

Zohra Ahmed

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Georgia School of Law
Assistant Professor of Law

6/2021- present

Award: Sarah H. Moss Fellowship 2022-2023

Cornell Law School

Clinical Teaching Fellow, Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide

6/2018- 5/2021

- Co-taught and co-supervised law students in the International Human Rights Clinic.
- Represented capital defendants in the United States and Tanzania.
- Oversaw United Nations advocacy on behalf of an organization in the Occupied Syrian Golan.
- Co-taught and co-developed a seminar entitled Struggles for Liberation and Equality: Human Rights in the 21st Century and a course entitled Racism and the Law.
- Participated in bi-lingual training for capital defenders in Anglophone and Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa.

Award: Anne Lukingbeal Award for Service to Women Students in 2020.

WRITING

Scholarship

Beyond Competency (work in progress).

The Price of Consent: Law and Political Economy in the Global War on Terror (work in progress).

[Bargaining for Abolition](#), 90 FORDHAM L. REV. 1953 (2022) (invited essay).

The Right to Counsel in a Neoliberal Age, 69 UCLA L. REV. (forthcoming 2022).

[The Sanctuary of Prosecutorial Nullification](#), 83 ALB. L. REV. 239 (2020).

Blog Pieces

[Towards a Law and Political Economy of the Global War on Terror](#), Law and Political Economy Blog (Nov. 24, 2021).

Book Reviews

[Pressing Charges](#), review of [Crook County: Racism and Injustice in America's Largest Criminal Court](#), 26 NEW LABOR FORUM 109 (2017).

Selected Briefs

[Petition on Behalf of Lisa Montgomery to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights](#) (co-author and co-counsel) (requesting precautionary measures to prevent the execution of Lisa Montgomery, a survivor of sexual assault and the only woman on federal death row).

[Brief of Amicus Curiae the Legal Aid Society and seven other amici on behalf of Appellant, Vargas v. City of New York](#) (primary author and co-counsel) (demonstrating the illegality of NYPD's transit recidivist database and the harms its use inflicts on Black and Latinx New Yorkers).

Brief of Amicus Curiae mental health professionals on behalf of Appellant, *Silverstein v. Fed. Bureau of Prisons*, 559 F. App'x 739 (10th Cir. 2014) (student co-author) (outlining the impact of 30 years of solitary confinement on an individual's mental health).

Selected Advocacy Reports and Resources

Community Justice Exchange and Interrupting Criminalization, [Beyond Courts](#) (July 2022) (co-designed and co-authored).

Cornell Law School International Human Rights Clinic and Survived and Punished NY, [Mass Release Now: New York State's Obligation to Deliver Reparations for Criminalized Survivors](#) (Oct. 2021) (primary author and researcher).

Court Watch NYC, [Same Game, Different Rules: Lessons From the First 100 Days of New York's Bail Reform](#) (July 2020) (consultant) (documenting the implementation of New York State's short lived bail reform).

Court Watch NYC, [Broken Promises: A CWNYC Response to Drug Policing and Prosecution in New York City](#) (Oct. 2018) (co-designed and co-authored) (documenting drug prosecutions in New York City arraignments).

5 Boro Defenders, [A Guide to Electing a Brooklyn District Attorney](#) (Aug. 2017) (co-designed and co-authored) (comparing DA candidates' commitments to ending mass incarceration).

EDUCATION

Fordham University School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2013

Honors: Dean's List (2011-2013), Ruth Whitehead Whaley Scholar, Stein Scholar for the Public Interest, New York Women's Bar Association Foundation Fellow, Crowley Scholar, Moot Court Associate Editor

University of Cambridge, MPhil in Social Anthropology, high pass, 2010

University of Pennsylvania, B.A., *cum laude*, 2008

Major in Anthropology (Distinction) and minor in Economics

Honors and Awards: Dean's List, Ruth Marcus Kanter College Alumni Society Undergraduate Research Grant, Civic House Public Interest Award, Penn Institute for Urban Research Grant

PRESENTATIONS, LECTURES & PANELS

“The Price of Consent: Law and Political Economy in the Global War on Terror,”

- **Cardozo Law School** (scheduled for Nov. 2022)
- Law and Political Economy Workshop Series, **Yale Law School** (scheduled for Nov. 2022)
- ASIL Midyear Meeting Research Forum (scheduled for Nov. 2022) (accepted after competitive application)
- Critical Law & Security Studies, **UCLA Law** (March 2022).
- Junior International Law Scholars Association, University of Miami (Jan. 2022)
- Global Scholars Academy, **Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School** (Aug. 2021) (accepted after competitive application).

“Criminalization as Colonization,” Crimfest, Cardozo Law School (July 2022).

“Racial Disproportion and the Case for Criminal Court Abolition,” guest lectures to classes at **Fordham Law School** (Oct. & Nov. 2021).

“Bargaining for Abolition,” Criminal Justice Ethics Schmooze, New York Law School (June 2022); Subversive Lawyering Colloquium, **Fordham Law School** (Oct. 2021).

Panelist at Connecting the Threads that Bind: Contextualizing Legalized Violence Against Asian Americans, **UC Hastings College of the Law** (Sept. 2021).

Panelist, How Can WE Achieve Racial Justice?, **Cornell University** Reunion 20201 (June, 2021).

“The Right to Counsel in a Neoliberal Age,”

- **Wake Forest School of Law** (March 2022)
- **University of Connecticut School of Law** (Nov. 2020);
- **Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College** (Nov. 2020);
- **University of South Carolina School of Law** (Oct. 2020);
- Clinical Law Review Workshop (Sept. 2019);
- **Cornell Law School** (July 2019).

“The Sanctuary of Prosecutorial Nullification,” faculty workshop, **Seton Hall Law School** (Feb. 2020).

“How Can You be a Feminist and Represent a Rapist?,” guest lecture at class at Cornell Law School (Feb. 2020).

“Storytelling in Individual Cases,” presentation at Who, How, and Why Do We Execute? Regional Convening on the Death Penalty in South Asia and the Middle East, Kathmandu, Nepal (Oct. 2019).

Panelist, Is ‘Progressive Prosecution’ an Oxymoron?, Cornell Law School (Oct. 2019).

“Abolishing the War on Terror,” presentation at Prison Abolition, Human Rights, and Penal Reform, **University of Texas at Austin** (Sept. 2019).

“Interviewing a Client and Cross Examination,” presentation at Makwanyane Institute, Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide (July 2019).

Panelist, Moving Beyond the War on Drugs: Mass Incarceration Today, Cornell Law School (March 2019).

“U.S. Deployment of the Consent Exception as a Justification for Drone Strikes in Pakistan,” presentation at IntLawGrrls! 10th Birthday Conference, Dean Rusk International Law Center, University of Georgia School of Law (March 2017).

“Coming Back to Anthropology through the Law,” invited address to the Department of Anthropology Graduation Ceremony, **University of Pennsylvania** (May 2013).

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Criminal Defense Practice, Legal Aid Society, New York, NY 2/2014-5/2018
Staff Attorney

- Represented indigent clients in misdemeanor and felony cases, including homicides, from arraignment to trial or plea in New York State Supreme Court and New York City Criminal Court.
- Developed trial and mitigation strategy, engaged in motion practice, consulted experts, conducted investigations, performed legal research and negotiated pleas.
- Lead counsel in five trials.
- Authored amicus briefs and developed grant proposal to study prosecutorial discretion.

American Civil Liberties Union, New York, NY Summer 2012
Intern

- Researched Article III standing for Supreme Court brief filed in *Clapper v. Amnesty International* and supervisory and municipal liability for NYPD surveillance of Muslim community.

Center for Constitutional Rights, New York, NY Summer 2011
Ella Baker Fellow

- Researched the legality of the CIA’s drone program in Pakistan.

AGHS Legal Aid Cell, Lahore, Pakistan 11/2008- 6/2009
Intern

- Documented persecution of religious minorities for the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief, Asma Jahangir.
- Conducted intake for female inmates in prisons.

ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE

Community Justice Exchange/National Bail Fund Network 4/2020-present
Strategic Advisor

- Provide technical expertise and strategic advice on local and national campaigns to end incarceration, supervision, and surveillance.

Court Watch NYC 12/2017- 7/2020
Co-founder & Collective member

- Designed, launched, and managed community court watching program in New York City.
- Created and led training for volunteers.

- Mobilized watchers in public campaigns to hold elected prosecutors accountable to their promises and community demands.

Languages: French (native), Urdu (native), Mandarin (proficient)