

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW | CENTER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND CRITICAL JUSTICE Seattle, WA

Senior Director, Center for Civil Rights and Critical Justice, August 2026 – present
Director, Center for Civil Rights and Critical Justice, July 2024 – August 2026
Director, Civil Rights Clinic, July 2023 - Present
Assistant Teaching Professor, July 2025 - Present
Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor, Civil Rights Clinic, July 2023 – June 2025
Assistant Director, Korematsu Center for Law and Equality, September 2019 – June 2024
Adjunct Clinical Professor, Civil Rights Clinic, July 2021 – June 2023
Staff Attorney, Civil Rights Clinic, December 2013 – June 2021

Direct the Center's litigation and advocacy efforts, including co-teaching the Civil Rights Clinic; identifying and leading direct representation and amicus advocacy efforts in state and federal courts on constitutional and other civil rights issues, with a focus on racial justice; engaging in select civil rights impact litigation; and developing and sustaining relationships with advocacy organizations and impacted communities to support their work.

Calhoun Family Fellowship – Co-Director, May 2022 - Present

Design and supervise racial justice fellowship, including selection of 1L cohort; creation of a semester-long speaker series to expose fellows to racial justice advocacy and perspectives of legal professionals and individuals with lived experience in the criminal punishment system; coordination and supervision of capstone trip to Montgomery, Alabama, to ground the fellows in the legacy of racism in the United States and understand the origins of the civil rights movement; provision of individualized career counseling to fellows throughout their time in law school.

GORDON TILDEN THOMAS & CORDELL LLP

Seattle, WA

Associate Attorney, 2010 – 2012

Represented corporate and individual clients in commercial litigation in a broad range of substantive areas in both state and federal courts, including before the United States Supreme Court.

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

Seattle, WA

Law Clerk, Chambers of the Honorable James R. Verellen, Seattle, WA, 2012 – 2013

Law Clerk, Chambers of the Honorable Marlin J. Appelwick, Seattle, WA, 2008 – 2010

Drafted bench memoranda and opinions in a wide range of civil and criminal cases before Division One of the Washington State Court of Appeals

EDUCATION

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Seattle, WA

Academics: J.D., *Magna Cum Laude*, May 2008
Seattle Journal for Social Justice, Editor in Chief
Honors: Law Trustee's Scholarship

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Academics: B.A., Comparative History of Ideas, June 2003
B.A., European Studies (Jackson School of International Studies), June 2003

Honors: Best Honors Thesis Award, Jackson School European Studies Department

UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA, CENTRO DE LENGUAS MODERNAS, Granada, Spain

Study abroad program, Fall-Winter 2001-02 (exchange sponsored by University of Washington)

PUBLICATIONS

Jessica Levin & Melissa Lee, *Leveraging The State Constitution to Challenge Racialized Discretion in Washington's Juvenile Transfer System*, 98 Temple L. Rev. 493 (2026)

Justice Is Not a Game: The Devastating Racial Inequity of Washington's Three Strikes Law
(with Melissa Lee) Report prepared on behalf of Seattle University School of Law Civil Rights Clinic
and Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality, Seattle, Washington, 2024

Jessica Levin, *A Path Toward Race-Conscious Standards for Youth: Translating Adulthood Bias Theory into Doctrinal Interventions in Criminal Court*, 35 UC Law SF J. Gender & Just. 83 (2024)

Jessica Levin, *A Cross-Clinic Collaboration: How an Amicus Brief Helped Create Judicial Recognition of Adulthood Bias in Juvenile Sentencing*, 35 UC Law SF J. Gender & Just. 127 (2024)

Task Force 2.0, *Report and Recommendations to Address Race in Washington's Juvenile Legal System: 2021 Report to the Washington Supreme Court*, 45 Seattle U. L. Rev. 1025 (2022); Gonzaga L. Rev. 57 Gonz. L. Rev. 636 (2022)

SELECTED CASES, AMICUS BRIEFS & OTHER ADVOCACY

CIVIL RIGHTS

Amicus Brief in State of Washington v. Trump et al. (Ninth Circuit, No. 25-807) (with co-counsel, represented Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund and 82 other nonprofit/grassroots organizations and race and law centers supporting WA Attorney General Nick Brown's challenge to the EO seeking to rewrite the Constitution on Birthright Citizenship. Our brief reminds the Ninth Circuit of our country's problematic history of citizenship stripping, warns the court about the potential for this EO to be used retroactively, and highlights the lived experience of growing up without status. We represent a diverse group of amici from 82 nonprofit and grassroots organizations and race and law centers around the country.

Amicus Brief in Perkins Coie, LLP v. U.S. Dep't of Justice, et al. (D.D.C., No. 1:25-cv-00716-BAH) (with co-counsel, filed amicus briefs supporting the rule of law in four different cases brought by law firms challenging the EOs targeting them for their work — Perkins Coie, Jenner & Block, WilmerHale, and Susman Godfrey. The briefs, written on behalf of amici consisting of large labor unions, race and law centers, and civil rights organizations, draw parallels between the Trump administration's First Amendment violations and Southern States' efforts to attack the lawyers representing Black communities in their fight for racial equality during the civil rights movement.

Amicus Brief in Juliana v. United States (Ninth Circuit, No. 18-36082) (with Bob Chang, filed amicus brief on behalf of race and law centers across the country supporting Juliana plaintiffs, arguing that the desegregation cases demonstrate that redressability norms are rooted in pragmatic progress rather than perfect efficacy, and that courts can effectively monitor progress of broad remedial schemes)

Amicus Brief in Aji P v. State of Washington (Wash. Supreme Ct., No. 99564-8, 2021) (filed amicus memorandum in support of review to support plaintiffs' state companion case to the federal *Juliana* litigation, in which they sought a state constitutional remedy for climate change impacts).

Native Village of Hooper Bay et al. v. Guay et al. (Superior Court for the State of Alaska at Anchorage, No. 3AN-14-05238 CI) (with Robert Chang, served as co-counsel with Alaska Legal Services Corporation, in a case concerning the due process rights of native foster children who are involuntarily admitted for emergency care to a private psychiatric hospital; case sought to secure the right to judicial review to justify continued detention; trial court awarded preliminary injunctive relief to the Tribes, and case successfully settled)

Brief of Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality as Amicus Curiae in Support of Petitioner, Martinez-Cuevas et al. v. Deruyter Bros Dairy, Inc. et al. (Wash. Supreme Ct., No. 96267-7) (with Robert Chang and Charlotte Garden) (in case challenging the constitutionality of the exclusion of agricultural workers from the state's minimum wage act, argued for application of intermediate scrutiny test in recognition that the exclusion has a disparate impact on a protected racial group, as agricultural workers are virtually all Latinx)

Brief of Amicus Curiae Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality In Support of Appellant, State of Washington v. Allen Eugene Gregory (Wash. Supreme Court, No. 88086-7) (with Robert Chang) (arguing that Washington's death penalty statute is unconstitutional under both the Washington and federal constitutions, that Mr. Gregory's statistical evidence of racial disproportionality in the imposition of the death penalty in Washington provided the Court a basis on which to revisit the constitutionality of the statute, and discussing the extra-legal factors such as racial bias that continue to influence the administration of the death penalty; case resulted in invalidation of the capital punishment statute as administered)

RACIAL JUSTICE

Amicus Briefs in State v. Zamora and State v. Bagby (Wash. Supreme Ct., Nos. 99959-7 and 99793-4) (with Melissa Lee and Robert Chang) (supporting appellants' argument that race-based prosecutorial misconduct tainted the outcome of trial; supreme court adopted arguments advanced in amicus brief that a new test was required to govern race-based prosecutorial misconduct and that a per se prejudice rule, rather than constitutional harmless error, was appropriate in these instances)

Task Force 2.0 on Race and Washington's Criminal Justice System – Chair, Juvenile Justice Subcommittee

(Convened by the deans of Washington's three law schools, Task Force 2.0 sought to contribute to the racial justice movement, which called national attention to the devaluation of Black lives by police but which also called broader attention to systemic discrimination in the criminal legal system. Chaired the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee of Task Force 2.0 on Race and Washington's Criminal Justice System. Coordinated and oversaw the research and drafting of the subcommittee's report and recommendations that address racial disparity in Washington's juvenile legal system. Solicited system-involved youth of color to lead recommendations process.)

Brief of Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality et al. as Amici Curiae in Support of Petitioner, State v. Rivers (Wash. Supreme Ct., No. 100922-4) (supporting Mr. Rivers's request for Court to ensure that people accused of crimes have an effective way, under our state constitution, to challenge a jury venire that is not representative of a fair cross section of their community; arguing that an effective remedial approach to fair cross section claims under our state constitution (1) will help counteract our country's racist history of excluding Black people from jury service; (2) is a principled development of

this Court's anti-discrimination jurisprudence that accounts for the operation of systemic racism; and (3) recognizes important empirical evidence that diverse juries engage in a more thorough—and more fair—deliberative process)

Brief of Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality as Amicus Curiae in Support of Petitioner, PRP of Asaria Miller (Wash. Ct. of Appeals, No. 52119-9-II) (arguing for a conclusive presumption of prejudice for individuals requesting resentencing who were sentenced as juveniles in adult court and were sentenced before youth was required to be considered as a mitigating factor; arguing that youth of color are more likely to have received harsher sentences, as the failure to consider youth leaves race to operate as an aggravator due to implicit racial bias and adultification of Black youth)

Brief of Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality as Amicus Curiae in Support of Plaintiff-Appellee and for Affirmance, Fair Housing Center of Washington v. Breier-Scheetz Properties, LLC et al. (Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, No. 17-35898) (with Melissa Lee) (supporting FHCW's request to affirm trial court's determination that defendant-landlord's occupancy restrictions had a disparate impact on families and thus constituted housing discrimination under the Fair Housing Act, by providing historical context demonstrating that occupancy restrictions have and continue to have a disproportionate impact on families of color, and asking the court to affirm the award of punitive damages, arguing that their deterrent effect is as important in disparate impact cases as it is in cases of intentional discrimination)

JUVENILE SENTENCING

In re the Personal Restraint Petition of Raymond Mayfield Williams, Jr. (Wash. Ct. of Appeals & Wash. Supreme Ct., 100222-0) (with Robert Chang & Melissa Lee) (in post-conviction proceedings, representing individual who is sentenced to life without parole under the three strikes law where one of the strikes was committed as a juvenile, arguing that the use of a juvenile strike to support the state's harshest punishment is a violation of the Washington constitution, due to the intrinsic nature of youth that undercuts the penological justifications for imposing harsh punishment)

Brief of Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality as Amicus Curiae in Support of Petitioner, State of Washington v. Timothy Haag (Wash. Supreme Ct., No. 97766-6) (with Robert Chang and Melissa Lee) (advancing state constitutional argument that courts must set sentences at or near the statutory minimum of 25 years where a child convicted of aggravated murder is found to be less culpable and not irreparably corrupt and advocating for the recognition of Mr. Haag's sentence as a de facto life sentence where he would not have the opportunity to seek release until he had served at least 46 years for a crime committed when at age 17)

Brief of Amicus Curiae Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality, Columbia Legal Services, TeamChild, and Washington Defender Association as Amici Curiae in Support of Respondent, State of Washington v. Brian Bassett (Wash. Supreme Court, No. 94556-0) (with Robert Chang) (arguing that the cruel punishment provision of the Washington constitution mandates a categorical bar on juvenile life without parole, and providing the court with additional argument on how the *Gunwall* factors should be utilized to develop a principled and independent body of cruel punishment jurisprudence under the state constitution)

Brief of Amicus Curiae Fred. T Korematsu Center for Law and Equality In Support of Petitioners, State of Washington v. Zyion Houston-Sconiers and Treson Roberts (Wash. Supreme Court, No. 92605-1) (with Robert Chang & co-counsel at Perkins Coie, LLP) (arguing that the cruel punishment provision of Washington's constitution renders the auto-decline statute unconstitutional, as it subjects juvenile offenders to the risk of unconstitutional punishment)

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

Washington Supreme Court Considers Racial 'Quotas' in Jury Pools, [Northwest Politicast](#), September 30, 2022 (regarding state constitutional remedy for underrepresentation of distinct groups in jury pools)

Seattle's Morning News, Interviewed regarding presentation of final report and recommendations of Juvenile Justice Subcommittee of Task Force on Race and Washington's Criminal Justice System 2.0 to the Washington Supreme Court, KIRO News Radio, July 13, 2022

SELECTED PANELS & PRESENTATIONS

Inatai Foundation Lecture Series (with Melissa Lee)

The Inatai Foundation solicited Professors Lee and Levin to present a lunchtime seminar on the Washington State Constitution, educating social-justice minded funders about the importance of leveraging the state constitution to protect and advance civil rights and racial justice; February 25, 2025

Adultification Bias Symposium (with Melissa Lee)

Presented at the UC Law SF Adultification Bias Symposium regarding how to leverage seminal empirical literature on adultification bias into new legal standards that account for that bias, including when youth are transferred to adult court for prosecution, and when youth of color are sentenced in either juvenile or adult court; UC Law at SF Adultification Bias Symposium, April 5, 2024

The Whole Picture: Looking Outside the Record to Make Your Case for Racial Injustice (with Melissa Lee)

Presented CLE exploring how principles of amicus practice can be effectively engaged to make arguments on appeal to address racial injustice, leveraging "legislative facts" that can appropriately supplement the record on appeal; Office of Public Defense Annual Appellate Defender Conference, May 31 & June 1, 2023

Tools for Developing a Record on Race (with Melissa Lee)

Presented a comprehensive overview of strategies to leverage existing law, social science, and race disproportionality data to ensure courts continue to address the role of race in the criminal legal system, with a focus on how to employ these arguments in appellate process; The Defender Initiative's Gideon at 60 Conference, March 17, 2023

Task Force 2.0: Presentation to Washington Supreme Court

Along with other Task Force 2.0 juvenile justice subcommittee members, presented the subcommittee's findings and recommendations regarding the juvenile legal system, education system, and family regulation system to the Court and other stakeholders, July 2022

A Friend of the Court: An Introduction to Amicus Advocacy (with Melissa Lee)

Presentation for CLE organized by Washington Defender Association, February 2021

Exploring Issues of Bias in the Context of Appellate Lawyering (with Lorraine Bannai)

King County Bar Association Appellate Division, January 14, 2019

Washington Appellate Lawyers Association CLE Presentation, May 3, 2019

Washington Attorney General's Office, June 18, 2019

BAR ADMISSIONS

Washington State Bar, 2008

United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, 2010

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 2010

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PERSONAL INTERESTS

Two Cranes Institute (2016 – present)

Washington Water Trust, Board Member (2012 - 2024)

Aikido Practitioner (5th Degree Black Belt, Instructor)