

DEBORAH M. AHRENS

Seattle University School of Law
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EDUCATION

J.D., *magna cum laude*, New York University School of Law, 2000
· Senior Articles Editor, *New York University Law Review*

M.P.P., Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, 1996
· Fields of Study: Welfare and government benefits, labor, education, civil rights, statistics, and economics

B.A. with distinction in Public Policy, Brown University, 1994

LEGAL and PUBLIC POLICY EMPLOYMENT

Seattle University School of Law, 2007-present:

- William C. Oltman Professor of Teaching Excellence, 2017-2019
- Associate Professor, 2012-2017 (tenured effective 3/2014)
- Assistant Professor, 2007-2012

Visiting Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina School of Law, 2005-2007

Adjunct Professor, University of South Carolina School of Law, 2004-2005

Assistant Public Defender, Richland County, Columbia, South Carolina, 2003-2005

Legal Fellow, ACLU Drug Policy Litigation Project, New Haven, CT, 2001-2002

Law Clerk, Judge Amalya L. Kears, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, 2000-2001

Summer Law Clerk, New Hampshire Public Defender, Dover, NH, 1999

Legal Intern, Victims' Services, New York, NY, 1998-1999

Summer Law Clerk, Legal Aid Society Criminal Defense Division, New York, NY, 1998

Budget Analyst, Independent Budget Office, New York, NY, 1996-1997:

Summer Researcher and Policy Intern, (Twentieth) Century Fund, New York, NY, 1995

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Using Media in Criminal Law Teaching, in LAW AND POPULAR CULTURE (3d ed. forthcoming 2019).

Of Dress and Redress: Student Dress Restrictions in Constitutional Law and Culture, 54 Harv. C.R.-C.L. L. Rev. _ (2019) (with Andrew Siegel).

Incarcerated Childbirth and Broader "Birth Control": Autonomy, Regulation, and the State, 80 Missouri L. Rev. 1(2015)

Drug Panics in the Twenty-First Century: Ecstasy, Prescription Drugs, and the Reframing of the War on Drugs, 6 Albany Gov't L. Rev. 397 (2013) (solicited for special issue entitled "Overdose: the Failure of the U.S. Drug War and Attempts at Legalization")

Schools, Cyberbullies, and the Surveillance State, 49 Am. Crim. L. Rev. 1669 (2012)

Don't Blame Crawford or Bryant: The Confrontation Clause Mess Is All Davis's Fault, 39 Rutgers L. Rec. 1042 (2012) (with John Mitchell)

Methademic: Drug Panic in an Age of Ambivalence, 37 Fla. St. U. L. Rev. 841 (2010)

Note, *Not in Front of the Children: Prohibition on Child Custody as Civil Branding for Criminal Activity*, 75 N.Y.U. L. REV. 737 (2000)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Retroactive Legality: Marijuana Convictions and Restorative Justice in an Era of Criminal Justice Reform (accepted for publication, citation pending)

The Supreme Court Gets Real: Engaging the Evolving Role of the Criminal Defense Attorney

Thinking Outside the Cell: Non-Prison Sentencing Alternatives in a Post-Mass-Incarceration Future

Pretext and Profiling Under Different Regimes: Why Whren Doesn't (Really) Matter

REPRESENTATIVE ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- “Using Musical Theater and Other Popular Culture to Teach Criminal Law,” Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Palm Beach, Florida, July 2019 (scheduled).
- “Retroactive Legality,” Annual Conference of the Law and Society Association, Washington, District of Columbia, May 2019 (scheduled).
- “Retroactive Legality,” Faculty Workshop, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, January 2019.
- “Meditations on Teaching and Learning: How Taking Barre, Watching True Crime, and Joining Twitter Improved My Teaching,” Influential Voices Lecture and Oltman Chair Installation, Seattle, Washington, February 2018.
- “Reconsidering the Constitutionality of Student Dress Codes,” Seattle University School of Law Summer Colloquium, Seattle, Washington, July 2015.
- “‘Bullying’ and its Many Contexts,” Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Amelia Island, Florida, August 2014.
- “Reconsidering the Constitutionality of Student Dress Codes,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 2014.
- “Technology in the Classroom,” Seattle University School of Law Faculty Workshop, Seattle, Washington, March 2014.
- “Incarcerated Childbirth and Broader ‘Birth Control,’” Rocky Mountain Junior Scholars Conference, Provo, Utah, October 2013.
- “Teaching Skills in Doctrinal Classes,” Seattle University School of Law Faculty Workshop, Seattle, Washington, October 2013.
- “Incarcerated Childbirth,” Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Palm Beach, Florida, August 2013.
- “Parenting Law Professors,” Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Palm Beach, Florida, August 2013.
- “Parenting Behind Bars,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, May 2013.
- “Remarks on Emma Cunliffe’s *Smothering and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome: Medical Experts and the Criminal Trial*,” Seattle University Faculty Workshop Series, Seattle, Washington, October 2012.

- “Sex, Drugs, & Cyberbullies: Reflection on Policing, Schooling, Parenting, and The Surveillance State,” Faculty Speakers Series, University of Iowa School of Law, Iowa City, Iowa, April 2012.
- “Racial Bias and the Drug Laws,” *Seattle University Law Review* Symposium on “Racial Bias and the Criminal Justice System,” Seattle, Washington, February 2012.
- “Sex, Drugs, and Cyberbullies: Reflections on Parenting, Policing, and Schooling,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, May 2011.
- “Thinking Outside the Cell: Non-Prison Sentencing Alternatives in a Post-Mass-Incarceration Future,” Panel on “Drugs and the Criminal Law,” Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Palm Beach, Florida, August 2009.
- “Methademic: Drug Panic in an Age of Ambivalence,” Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, Montreal, Canada, May 2008.

REPRESENTATIVE PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND TESTIMONY

- “A Sample Criminal Law Class,” Presentation to Admitted Law Students, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, April 2019 (scheduled).
- “Recent Developments in Evidence Law,” Presentation to the Defender Association, Seattle, Washington, March 2019 (scheduled).
- “The Supreme Court’s Recent Criminal Procedure Decisions,” Joint Program of the King County Bar and the Federal Bar Association of the District of Washington, November 2018.
- “Criminal Procedure Cases for the Coming Term,” CLE Program Previewing the Supreme Court’s 2018 Term, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, October 2018.
- “Evidence Review for Housing Court Attorneys,” CLE Program Sponsored by King County Bar Association, Seattle, Washington, August 2017.
- “Criminal Procedure Cases for the Coming Term,” CLE Program Previewing the Supreme Court’s 2016 Term, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, October 2016.
- “Constitutional Rules and Police Use of Force,” Testimony Before Washington State Legislative Task Force on Police Brutality, Olympia, Washington, September 2016.
- “Criminal Procedure Update,” National Conference of Court Staff Attorneys, Seattle, Washington, July 2015.

- “Recent Supreme Court Criminal Law and Procedure Decisions,” Federal Bar Association, Continuing Legal Education Program, presented in
 - Tacoma, Washington, April 2015
 - Seattle, Washington, October 2014
- Due Process: Historical Roots and Contemporary Themes,” Annual Conference of Washington Appellate Judges, Lake Chelan, Washington, March 2015.
- “Criminal Procedure Cases for the Coming Term,” CLE Program Previewing the Supreme Court’s 2014 Term, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, October 2014.
- “The Modern Confrontation Clause,” Session for New Federal Judges, Seattle, Washington, August 2014.
- “The Supreme Court Now,” Webcast CLE Reviewing Supreme Court Term, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, July 2014.
- “United States Supreme Court Criminal Procedure Update,” Washington State Appellate Judges Conference, Seattle, Washington, April 2014.
- “Problems of Pregnant Prisoners,” Panel Sponsored by Incarcerated Mothers Advocacy Project, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, April 2014.
- “Careers in Criminal Law,” Program Sponsored by Women’s Law Caucus, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle Washington, February 2014.
- “Criminal Procedure Preview,” CLE Program Previewing the Supreme Court’s 2013 Term, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, October 2013.
- “Introduction to Criminal Law,” LawPreview Course for Rising First Year Students, Seattle, Washington, August 2013, August 2014, August 2015, August 2016..
- “Recent Supreme Court Developments Related to Sentencing,” Annual Conference of the National Association of Criminal Defense Investigators, Seattle, Washington, April 2013.
- “Perspectives on the Future of Reproductive Rights,” Incarcerated Mothers Advocacy Project Film Event, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA, April 2013.
- “Academic Perspectives on the Prosecutorial Role,” Access to Justice Institute, Social Justice Monday Series, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, November 2012.
- “Reproductive Justice Roundtables,” Access to Justice Institute, Social Justice Monday Series, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, October 2012.

- “The Dynamics of Courtroom Practice,” Training Session, Seattle University School of Law Moot Court Board, In-House Mock Trial Competition, Seattle, Washington, September 2012.
- “Criminal Procedure Review and Preview,” CLE Program Reviewing the Supreme Court’s 2011 Term and Previewing the Supreme Court’s 2012 Term, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, September 2012.
- “The Dynamics of Courtroom Practice,” Training Session, Seattle University School of Law Moot Court Board, In-House Mock Trial Competition, Seattle, Washington, March 2012.
- “The Evidence Game Interactive Challenge,” Washington State Bar Association CLE Program “Evidence and Objections Boot Camp,” Seattle, Washington, February 2012, with John Mitchell.
- “Mothers in Prison, Children in Crisis,” Access to Justice Institute, Social Justice Monday Series, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, January 2012.
- “Methademic: Drug Panic in an Age of Ambivalence,” Social Justice Week Brownbag, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, October 2011.
- “Criminal Procedure Preview,” CLE Program Previewing the Supreme Court’s 2011 Term, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, October 2011.
- “Criminal Procedure,” Bar Preparation Lecture for Washington State BARBRI, Seattle and Spokane, Washington, January 2011-January 2013 (multiple lectures per bar session).
- “Refresher and Review of Essential Rules of Criminal Procedure,” Washington State Bar Association CLE Program “Enhancing Your Skills for Criminal Practice in Municipal and District Courts,” Seattle, Washington, February 2011.
- Annual Continuing Legal Education Presentations (various topics), William L. Dwyer Inn of Court, Seattle, Washington, 2007-Present.
- “Criminal Law and Procedure Preview,” CLE Program Previewing the Supreme Court’s 2009 Term, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington, September 2009.
- “Major Criminal Procedure Decisions from the Last Term,” Supreme Court Faculty Lunch Series, University of South Carolina School of Law, Columbia, South Carolina, September 2006.
- “The Realities of Criminal Trial Practice: A Public Defender’s View,” Event Sponsored by Criminal Law Society, University of South Carolina School of Law, November 2005.

- “October Term 2005 Preview of Criminal Cases,” Supreme Court Faculty Lunch Series, University of South Carolina School of Law, Columbia, South Carolina October 2005.

PUBLISHED INTERVIEWS AND COMMENTARY

Provide information and analysis on issues relating to criminal law, criminal procedure, and criminal trial practice to newspapers, television stations, and other media outlets. Media outlets that have broadcast or requested interviews or run quotations include: CBS-TV National News Network; KIRO-TV (Seattle); KOMO-TV (Seattle); WIS-TV (Columbia, SC); WLTX-TV (Columbia, SC); KUOW-Radio (Seattle); The Impact—TVW (Olympia, Washington); KIRO-Radio (Seattle); KOMO-Radio (Seattle); *USA Today*; *The Seattle Times*; *Forbes Magazine*; The Associated Press; *Cross Cut*; *The State* (Columbia, SC); *Charleston Post and Courier*; *Spartanburg Gazette*; *Greenville News*; *Myrtlebeachonline*.

COURSES TAUGHT

Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure: Investigative; Evidence; Criminal Procedure: Adjudicative; Sentencing and Plea Bargaining; Sentencing and Punishment Theory Seminar.

LAW SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND AWARDS

Outstanding Faculty Award, Seattle University School of Law, May 2014.

Contingency Planning Committee, Seattle University School of Law, 2018-2019 (Chair).

Curriculum Committee, Seattle University School of Law, 2017-2018 (Chair).

New Faculty Institute Planning Committee, Seattle University, 2011-2016.

Faculty Scholarship Committee, Seattle University School of Law, 2014-2017.

Strategic Planning Committee, Seattle University School of Law, 2012-2014.

Faculty Representative, William L. Dwyer Inn of Court, 2007-Present.

Advisor, Criminal Law Society, Seattle University School of Law, 2007-Present.

Advisor, Incarcerated Mothers Advocacy Project, 2011-Present.

Moot Court: Primary Faculty Trainer on Courtroom Practice, In-House Mock Trial Competition, 2012-Present; Moot Court Final Round Judge, 2013, 2014; Practice Session Judge, 2007-Present.

Graduation Marshal or Hooder (elected by students), Seattle University School of Law, May 2011, May 2017, May 2018, December 2018.

Faculty Workshop Committee, Seattle University School of Law, 2011-2012.

Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee, Seattle University School of Law, 2007-2008; 2010-2011.

Budget Committee, Seattle University School of Law, 2009-2010.

Faculty Appointments Committee, Seattle University School of Law, 2008-2009.

EXTERNAL SERVICE AND OTHER LEGAL ACTIVITIES

Washington State Bar Association, Council on Public Defense, 2017-Present.

Washington Pattern Jury Instructions Committee (appointed by Chief Justice), 2015-Present.

Criminal Law Lecturer, LawPreview (introductory program for students about to start law school), 2013-Present (compensated).

Executive Board, William L. Dwyer Inn of Court, 2007-Present.

Public Policy Committee, King County Bar Association, 2014-Present.

Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Criminal Law Organizing Committee, 2016-Present.

Brown University Alumni Schools Committee, 2000-Present.

Bar Review Lecturer, Washington State BARBRI, 2010-2013 (compensated).

Peer Reviewer, *South Carolina Law Review*, 2012.

Guest “blogger” on criminal law and procedure and law school academic matters; Prawfsblawg (www.prawfs.com): October-November 2006, June 2015

Occasional pro bono work and consulting on reproductive rights and criminal justice cases, American Civil Liberties Union of Washington.

MEMBERSHIPS

District of Columbia Bar; South Carolina Bar (inactive); King County Bar Association; William L. Dwyer Inn of Court; Order of the Coif; American Association of Law Schools (Sections on Criminal Justice, Evidence, Women and the Law, New Law Professors); Southeastern Association of Law Schools; National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; Brown Alumni Schools Committee.

