

## JOCELYN SIMONSON

Professor & Associate Dean for Research & Scholarship, Brooklyn Law School  
250 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(p) 718-780-7592 (e) [jocelyn.simonson@brooklaw.edu](mailto:jocelyn.simonson@brooklaw.edu) (t) @j\_simonson

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

---

#### Brooklyn Law School

<i>Associate Dean for Research &amp; Scholarship</i>	2022 – present
<i>Professor of Law</i>	2020 – present
<i>Associate Professor of Law</i>	2018 – 2020
<i>Assistant Professor of Law</i>	2015 – 2018
<i>Co-Director, Center for Criminal Justice</i>	2016 – present

#### Columbia Law School

<i>Visiting Professor of Law</i>	Spring 2021
----------------------------------	-------------

#### Harvard Law School

<i>Visiting Associate Professor of Law</i>	Fall 2019
--	-----------

#### New York University School of Law

<i>Acting Assistant Professor of Lawyering</i>	2012 – 2015
--	-------------

### PUBLICATIONS

---

#### Book

RADICAL ACTS OF JUSTICE: HOW ORDINARY PEOPLE ARE HELPING DISMANTLE MASS INCARCERATION (The New Press, forthcoming 2023)

#### Articles & Essays

*Police Reform Through a Power Lens*, 130 YALE LAW JOURNAL 778 (2021)

*Movement Law*, 73 STANFORD LAW REVIEW 821 (2021) (w/Amna Akbar & Sameer Ashar)

*The Institutional Design of Community Control*, 108 CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 679 (2020) (w/Sabeel Rahman)

*The Place of “the People” in Criminal Procedure*, 119 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW 249 (2019)

*Bail Nullification*, 115 MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW 585 (2017)

- Selected as “Must Read” article by NACDL Getting Scholarship Into Courts Project
- Discussed in the *Atlantic*, *New Yorker*, *Pacific Standard*, *Ringer*, *Associated Press*, & more

*Copwatching*, 104 CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 391 (2016)

- Quoted in *Fields v. City of Philadelphia*, 862 F.3d 353 (3rd Cir. 2017)

*The Criminal Court Audience in a Post-Trial World*, 127 HARVARD LAW REVIEW 2173 (2014)

- Cited in *Weaver v. Massachusetts*, \_\_ U.S. \_\_ (2017)

*Thinking Like a Public Interest Lawyer: Theory, Practice, and Pedagogy*, 34 N.Y.U. REVIEW OF LAW & SOCIAL CHANGE 455 (2010) (with Nisha Agarwal)

- Excerpted in ALAN K. CHEN & SCOTT L. CUMMINGS, PUBLIC INTEREST LAWYERING: A CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVE (2013)

*Rethinking “Rational Discrimination” Against Ex-Offenders*, 13 GEORGETOWN JOURNAL ON POVERTY LAW & POLICY 283 (2006)

### Shorter Pieces & Solicited Contributions

*Democratizing Criminal Justice through Contestation and Resistance*, 111 NORTHWESTERN U. LAW REVIEW 1609 (2017) (invited symposium essay)

*Beyond Body Cameras: Defending a Robust Right to Record the Police*, 104 GEORGETOWN LAW JOURNAL 1559 (2016) (invited symposium essay)

- Cited in *Nieves v. Bartlett*, \_\_\_ U.S. \_\_\_ (2019) (Sotomayor, J., dissenting)

*Breaking the Silence: Legal Scholarship as Social Change*, 41 HARVARD CIVIL RIGHTS-CIVIL LIBERTIES LAW REVIEW 289 (2006) (symposium introduction)

### Selected Blog Posts

*Blurring the Line Between Public Health & Public Safety*, Bill of Health blog (Aug. 5, 2021)

Law and Political Economy blog posts (selected):

- *The Academy and the (Undoing of) the Carceral State*, LPE Blog (Oct. 14, 2020) (w/Shawn Ossei-Owusu)
- *What Comes After Money Bail? An LPE Perspective on Pretrial Detention*, LPE Blog (Feb. 10, 2020)
- *Movement Visions for a Renewed Left Legalism & Movement Visions for a Renewed Left Politics*, LPE Blog (Mar. 4 & 5, 2019) (w/Amna Akbar & Sameer Ashar)
- *Rethinking Criminal Law*, LPE Blog (Oct. 24, 2018) (w/Amna Akbar)

### Popular Writing

*What Movements Do to Law*, BOSTON REVIEW (May 2022) (w/Amna Akbar & Sameer Ashar)

*“They Are Throwing New Yorkers Into Cages on Rikers Island in Our Name!”* THE NATION (Oct. 11, 2021)

*The Power of Community Bail Funds*, NEW YORK TIMES (Aug. 23, 2020) (w/ Mary Hooks)

*The Bail Fund Moment*, N + 1 (June 22, 2020)

*Power Over Policing*, BOSTON REVIEW (June 8, 2020)

*The Danger of “Dangerousness,”* N.Y. DAILY NEWS (March 10, 2020)

*Don't let fear mongering sabotage criminal justice reforms*, ALBANY TIMES UNION (Feb. 19, 2020) (w/Lauryn Gouldin & Elizabeth Nevins)

*Discovery reform will bring true justice without threatening safety*, N.Y. DAILY NEWS (Dec. 11, 2019)

*Kamala Harris Says her Campaign is “For the People,”* THE NATION (Feb. 5, 2019)

*In the Name of Public Safety*, BOSTON REVIEW (Oct. 2, 2018)

*#SwipeItForward & the Decriminalization of Farebeating in New York City*, IN JUSTICE TODAY / THE APPEAL (Aug. 30, 2017)

*What is Community Justice?*, N + 1 (July 2017)

*Bail keeps these moms in jail on Mother’s Day, so strangers are posting it for them*, WASHINGTON POST (May 12, 2017)

*Why the Ferguson Consent Decree Matters for the First Amendment*, JURIST (Mar. 29, 2016)

*Let Citizens Film the Police*, SALON (Apr. 16, 2015)

## LAW SCHOOL TEACHING

---

Courses: Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure (Investigations & Adjudication); Evidence  
Seminars: Contesting the Carceral State; Criminal Justice?: Making a Murderer

## EDUCATION

---

**Harvard Law School**, J.D., *cum laude*, 2006

Editor-in-Chief, *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*

Irving Oberman Memorial Writing Prize in Law and Social Change

**Yale College**, B.A. in Sociology, *magna cum laude*, 2001

Thesis: *Juvenile Injustice: Racial Disparities in America’s Juvenile Justice System*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

### **The Bronx Defenders**

*Supervising Attorney & Team Leader*

2010 – 2012

*Staff Attorney*

2007 – 2010

### **Harvard Law School**

*Affiliate Fellow, Program on the Legal Profession*

2010 – 2012

*Co-Director and Co-Founder, Harvard Summer Theory Institute*

2008 – 2010

### **Hon. Barrington D. Parker, Jr., U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit**

*Judicial Clerk*

2006 – 2007

### **Center for Court Innovation**

*Planner, Red Hook Community Justice Center*

2001 – 2003

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES

---

*Radical Acts of Justice*, presentations of book drafts and excerpts:

- Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, July 2022
- UC-Hastings School of Law Faculty Workshop, March 2022
- University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law, Faculty Workshop, March 2022 (virtual)
- Loyola Law School Race & the Law Colloquium, Sept. 2021 (virtual)

Presenter, *People's Budgets*, Criminal Justice Ethics Schmooze, June 2021 (virtual)

Panelist & co-organizer, *Abolitionist Epistemologies*, Law & Society Conference, May 2021 (virtual)

Lecture, *Defunding the Police, Redefining Public Safety*, Illinois Law School Program in Constitutional Theory, Oct. 2020

*Police Reform Through a Power Lens*, presented at:

- Columbia Law School Faculty Workshop, Jan. 2021 (virtual)
- Stanford Law School Faculty Workshop, Oct. 2020 (virtual)
- Vanderbilt Law School Faculty Workshop, Sept. 2020 (virtual)
- Duke Law School Center for Science & Justice, July 2020 (virtual)
- Law & Society Conference, Denver, CO, May 2020 (virtual)
- University of Chicago Public Law Workshop, May 2020 (virtual)
- Hofstra Law School Faculty Workshop, Feb. 2020
- Symposium on Criminal Procedure, Wisconsin Law School, Dec. 2019
- Criminal Justice Roundtable, Vanderbilt Law School, Nov. 2019
- Brooklyn Law School Faculty Workshop, July 2019
- Crimfest Conference, Brooklyn Law School, July 2019
- Junior Criminal Justice Roundtable, Harvard Law School, May 2019
- Law of the Police Conference, University of South Carolina, March 2019

*Movement Law*, presented at (w/Amna Akbar & Samer Ashar):

- UC-Irvine Socio-Legal Studies Workshop, October 2020 (virtual)
- Law and Political Economy Summer Series, July 2020 (virtual)

Panelist, *Beyond the Carceral State: Critically Teaching Criminal Law & Criminal Procedure*, CLEA Teaching Justice series, Oct. 2020 (virtual)

Panelist, *Beyond Reform: Reenvisioning the Role of Police*, U. Penn Law School, June 2020 (virtual)

Panelist, *A Critical Approach to the Canonical First Year Law School Courses*, Boston University Law School, Feb. 2020 (virtual)

Panelist, *The Criminalization of Poverty*, Ohio State L. J. Symposium, Feb. 2020

Panelist, *Community Voice*, Symposium on Bail Reform, Wake Forest Law School, Jan. 2020

Panelist, *Agency, Dignity, and Race in the Formation and Implementation of Criminal Procedure*, AALS Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., Jan. 2020

Panelist, *Roundtable on Decarceration, Criminal Procedure, & Reform*, Law & Society Conference, Washington, D.C., May 2019

*The Institutional Design of Community Control*, presented at:

- University of Virginia Law School Faculty Workshop, Oct. 2019
- Criminal Justice Roundtable, Yale Law School, April 2019
- Cardozo Law School Faculty Workshop, April 2019
- Critical Justice Workshop, Oct. 2018
- Brooklyn Law School Faculty Workshop, July 2018
- CrimFest Conference, Cardozo Law School, July 2018
- Brooklyn Law School Junior Faculty Workshop, August 2017

Commentator, (*Arguments for*) *Police Abolition* by Amna Akbar, Law and Public Affairs Seminar, Princeton University, Dec. 2018

Panelist, *New Movements for Bail Reform*, Practicing Public Interest Law in the South Conference, Vanderbilt Law School, Oct. 2018

*The Place of “the People” in Criminal Procedure*, presented at:

- Faculty Workshop, UConn School of Law, October 2018
- Criminal Justice Ethics Schmooze, Brooklyn Law School, June 2018
- Faculty Workshop, Willamette University College of Law, March 2018
- AALS Criminal Law & Procedure Works in Progress, San Diego, CA, January 2018
- Junior Criminal Justice Roundtable, Brooklyn/St. John’s Law Schools, July 2017
- AALS/CrimFest Conference, American University Law School, June 2017
- Junior Criminal Professors Roundtable, U. Chicago School of Law, June 2017

Moderator, *Community & Racial Justice*, Democratizing Criminal Law Conference, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Nov. 2016

Panelist, *Toward Solutions*, Symposium on Money Bail, University of Baltimore School of Law, Nov. 2016

Moderator & Organizer, *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy*, Brooklyn Law School, Nov. 2016

*Bail Nullification*, presented at:

- ACS Public Law Workshop, AALS Annual Conference, Jan. 2017
- Fordham Law School Criminal Law & Procedure Speaker Series, Nov. 2016
- St. John’s Law School Faculty Workshop, Oct. 2016
- New York Area Junior Faculty Colloquium, Oct. 2016
- Junior Criminal Law Scholars Roundtable, Harvard Law School, May 2016
- Critical Justice Roundtable, Brooklyn Law School, May 2016
- Brooklyn Law School Faculty Workshop, May 2016
- Twentieth Anniversary LatCrit Conference, Anaheim, CA, Oct. 2015
- CrimFest Conference, Cardozo School of Law, July 2015

Panelist, *Cops, Prosecutors, and Community*, “Reckoning With Force” Conference, NYU Law School, April 2016

Presenter, *Filming the Police as an Act of Resistance*, Journal of Law and Public Policy Symposium, "Smartphoned: Legality of Filming the Police," University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis, MN, March 2016

Panelist & moderator, *Responding to the Money Bail Crisis*, 2016 AALS Annual Meeting, New York, NY, Jan. 2016

Presenter, *Beyond Body Cameras: Defending a Robust Right to Record the Police*, Georgetown Law Journal Symposium, "Police/State: Race, Power, and Control," Nov. 2015

*Copwatching*, presented at:

- California Law Review Lecture Series, Berkeley Law School, Oct. 2015
- CrimFest Conference, Rutgers School of Law-Newark, July 2014
- NYU Lawyering Scholarship Colloquium, July 2014

Panelist, *Policing the Police & the Community*, Seton Hall Law School Symposium, Oct. 2015

*The Criminal Court Audience in a Post-Trial World*, presented at:

- NYC Criminal Theory Colloquium, Brooklyn Law School, Sept. 2013
- NYU Lawyering Scholarship Colloquium, Jan. 2013
- Roundtable, ABA & AALS Criminal Justice Colloquium, Oct. 2012

Plenary Panelist, *Critical Lawyering: Bridging Theory and Practice for Social Change*, Critical Lawyering Conference, Harvard Law School, Mar. 2012

## **SELECTED PRESS & MEDIA APPEARANCES**

---

### **Newspapers & media:**

- *Some people say protest bail funds should be more careful*, NPR All Things Considered (Mar. 28, 2022) (quoted)
- *Only One Mayoral Candidate Says Moving Money From Police To Social Services Is A Top Priority*, WGHB-TV (Aug. 4, 2021) (quoted)
- *Is Black Lives Matter Causing a Police Shortage?*, SLATE (Sept. 24, 2020) (quoted)
- *Bail Funds, Flush With Cash, Learn to 'Grind Through This Horrible Process,'* N.Y. TIMES (June 26, 2020) (quoted)
- *Where Bail Funds Go From Here*, NEW YORKER (June 23, 2020) (quoting article *Bail Nullification*)
- *"It Changes Who Has the Power": How Bail Funds Across the Country Are Responding to Protests*, THE RINGER (June 8, 2020) (interview & quoting article *Bail Nullification*)
- *Why It Matters That So Many People Are Donating to Bail Funds*, THE ATLANTIC (June 3, 2020) (quoting article *Bail Nullification*)
- *George Floyd and the Origins of Modern Law Enforcement*, SLATE (June 5, 2020) (quoting article *The Institutional Design of Community Control*)
- *Bail Reform is About Safety & Well-being*, THE APPEAL (Feb. 10, 2020) (discussing & quoting scholarship on bail)
- *DA Hopeful Reversed Over Handling of DA Bias in Jury Selection*, NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL (Jan. 14, 2019) (quoted)
- *Groups Begin Bailing Out Strangers to Free Poor From Jail*, ASSOCIATED PRESS (Jan. 30, 2017) (quoted & discussing article *Bail Nullification*)
- *How Communities Are Rising Up Against the Bail System*, PACIFIC STANDARD (Jan. 18, 2017) (featuring & quoting article *Bail Nullification*)

- *SCOTUS Double Jeopardy Case Could Impact Prosecutor Discretion*, CRIMINAL LAW REPORTER (Oct. 6, 2016) (quoted)
- *We Protect Our Communities: Cop Watchers Speak out*, NBC NEWS (May 12, 2016) (quoted)
- *Overloaded Court System Brings Pain & Delays*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 1, 2016) (quoted)
- *Why are cops afraid of body cameras?*, WASHINGTON POST (Oct. 9, 2015) (quoted)
- *Will New York Scrap Its Broken Bail System?*, VICE (Oct. 8, 2015) (quoted)
- *Secrecy Behind Police Misconduct Investigations*, HUFFPOST LIVE (Sept. 4, 2014) (guest)

#### **Radio & podcasts:**

- *Power-shifting in Policing*, Yale Law Journal Podcast (Apr. 23, 2021) (interview)
- *Both Sides of the V*, Oral Argument Podcast (Jan. 12, 2019) (interview)
- *Bloomberg Law: Rise in Police Violence*, BLOOMBERG RADIO (July 8, 2016) (interview)
- *Own the Block*, Oral Argument Podcast (Apr. 15, 2016) (interview)
- *The Killing of Samuel DuBose*, THE BRIAN LEHRER SHOW (WNYC) (Jul. 31, 2015) (interview)
- *New police monitoring app offers direct line to ACLU*, MARKETPLACE (NPR) (May 8, 2015) (interview)

### **LAW SCHOOL & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

---

#### **Brooklyn Law School, Selected Committee Work:**

- Center for Criminal Justice (2015-present) (Chair & Co-Director of the Center)
- Public Safety Committee (2020-2022); Appointments Committee (2017-2019); Diversity Committee (2015-2018, 2020-present); Public Interest Committee (2015-present); Long Range Planning Committee (2016-17) (elected position)

#### **Professional Service & Activities:**

- Core Contributor, Law and Political Economy blog, 2018-present
- Advisory Board, Community Justice Exchange, 2018-present
- Advisory Board, Institute to End Mass Incarceration at Harvard Law School, 2021-present
- Founding Member, Guerrilla Guides to Law Teaching
- Academic Advisory Board, Supreme Court Fellows Program, 2017-2018

### **BAR ADMISSION**

---

New York (since 2007)