

CHRISTOPHER LAU

975 Bascom Mall, Madison, WI 53706 • christopher.lau@wisc.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, WI

Co-Director, Clinical Associate Professor

2024- Present

Co-Director, Clinical Assistant Professor

2023- 2024

Director, Clinical Instructor

2021- 2022

Courses: Wisconsin Innocence Project Seminar

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, New York, NY

2022- 2023

Visiting Assistant Professor

Courses: Criminal Defense Clinical Seminar

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, J.D.

2014

Activities: Berkeley Journal of Criminal Law, Supervising Editor

Death Penalty Clinic, Legal Intern

Youth Defender Clinic, Legal Intern

Research Assistant, Professor Elisabeth Semel

Thelton E. Henderson Center, Scholar Advocate

Advocates for Youth Justice, Volunteer Teacher

Tenants' Rights Workshop, Volunteer

Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, Coalition for Diversity Chair

Princeton University, School of Public and International Affairs, M.P.A.

2014

Activities: Greater Donnelly Initiative, Tutor

Policy Workshop: Best Practices in Reducing Violent Homicides, Editor

Wesleyan University, B.A. Government and Psychology

2007

Activities: Wesleyan Clinic Escorts, Co-Chair

Wesleyan Track and Field, Captain, All-Academic Award Winner

Department of Childhood Studies, Rutgers University-Camden, Counselor

Fellowships: Public Policy and International Affairs Fellow, University of California, Berkeley, Goldman School of Public Policy

Summer Research Opportunity Program, Psychology Research Fellow, University of Utah

PUBLICATIONS

Interrupting Gun Violence, 104 BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 769 (2024)

Examining the decarceral alternatives that exist for public safety and particularly gun violence; and arguing that in light of the failures of punitive policing and prosecution, measures that support community violence interruption are better suited to promote community safety without relying on carceral logics.

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LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Wisconsin Innocence Project, University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, WI,

Co-Director, Clinical Assistant Professor

2023- Present

Director, Clinical Instructor

2021- 2022

Represent incarcerated clients in post-conviction claims in Circuit Court, Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court of Wisconsin. Represent exonerated clients in state compensation claims. Assist released clients with housing, education, healthcare, and employment. Supervise clinical students in post-conviction filings, investigation, and advocacy. Teach clinical seminar. Supervise and edit student notes to satisfy student writing requirement. Draft and consult on state and federal amicus briefs. Consult with legislators on potential bills related to criminal legal system. Attend legislative committee hearings. Organize and host talks and fundraisers. Obtain grant funding. Run social media accounts. Appear on media outlets to discuss issues related to criminal legal system.

Cardozo Criminal Defense Clinic

2022-2023

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, New York, NY, *Visiting Assistant Professor*

Trained and supervised clinical students in all aspects of criminal trial practice, from arraignment, investigation, trial, sentencing, and in parole proceedings. Taught clinical seminar about legal system, including its history, theories of defense, and practical trial skills. Consulted on postconviction cases. Advised students about public interest career paths.

The Bronx Defenders

2014-2021

Bronx, NY, *Staff Attorney, Criminal Defense Practice*

Represented indigent clients enmeshed in the legal system at all stages of litigation and across different practice areas. Coordinated with a team of advocates, including investigators, social workers, civil, and immigration attorneys to provide holistic representation. Mentored interns and attorneys of color. Supervised legal interns. Mentored and coached high school students through the Legal Outreach program. Mentored Asian American attorneys interested in public interest through APALSA at NYU Law. Organized introduction to Holistic Defense for Montefiore Medical Center Social Pediatrics residents. Analyzed and edited case reviews for the Health is Justice Litigation Hub. Edited brief for temporary restraining order to ensure incarcerated clients received vaccinations. Drafted reports on the death penalty for the Fair Punishment Project.

East Bay Community Law Center

2014

Berkeley, CA, *Legal Intern, Youth Defender Clinic*

Represented young people in delinquency proceedings and related civil proceedings including school expulsion, special education, housing, immigration, and record sealing hearings.

Public Defender Agency

2013

Anchorage, AK, *Legal Intern, Criminal Division*

Represented clients in trials, parole revocation hearings, bail proceedings, and sentencing hearings.

Brennan Center for Justice

2013

New York, NY, *Legal Intern, Democracy Program*

Analyzed constitutionality of early voting, absentee voting, and voting rights restoration legislation. Researched political gerrymandering case law to provide clearer guidelines for future claims. Analyzed campaign spending in judicial elections.

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Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia

2012

Washington, DC, *Law Clerk*

Drafted motions, performed legal research, interviewed clients and witnesses, and testified at preliminary hearings. Prepped speakers and moderated panel on capital defense at Public Defender Advocacy, Training, and Hiring (PATH) conference.

Death Penalty Clinic, U.C. Berkeley, School of Law

2011 – 2012

Berkeley, CA, *Legal Intern*

Researched and drafted pre-trial motions, jury instructions, and direct appeal brief, interviewed client, witnesses, and jurors, reviewed evidence and investigated facts in a Georgia capital case. Attended trial and pretrial hearings.

Texas Defender Service

2011

Austin, TX, *Legal Intern*

Assisted in trial and post-conviction capital cases. Identified and interviewed jurors, witnesses, and clients. Researched and drafted ineffective assistance of counsel claims, *Atkins* claims, and *Ford* claims. Developed mitigation evidence.

Innocence Project

2008-2010

New York, NY, *Paralegal*

Managed and investigated claims of innocence in post-conviction cases. Identified, located, and organized case-related evidence and legal documents from police departments, crime laboratories, and trial and appellate proceedings. Corresponded and met with clients, and their families about health, parole, and prison-related needs. Researched state post-conviction DNA testing statutes.

MEDIA AND PRESENTATIONS

Evidence Summer Workshop, Vanderbilt University, Presenter, *Calling for Conviction*, May 2024.

“Litigating Against Algorithms, Hidden Technology, and the Machine Witness,” New York State Defender Association, Trainer, March 2024.

“The Body Politic,” Film screening and discussion about gun violence and community safety, Facilitator, Havens Wright Center for Social Justice, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin, February 2024.

ABA Criminal Justice Section Roundtable, Presenter, *Calling for Conviction*, November 2023.

“Police Accountability and Absolute Immunity,” Guest Lecture for Professor Ion Meyn, Civil Procedure, University of Wisconsin Law, November 2023.

Legal Luminaries Career Panel, Panelist, University of Wisconsin, November 2023.

Minnesota Law Review Symposium, *Non-Carceral Solutions to Gun Violence*, Panelist, October 2023.

Wisconsin Innocence Project 25th Anniversary Interview Series, Interview with Thomas L. Dybdahl, *When Innocence Is Not Enough: Hidden Evidence and the Failed Promise of the Brady Rule*, October 2023.

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NYU Clinical Law Review Workshop, Presenter, *Calling for Conviction*, October 2023.

Chicagoland Junior Scholars Conference, Presenter and Commenter, *Calling for Conviction*, October 2023.

Wisconsin Innocence Project 25th Anniversary Interview Series, Interview with Jarrett Adams, *Redeeming Justice*, September 2023.

CrimFest, Presenter, *Calling for Conviction*, July 2023.

Decarceration Law Professors Workshop, Presenter, *Calling for Conviction*, July 2023.

Cardozo Center for Public Service Law Inspire! Awards, Presenter, May 2023.

“Growth Through Grief: Processing Loss in Clinic,” Panelist, AALS Clinical Law Conference, April 2023.

Mid Atlantic Regional Clinical Conference, Presenter, *Interrupting Gun Violence*, February 2023.

NYU Clinical Law Review Workshop, Presenter, *Interrupting Gun Violence*, October 2022.

CrimFest, Presenter, *Interrupting Gun Violence*, July 2022.

“UF Med School Hires Controversial Child-Abuse Expert Barbara Knox” – Orlando Sentinel, July 1, 2022.

Decarceration Law Professors Workshop, Presenter, *Interrupting Gun Violence*, June 2022.

“Police Deception and False Confessions”- Presentation to the Wisconsin Association of Legal Professionals, April 26, 2022.

“Social Psychology and its Role in the Legal System”- Talk with Professor C. Shawn Green, Psychology of Law, University of Wisconsin, December 9, 2021.

“Our Carceral System is Broken- Here Are the Folks Working to Fix It”- A Public Affair, WORT News, November 30, 2021.

“Alternative Approaches to Justice: Restorative Justice, Public Defense, and Reentry Programming,” Panelist, Wesleyan University, November 18, 2017.

SERVICE

University of Wisconsin Law School- Outcomes and Assessment Committee **2023-2024**

University of Wisconsin Law School- Student Wellness Committee **2021- 2022**

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York (2014)

Wisconsin (2021)