-03
Curriculum Subcommittee on New Externships, Chair, 2000-03
Clerkship/Teaching Committee, 2000-01, 2002-03

UC Irvine

Adjunct Lecturer, Political Science Department (1999-2000)
Taught Women and the Law and Women and Crime

EDUCATION

UCLA School of Law

J.D., 1996

Honors & Activities

Order of the Coif (Graduated First in Class of 1996)
UCLA Distinguished Graduate Student, 1994
UCLA Law Review, Comments Editor 1995-96; Staff Member 1994-95
Women's Law Journal, Assistant Articles Editor 1994-95; Staff Member 1993-94
Teaching Fellow for Professors David Sklansky and Eugene Volokh

University of California, Berkeley

A.B., English, 1991

PUBLICATIONS

The People the Puzzle Forgot, forthcoming California Law Review Online (October 2026)

Creating Wise Classrooms to Empower Diverse Law Students: Lessons in Pedagogy from Transformative Law Professors, 25 BERKELEY LA RAZA LAW J. (2015) (with Sean Darling-Hammond)

Measuring Merit: The Shultz-Zedeck Research on Law School Admissions, 63 JOURNAL OF LEGAL EDUC. 565 (2014) (with Marjorie Shultz, Sheldon Zedeck, and David Oppenheimer)

Challenging Carnegie, 61 JOURNAL OF LEGAL EDUC. 353 (2012)

Cultural Defense or False Stereotype? What Happens When Latina Defendants Collide with the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, 12 BERKELEY WOMEN'S L. J. 45 (1997)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Keynote Panel, 21st Annual Constitution Day Mini Conference, sponsored by Teach Democracy, Center for Civic Education, Ronald Reagan Foundation, September 2025 (invited speaker)

Pedagogy Panel, AALS Pre-Recruitment Conference Workshop, August 2025 (panelist)

Education Rights Panel & Q&A, UCLA School of Law, October 2024 (panelist)

Law School Pedagogy and Curriculum, For People of Color Conference, April 2024-25 (panelist)

Building a Satisfying Career, National Center for Youth Law Summer Seminar Series, July 2023 - 24 (invited speaker)

Pedagogy Workshop – Challenging Classroom Conversations, Berkeley Law, November 2023

The Future of Affirmative Action, Law Students of African Descent Workshop, Berkeley Law, April 2023 (panelist)

Teaching and Learning Constitutional Law in Difficult Times: Reorganizing and Resistance, SALT Teaching Conference, Chicago, October 2022 (moderator and panelist)

Cultivating Happiness in Your Legal Career, Berkeley Law, October 2021

Wellness Panel, Bar Association of San Francisco, April 2021 (panelist)

Berkeley Law Conversations: The Constitution & the Lessons Learned, Berkeley Law, January 2021 (panelist)

Lessons Learned from Fall: Teaching on Zoom, Berkeley Law, December 2020 (panelist)

Race, Equity, and the Future of Legal Academia, The George Washington University Law School, Faculty Workshop, November 2020 (panelist)

Empowering Black Women Law Students, Pepperdine Caruso School of Law Summit on Black Women and the Law, November 2020 (panelist)

Supporting First Generation Law Students, Berkeley Law, First Generation Professionals event, November 2018 (panelist)

LGBTQ Issues in the Trump Era, Berkeley Law Queer Caucus Event, November 2018 (panelist)

The Kavanaugh Nomination – Exploring the Communal and Social Impacts, Berkeley Law, Henderson Center, October 2018 (panelist)

Law School 101, Berkeley Law Orientation, August 2018 – 26 (mock class)

Self-Defense and Battery, Berkeley Law Pre-Orientation, August 2018 – 26 (mock class)

Creating Wise Classrooms, Suffolk University Law School Faculty Retreat, March 2017; UCLA Law Faculty Workshop, UCLA Law Student Presentation, April 2015 (presenter)

Mock Class, Berkeley Law Coalition for Diversity Law School Admission Conference, February 2016 (presenter)

Research on Race-Neutral Alternatives to the LSAT, Access Group Legal Education Research Symposium, November 2015 (panelist)

Inclusive Reform, Women Advancing the Law, Women of Berkeley Law, April 2015 (speech accepting award for mentoring and teaching)

Innovate or Else: Regulatory Responses to the Slow Pace of Reform, The Sho Sato Program in Japanese and U.S. Law, Berkeley Law and The Institute of Clinical Legal Education, Waseda University, December 2013 (presenter)

Beyond the LSAT, Beyond the Rankings, BA to JD Pipeline Conference, Santa Clara Law School, March 2013 (panelist)

Recent Supreme Court Cases, Berkeley Law Festival Latino, October 2012 (panelist)

Shultz/Zedeck Research on Predicting Lawyer Effectiveness, Maryland Women's Bar Association Annual Meeting, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, May 2012 (presenter)

Real Differences, or, Persuading Kennedy, Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender & Society, When Gender Norms Become Law: Recognizing and Correcting for Gender Bias, University of Wisconsin School of Law, February 2012 (work-in-progress presentation)

Challenging Carnegie, University of San Francisco Law Faculty Workshop, December 2012; UCLA Law Colloquium, April 2011; Berkeley Law Faculty Workshop, May 2010 (paper presenter)

Predictors for Successful Lawyering: Rethinking Law School Admissions, FutureEd3: Making Global Lawyers for the 21st Century, New York Law School, April 2011 (presenter)

The Identification, Development, and Validation of Predictors for Successful Lawyering; Report and Potential Relevance to Law School Admissions, Legal Education, and Professional Licensing Exam, FutureEd2: Making Global Lawyers for the 21st Century, Harvard Law School, October 2010 (presenter)

Litigation – Constitutional Politics and Strategies, Standing up to Arizona: Rebellious Lawyering Institute, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 2010 (panelist)

Collaborative Teaching – Teaching Methods that Empower Students as Learners, Law Schools Admission Counsel Academic Assistance Training Workshop, University of Miami School of Law, June 2007 (presenter)

Introduction to Academic Support Programs and Assessment, Law Schools Admission Counsel Academic Assistance Training Workshop, William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada Las Vegas, June 2005 (panelist)

LEGAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Caldwell, Leslie, Newcombe & Pettit, Los Angeles, CA
Litigation Associate (February–August 1999)

Irell & Manella LLP, Los Angeles
Litigation Associate (1997–1999)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Pasadena, CA
Honorable Robert Boochever
Law Clerk (1996–1997)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES / CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Berkeley Law Faculty Retreat, August 2018 (organizer, panel moderator, commenter)

Berkeley Law Teaching Institute, August 2013 (conference organizer, presenter)

Working Conference: Shultz/Zedeck Research on Predicting Lawyer Effectiveness and its Implications for Admissions, Curriculum, and Lawyers' Professional Development, Berkeley Law, March 2012 (conference organizer, facilitator)

State Bar of California's Council on Access & Fairness, Conference on Diversity in the Judiciary, 2011

State Bar of California's Council on Access & Fairness, Law School Focus Group Project, 2010 (invited participant)

Why Lawyers Leave: Creating an Environment for Work-Life Balance to Protect Human Capital and Promote Diversity, Loyola Law School, 2009 (conference organizer)

Member, Executive Board, AALS Section on Academic Support, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10