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EMPLOYMENT

Edward Ross Aranow Clinical Professor Emerita of Law
2022-present

Edward Ross Aranow Clinical Professor of Law
Columbia Law School, New York, NY
1995-2022

Recent Courses: Pro Bono Scholars Externship
Professional Responsibility: Becoming a Lawyer
Adolescent Representation Clinic
Adolescence Seminar

Director of Clinical Education 2001-2006

Attorney-in-Charge
Juvenile Rights Division
The Legal Aid Society
New York, New York
1995-1998

Faculty Member and Director
Morningside Heights Legal Services
Columbia University Law School, 1982 - 1995

Staff Attorney
Juvenile Rights Division, The Legal Aid Society
New York, New York, 1980 -1982

Senior High School Teacher
Sutton Public Schools, Sutton, Massachusetts, 1974 - 1976

EDUCATION

New York University School of Law
New York, New York
J.D., 1979, Vanderbilt Medalist

Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts
B.A., Magna cum Laude, 1974
Phi Beta Kappa; Honors in American Studies

University of Sussex, Brighton, England
American Studies Exchange Student, 1972 - 1973

RECENT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES: Family and Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice/Justice Systems

Co-Chair, Symposium: *Strengthened Bonds: Abolishing the Child Welfare System and Re-Envisioning Child Well-Being* (June 2021)

The Mayor's Advisory Committee on The Judiciary
New York City
January 2018-December 2021

Center for Family Representation
Founding Chair of the Board, 2001-2007
Member of Board, 2001-present
Chair of the Leadership Council, 2013-2018

Advisor, Restatement of the Law, Children and the Law, ALI, 2016-present

New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children
1995-2022

The Statewide Multidisciplinary Child Welfare Work Group
New York State Office of Court Administration and Office of Children and Family Services
2007-2019 (disbanded)

Family and Children's Law Abstracts
Legal Scholarship Network; Founding Co-Editor (current)

FACE: Fostering Advocacy Change and Empowerment (Youth Advocacy Organization)
Adult Advisory Board 2014-2016

Task Force on New York City Family Court
New York County Lawyers Association
Co-Chair, 2008-2011

New York City Family Court Public Forum, Chair
Co-sponsored by the New York County Lawyer's Association and Columbia Law School, July 2007

New York City Family Court Conference, *The Family Court in New York City in the 21st Century: What Are Its Roles and Responsibilities?* Co-sponsored by the New York County Lawyer's Association and Columbia Law School, Oct. 2006, Conference Chair

Advisory Committee on Effective Practices for Family Treatment Courts
Office of Court Administration, at the invitation of Hon. Judith Harris Kluger, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, New York Unified Court System, 2006-2007

Administration for Children's Services Advisory Board (2004-2014)
Co-Chair, Subcommittee on Family Court, 2005-2007

First Star Policy Advisory Group 2005-2009

Children's Law Institute, Practicing Law Institute (PLI), Founding Co-Chair 1998-2001

New York City Bar Association
Council on Children 2000-2010, Juvenile Justice Committee, Chair (2000-2002)

Institute for Child and Family Policy, Columbia University, Steering Committee Member, 1999-2005

Confidential External Reviewer for the National Research Council's Report, *Youth, Pornography and the Internet: Can We Provide Sound Choices in a Safe Environment?* National Academy Press, March 2002

Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention, Scientific Advisory Board Member, 2000-2003

National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse
Home/Court Advantage National Advisory Board (2001)

RECENT PRESENTATIONS: Family and Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice/Child Advocacy/Family Court

Panelist: The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as "law for the powerless" Children in America, International Law Weekend, 102nd Annual Meeting of the American Branch of the International Law Association, October 26, 2024

Panelist: Feminist Legal Theory New Books in the Field, Law and Society Annual Conference, June 7, 2024

Author Meets Reader: *The End of Family Court*, Law and Society Annual Conference, June 8, 2024

Panelist: Book Salon: New Books by Profs. Alan J. Dettlaff, Kelley Fong, and Jane M. Spinak, Kempe's 2023 Call to Action Conference, October 2, 2023

Featured Speaker: *What's Next? Supporting Children, Youth and Families in a Post-Abolition World Conference*, Rutgers Law School, October 12, 2023

Featured Speaker: *What Is - What Should Be - The Future of The Juvenile Court*, Civitas Child Law Center's 30 Anniversary, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, November 15, 2023

Endowed Lecture: Katheryn D. Katz Memorial Lecture, *The End of Family Court*, Albany Law School, November 8th, 2023

Endowed Lecture: Walter O. Weyrauch Distinguished Lecture in Family Law, University of Florida Levin College of Law, *When Great Ideas Fail: Family Court and the Dangers of Doing Good*, November 15, 2021

Panelist: American University Law Review Annual Symposium, The Impact of Race on Youth [in]Justice: A Closer Look at Young People of Color and the Legal System, February 4, 2022

Presenter: Introduction Chapter (of Family Court Book), New York City Family Law Scholars Group, Cardozo Law School, April 12, 2019

Panelist: "Taking Kids: Border Madness", Columbia University School of Social Work Teach-in Conference on Immigration, October 2018

Panelist: "How the Child Protection System Contributes to Poverty and Child Neglect", 2018 Annual Meeting on Law and Society, June 2018

Speaker: "The Great Idea" (Chapter 2), New York City Family Law Scholars Group, Cardozo Law School, April 21, 2017

Panelist: "How should we make decisions for children in foster care?" Rethinking Foster Care: A National Conference; The University of Michigan Law School, May 12-13, 2016

Panelist: "Problem Solving Courts and Family Defense", CUNY Law Review Symposium: Reimagining Family Defense, April 8, 2016

Panelist: The Modern Problem-Solving Court Movement: Taking Stock After 25 Years; ADR Section of AALS, AALS Annual Meeting January 2016

Responder: "Dignity Rights: A Response to Peggy Cooper Davis's Little Citizens and their Families", Fordham Urban Law Journal 2015 Cooper-Walsh Colloquium, October 2015

Endowed Lecture: "Judicial Leadership in Family Court: A Cautionary Tale," The Charles H. Miller Endowed Lecture, University of Tennessee College of Law, April 4, 2014

Commentator: Twenty Years of South African Constitutionalism: Education and Children's Rights, New York Law School, November 14, 2014

Panelist: "Measuring the Immeasurable: Building the Evidence Necessary for Effective Child Protection and Family Welfare Policies and Programs," CPC Learning Network and the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance Symposium, Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, February 19, 2014

Speaker: "Can't We Do Something About These Kids? Eliminating Status Offense Jurisdiction in Family Court," New York City Family Law Scholars Group, Cardozo Law School, July 17, 2013

Facilitator: "The Role of the Child's Attorney," New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Joint Meeting of Child Advocates and Foster Care Agency Executive Directors (by request of ACS Commissioner Ronald Richter), November 22, 2011

Speaker: "A Great Idea: Family Court," New York City Family Law Scholars Group, Cardozo Law School, November 18, 2011

Panel Chair: "Policy Domains," Comparative and Family Policy: A Conference in Honor of Sheila B. Kamerman, Columbia Population Research Center, Columbia University, May 12, 2011

Speaker: "A Great Idea: Family Court," American University Washington College of Law, Faculty Speaker's Series, April 8, 2011

Panelist: "Appropriate Scope and Process of the Child Welfare System," Third Annual Conference on the Urban Child, University of Baltimore School of Law Center for Families, Children and the Courts, April 7, 2011

Keynote Moderator: The Annual Paul Robeson Conference, "Realizing Justice: Incarceration, Advocacy and the Consequences of the Juvenile Justice System," April 2, 2011

Presenter: "What Family Courts and Others Could Learn from the Experts," Drugs, Pregnancy and Parenting: What the Experts in Medicine, Social Work and Law Have to Say, Part II, sponsored by National Advocates for Pregnant Women and NYU Law School, April 29, 2010

Panelist: "The Potential Disparate Impact on Families of Color in Problem Solving Courts," University of Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender and Class Symposium: Problem Solving Courts: A Conversation with the Experts, November 6, 2009

Keynote Address: 9th Annual Access to Equal Justice Colloquium: Critical Perspectives on Court and Law Reform (in conjunction with the Public Interest Law and Policy Speakers Series), Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, MO., March 2009: "Family Court Reform: Getting It Right between Rhetoric and Reality"

Workshop Presenter: Clinical Theory Workshop, February 2009, New York Law School: "Family Court Reform: Getting It Right between Rhetoric and Reality"

Speaker: Casey Family Services Child Welfare Strategy Group, New Haven, CN
"Creating the Center for Family Representation", January 2008

Testimony: New York City Council General Welfare Committee Hearing
"Child Welfare and Increased Demands on New York City Family Courts" January 10, 2008

Facilitator: New York Statewide Law Guardian Advisory Committee
Statewide convening to determine the implementation of FCA §249-b, August 2007

Plenary Roundtable: Advocating for Children and Families in a Unified Family Court, ABA Summit on Unified Family Courts, University of Baltimore Law School, May 2007

Plenary Speaker: "Child Participation in Proceedings Affecting Their Lives," The Child Right to Protection Realized: Best Practices and Lessons Learned, Conference sponsored by the Child Rights Working Group, Columbia University, April 2007

Speaker: "Client-Directed Child Advocacy," First Star 2007 Congressional Briefing on The Report Card on a Child's Right to Counsel, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. April 2007

Panelist:	Children in the Courtroom: a right or a privilege? New York City Bar Association Panel, February 2007
Paper Presenter:	"Romancing the Court," Mid-Atlantic Clinical Theory Workshop, March 2007
Roundtable Moderator:	Representing Children, Roundtable in honor of Martin Guggenheim's publication of <i>What's Wrong with Children's Rights?</i> , New York University Law School, December 2006
Speaker:	"What is youth participation and why are we so afraid of it?" Casey Family Services National Convening on Youth Permanence, Washington, D.C. September 2006
Speaker:	"The Impact of Problem-Solving Courts: Are They an Effective Response to Social Problems Affecting Families and Children?" Conference sponsored by the Family Law & Social Policy Center, Syracuse University College of Law, September 2006
Paper Presenter:	"When Did Lawyers for Children Stop Reading Goldstein, Freud and Solnit? Lessons from the 20 th Century on Best Interests and the Role of the Child Advocate," Children's Rights and the Nation-State in the U.S., France and Sweden, 1900-2000, Columbia University, New York, May 2006
Roundtable Participant:	"Sunshine or Spectacle: The Right to Know v. The Right to Privacy," 37 th Annual Fair Trial/Free Press Forum, New York City, April 2006
Speaker:	"Reforming Family Court," Policy Forum on Reinventing Children's Services, The New America Foundation, Washington, D.C., February 2006.
Group Facilitator:	International Law, Norms and Practice Group, Conference on Representing Children in Families, William Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, January 2006
Speaker:	"From Policy to Practice: The National Need for Professional Legal Representation for Foster Children," 2005 First Star Congressional Roundtable on Children in Washington, D.C, September 2005
Trainer:	"Supervising Public Interest Lawyers," two day training for senior lawyers at the Administration for Children's Services, New York City, July 2005
Chair and Moderator:	"The Impact of <i>Nicholson v. Scopetta</i> on New York Child Welfare Practice," a one day meeting of legal services providers, March 2005
Moderator:	"Raising the Bar: Practice, Ethics and Challenges in Forensic Social Work," Columbia University School of Social Work, September 2003
Panelist:	"Case Conferencing in Child Protective Practice: Before and During Family Court's Involvement," Sixth Annual PLI Children's Law Institute, August 2003
Commentator:	"Criminal Defenders and Community Justice: The Drug Court Example (A response to William Simon)," Symposium on Community Courts and Community Justice, Columbia Law School, April 2003
Moderator:	"ASFA Five Years After: What Have the Effects Been?" National Symposium on Child Welfare, Columbia University, January 2003
Panelist:	"Women's Rights: Reframing the Issues for the Future": 75 th Anniversary of Women at Columbia Law School, October 2002
Panelist:	"Representing Parents in Child Welfare Proceedings," Louis Stein Roundtable, Fordham Law School, March 2002

Panelist: "In the Name of Children," Conference on Maternal-State Conflicts: Claims of Fetal Rights and the Well-being of Women and Families, National Advocates for Pregnant Women and the Mt. Sinai Clinical Education Initiative, Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York, New York, January 2002

Speaker: "Doing Reform: Considering New York Family Court",
Lawyering for a New Democracy Conference, University of Wisconsin, June 2001

Panelist: "Adoption, Parental Rights and Child Welfare after the Adoption and Safe Families Act," Root-Tilden-Kern Scholarship Program's Third Year Colloquium
New York University Law School; November 2000

(Professional activities, presentations and trainings prior to 2000 available upon request)

RECENT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES: Legal Education, Law School and University Service

CLS Student Affairs Committee Chair
CLS Leadership Task Force
CLS Public Interest/Public Service Advisory Committee
Green Leaders
Board of Advisors, Columbia Journal of Race and Law

CLS Student Services and Rules Committees
Member and/or Chair or Co-Chair 2007-2014
Co-authored CLS Gender-based Misconduct Policy 2013

Acting Dean of Social Justice Initiatives, Fall 2010; Summer 2017

CLS Representative, New York State Access to Justice Conference, 1st (2012), 3rd (2014), 4th (2015), 5th (2016), and 7th (2018) Conferences

Board of Directors, CLS Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) (2012-2016)

Board of Advisors, CLS Journal of Law and Social Problems (2012-2015)

Columbia Law School/University of Leiden Law School Summer Program, July 2012
"Professional Responsibility: Becoming a Lawyer" (two-week course)

Chair, Planning Committee: A.A.L.S. Annual Conference on Clinical Education, *Clients, Complexity and Collaboration in a Cross-disciplinary Lens*, and Clinical Director's Workshop; May 2009, Cleveland, Ohio

Spencer Foundation Fellowship in Education Reporting, Fellowship Selection Committee
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, 2008-2010
Public Interest Law Initiative in Transitional Societies (PILI; now PILnet) Activities 1999-2006

Trainer and Consultant: Lodz University, Poland; assisting in the establishment of a Child Advocacy Clinic at the law school, May 2005 (and continuing via electronic means through 2006)

Trainer: "Creating Children's Rights Clinics," Budapest, Hungary, March 2005

Trainer: "Children's Rights Clinics: Pedagogical Challenges of Supervision," Timisuara, Romania, May 2004

Trainer: "Developing Children's Rights Clinics in Central and Eastern Europe," Budapest, Hungary, November 2003

Trainer: Intensive Teacher Training for New Clinical Educators, Bucharest, Romania, November 2002

Lecturer: Child Welfare: An Example of Integrating Public Interest Law Work through a Specialized University Clinic, Fifth Annual Colloquium on Clinical Legal Education, Warsaw, Poland, November 2002

Evaluator and Trainer: ELTE University Clinical Education Program, Budapest, Hungary, March 2002

Lecturer: "Student Practice Orders in the United States," Second Annual PILI/COLPI Colloquium, Warsaw, Poland, March 1999

Planning Committee; Chair, Clinical Directors Day: A.A.L.S. Annual Conference on Clinical Education May 2005

Columbia Law School/University of Amsterdam Law School Summer Program, July 2003
"Selected Issues of Family Law," (two-week course)

A.A.L.S Committee on Bar Admissions and Lawyer Performance, Chair 2001-2002
A.A.L.S "Survey of Law Schools on Programs and Courses Designed to Enhance Bar Examination Performance" in 52 Journal of Legal Education 453 (September 2002) [completed and published during my term]

(Legal Education activities prior to 2000 available upon request)

PRESENTATIONS: Legal Education

Panelist: "Client-Clinic Collaborations: How to Incorporate Meaningful Partnerships with Your Clients into Representation, Reform, and Response", 2018 Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education, May 2018

Panelist: "The Role of Law Schools in Working with Non-Lawyer Advocates to Help Narrow the Justice Gap," Third Annual Access to Justice Conference: The Role of New York's Law Schools in Helping Meet the Essential Civil Legal Needs of Low Income New Yorkers, May 12, 2014

Panelist: Closing Plenary: Future Directions in Clinical Legal Scholarship, Clinical Theory Workshop 25th Anniversary Conference, New York Law School, October 2010

Presenter: "Our Collective Identities: Approaching Cross Cultural Issues in the Classroom," Plenary Simulation and Facilitated Discussion Presentation (with Isabelle Gunning, Ragini Shah, and Danielle Jones), A.A.L.S 2008 Annual Conference on Clinical Education, Tucson, AZ

Panelist: "Worldwide Clinical Education: Experiences, Perspectives and Reflections," Catholic University, Columbus Law School, Washington, D.C., October 2004

Presenter: Different Models of Delivery of Services: Challenges for Supervision
Plenary Presentation (with Victor Goode and Mary Helen McNeal)
1999 A.A.L.S Clinical Workshop on Legal Education, Lake Tahoe, CA

Speaker: Student Practice Rules and Orders in the United States
Colloquium on Clinical Education
Public Interest Law Initiative in Transitional Societies of Columbia University
Warsaw, Poland, March 1999

Presenter: "Evaluating Our Students: How Do We Know Students Get What We Are Teaching?"
Plenary Presentation (with Prof. Victor Goode)
1995 A.A.L.S. Workshop on Clinical Education, St. Louis, MO

Speaker: "Teaching Theory: Techniques of Supervision"
Multiple Perspectives on the Clinical Experience
A.A.L.S. Annual Meeting, San Francisco, January 1993

PUBLICATIONS

The End of Family Court: How Abolishing the Court Brings Justice to Children and Families (NYU Press; 2023)

The Road to a Federal Family Court, *Court Review* 58:1 (2022)

Foreword: Strengthened Bonds: Abolishing the Child Welfare System and Re-Envisioning Child Well-Being, (with Nancy Polikoff), 11 CJRL 427 (July 2021)

"Child Welfare and COVID-19: An Unexpected Opportunity for Systemic Change" in Pistor, Katharina, *"Law in the Time of COVID-19"* (2020). Books. 240.; <https://scholarship.law.columbia.edu/books/240>

They Persist: Parent and Youth Voice in the Age of Trump, Family Court Review Symposium Issue, 56 Fam. Ct. Rev. 308 (2018)

"Busting the Juvenile Super-Predator Myth", (with Laura Cohen) Book Chapter in *Rights, Race, and Reform: 50 Years of Child Advocacy in the Juvenile Justice System* (Routledge, 2018)

Family Defense and the Disappearing Problem-Solving Court, 20 CUNY Law Review 171 (2017)

Dignity Rights: A Response to Peggy Cooper Davis's Little Citizens and their Families, 43 Fordham Urb. L.J. 1221 (2016)

Judicial Leadership in Family Court: A Cautionary Tale, 10 Tenn. J. L. & Pol'y 47 (Fall 2014)

Expectations of the Child Welfare System and Family Court Must Shift, Unified Family Court Connection, Center for Families, Children and the Courts, University of Baltimore School of Law (Fall 2011)

A Conversation about Problem-Solving Courts: Take 2, 10 U. Md. L.J. Race, Religion, Gender & Class 113 (2010), Symposium Issue on Problem Solving Courts

Family Court Reform: Getting It Right between Rhetoric and Reality, 31 Wash. U. J.L. & Pol'y 11 (2009)

"Family Court," in *The Child: An Encyclopedic Companion*, University of Chicago Press (2009)

Romancing the Court, 46 Fam. Ct. Rev. 258 (2008)

When Did Lawyers for Children Stop Reading Goldstein, Freud and Solnit? Lessons from the Twentieth Century on Best Interests and the Role of the Child Advocate, 41 Fam. L.Q. 393 (2007)

Foreword: Framing Family Court through the Lens of Accountability, 40 Colum. J.L. & Soc. Probs. 431 (2007); Symposium Issue on The Family Court

Simon Says Take Three Steps Backwards: The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws Recommendations on Child Representation, 6 Nev. L.J. 1385, Symposium Issue on Representing Children in Families (2006)

International Law, Norms and Practice Group Report, Group Facilitator and Editor, 6 Nev. L.J. 656, Symposium Issue on Representing Children in Families (2006)

Why Defenders Feel Defensive: The Defender's Role in Problem Solving Courts, 40 Am. Crim. L. Rev. 1617 (2003)

Senior Advisor, *Failure to Protect: A National Dialogue*, produced by the Institute for Child and Family Policy of Columbia University and the Fred Friendly Seminars (2002) and broadcast on *Frontline* (January 2003); accompanying essay at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/fostercare/> and republished in Sixth Annual Children's Law Institute (195 PLI/Crim 271; 2003)
Annotated Comments, *Women's Rights: Reframing the Issue for the Future* Panel, Columbia Journal of Gender and Law (2002)

Adding Value to Families: The Potential of Model Family Courts, 2002 Wis. L. Rev. 33

The Role of Strategic Management Planning in Improving the Representation of Clients: A Child Advocacy Example, 34 Fam. L.Q. 497 (2000)

Reflections on a Case (of Motherhood), 95 Colum. L. Rev. 1990 (1995)

Permanency Planning Judicial Benchbook, New York State Office of Court Administration (1989; Supplement 1993)

Child Welfare Legal Manual for Department of Social Services Attorneys and Law Guardians, (co-author) American Bar Association, National Legal Resource Center for Child Advocacy and Protection (1988); Supplement (1990)

Keeping Children Out of Foster Care: The Role of Preventive Services under the Child Welfare Reform Act in Child Abuse and Neglect: Protecting the Child, Defending the Parent, Representing the State, Practicing Law Institute (148 PLI/Crim 9; 1988)

RECENT MEDIA

The End of Family Court: How Abolishing the Court Brings Justice to Children and Families (NYU Press; 2023)

Reviews: <https://www.janespinak.com/blank-3>

Long and short form interviews <https://www.janespinak.com/interviews>

Media coverage: <https://www.janespinak.com/coverage>

EXPERT WITNESS IN PUBLIC DEFENDER LITIGATION

Chief Expert Witness on Family Court Practice:

New York County Lawyer's Association v. New York City and New York State, 763 NYS2d 397 (2003)

Deposed prior to Settlement:

Doyle v. Allegheny County Salary Board No. 96-13606 (Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas; Horgos, J.; 1998)

Identified as Expert Witness Prior to Settlement:

Rivera v. Rowland, No. CV95-545629 (Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford; Lavine, J.; 1999)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2018 Kathryn A. McDonald Award for Excellence in Service to Family Court, New York City Bar Association

2008 Howard A. Levine Award for Excellence in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare, New York State Bar Association

2005 Human Rights Hero, for work done on behalf of children, American Bar Association's Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities, Human Rights Magazine

Honoree "for dedication to safeguarding the rights of indigent litigants" New York County Lawyer's Association, May 2003

Recipient of a 2003 PASS (Prevention for a Safer Society) Award for work on *Failure to Protect: A National Dialogue*, produced by the Institute for Child and Family Policy of Columbia University and the Fred Friendly Seminars

Honoree, Fourth Anniversary Celebration of LIFT (Legal Information for Families Today), "for work on behalf of families and children," New York, New York, April 2000