

Deborah Ahrens

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EDUCATION

New York University School of Law, New York, NY

Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, May 2000

Honors: Order of the Coif
New York University Law Review (1998-2000): Senior Articles Editor (1999-2000)
Florence Allen scholar

Activities: Federal Defender Clinic
Prisoners' Rights Education Project: Coordinator
Research, Education, and Advocacy to Combat Homelessness (REACH): Advocacy Coordinator

Internships: Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Division, New York, NY
New Hampshire Public Defender, Stratham, NH
Victims' Services, New York, NY

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, MA

Masters in Public Policy, May 1996

Thesis: *Weathering the Storm: Preparing Massachusetts' Jewish Social Service Agencies for Federal Budget Cuts*

Teaching: Teaching Assistant, Statistics and Economics.

Coursework: Included welfare and government benefits, labor, education, civil rights, statistics, and economics.

Brown University, Providence, RI

Bachelor of Arts, with honors, Public Policy, May 1994

Thesis: *Politics and Implementation of School Desegregation in Pawtucket, Rhode Island*

Experience: Research and teaching assistant, A. Alfred Taubman Center for Public Policy
Writing and Rhetoric Fellow
Debate Team President

EXPERIENCE

Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA

Assistant Professor of Law

June 2007-Present

University of South Carolina School of Law, Columbia, SC

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law (Full-Time)

August 2005-May 2007

Adjunct Professor of Law

January 2004-May 2005

Richland County Public Defender, Columbia, SC

Assistant Public Defender

2003-2005

Served as criminal defense counsel for clients facing serious felony charges. Responsible for all pretrial and trial litigation. Responsibilities include client counseling, preparation and presentation of pretrial motions, preliminary hearings, plea negotiations, jury and nonjury trials.

ACLU Drug Policy Litigation Project, New Haven, CT

Legal Fellow

2001-2002

Drafted motions and legal briefs and conducted trial preparation for class-action constitutional challenge to plea agreement in prosecution of rave promoter. Interviewed witnesses and prepared complaint in federal civil action challenging use of drug-sniffing dogs in elementary school classroom. Assisted in preparation of legal briefs for United States Supreme Court cases challenging drug testing of high school students and the drug-related eviction provisions of federal housing law. Prepared potential constitutional challenge to terminations of parental custody based on drug use.

Judge Amalya L. Kears, United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, New York, NY

Law Clerk.

2000-2001

Independent Budget Office, New York, NY

Budget and Policy Analyst

1996-1997

Worked for independent city agency charged with oversight of budgets of other city agencies. Had primary responsibility for monitoring four social service, health, and mental health agencies. Prepared reports on activities of these agencies and on other budget and policy issues.

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

Methademic: Drug Panic in an Age of Ambivalence (in progress): This project explores the cultural and legal response to the rising use of methamphetamine in light of the legal, historical, and policy literature on American drug regulation and, in particular, in comparison to the nation's quite different response to the rise of crack cocaine.

Rants and Raves: Legal Responses to Ecstasy and GHB (in progress): This project is a follow-up to the *Methademic* piece and explores drug policy responses to perceived epidemics of ecstasy and GHB use.

Thinking Outside the Cell: Non-Prison Sentencing Alternatives in a Post-Mass-Incarceration Future (in progress): This project considers the decline in state resources that can be allocated towards incarceration and the overwhelming focus in sentencing scholarship on incarceration and considers to what extent incarceration alternatives (versus lack of criminal sanction) are desirable and in what ways they might be standardized in application.

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): This piece identifies and explores a trend in statutes and caselaw towards treating criminal behavior as a per se or presumptive bar to child custody, reading this development through the lens of the modern criminal sanctions literature.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Rants and Raves: Legal Responses to Ecstasy and GHB, Invited Speaker, Panel on “Drugs and the Criminal Law,” Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Palm Beach, Florida, August 2009 (scheduled).

Metbademic: Drug Panic in an Age of Ambivalence, Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, Montreal, Canada, May 2008.

COURSES TAUGHT

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

SERVICE

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

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

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

Curriculum Committee, Seattle University School of Law, 2007-2008.

Brown University Alumni Schools Committee, 2000-Present.

