

SUZANNE B. GOLDBERG

Columbia Law School
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EDUCATION

Harvard Law School

J.D. cum laude 1990

Harvard Women's Law Journal, Editor-in-Chief

Fulbright Fellow

National University of Singapore, Political Science post-graduate research 1985-86

Brown University

A.B. Political Science 1985

Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude

EMPLOYMENT

Columbia Law School 2006 - Present

Herbert and Doris Wechsler Clinical Professor of Law, Director, Sexuality & Gender Law Clinic. Co-Founder and Co-Director, Center for Gender & Sexuality Law Center, 2010-15, Visiting Professor of Law (Fall 2004); Sabbatical Visitor (Spring 2005). Courses taught: Civil Procedure, Advanced Civil Procedure Seminar; Lawyering and Social Change seminar, and Sexuality & Gender Law Clinic.

Honors: Professor Willis L.M. Reese Award for Excellence in Teaching (2009); Public Interest Professor of the Year Award (2008). Also received the LeGal Foundation Community Vision Award (2011); the M. Ashley Dickerson Award from the National Association of Women Lawyers (2008); Dukemenier Award for Sexual Orientation Scholarship (2015, 2006 and 2004); and the Association of American Law Schools Outstanding Scholarly Paper Award (2003). Co-Chair, University Commission on the Status of Women (2012-2016).

Short-term appointments:

European University Institute, Visiting Fellow, April 2026.

Sapienza University of Rome, Faculty Exchange Visitor, March 2026.

U.S. Department of State 2023-2025

Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, April 2024 - January 2025

Senior Advisor and Legal Expert to the Office of the Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons, September 2023 – April 2024 (on detail)

Served as senior strategist and general counsel to the Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons on multilateral affairs at the United Nations and Organization of American States (OAS), law enforcement capacity-building, human rights and democratic backsliding, and a wide range of complex, sensitive issues. Also co-led planning for a major State Department convening on U.S. foreign policy and LGBTQI+ rights.

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights 2021-2023

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Strategic Operations and Outreach, January 2021 – August 2023

Acting Assistant Secretary, January – October 2021

As Acting Assistant Secretary, led 600-person staff, with \$131 million budget and 12 regional offices, through transition and establishment of robust administration agenda, including close collaboration with the White House and agencies, renewed stakeholder engagement, hiring of key leadership positions, and strengthening of organizational culture. Produced extensive array of new policy, resources, and reports, initiated the Department's comprehensive review of Title IX policy, oversaw Office for Civil Rights (OCR) response to litigation, hosted and participated in many civil rights convenings, and co-led planning of a new Civil Rights Data Collection. Oversaw OCR's extensive civil rights enforcement docket under laws prohibiting discrimination in education based on race, color, national origin, sex, and disability.

As Deputy Assistant Secretary, led OCR's work on Title IX rulemaking, including extensive consultation across government; led and participated in additional Department initiatives related to Title IX, gender, and LGBTQI+ students; served as the Department's Senior Designee to the White House Gender Policy Council and as the Department's representative to several White House interagency committees, task forces, and working groups.

Department of Defense, Defense Advisory Committee on the Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces, April 2022 – April 2025

Appointed by the Secretary of Defense to advise on issues related to sexual assault and other sexual misconduct involving members of the Armed Forces.

Columbia University

Executive Vice President, Office of University Life. January 2015-2021. Created and led new University-wide office that addresses intellectual life, community citizenship, and student life issues across the University.

Early initiatives have included, among others, creation and implementation of a Sexual Respect and Community Citizenship Initiative for all Columbia students; creation of a Community Citizenship event series; development of Wellness Days; engagement with University-wide policies, including revisions to the Gender-Based Misconduct Policy; hiring and development of a new staff; creation and convening of networks of faculty, administrators and students on a wide range of issues.

Special Advisor to the University President on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. July 2014-January 2015.

Rutgers University School of Law-Newark 2000-2006

Professor of Law and Director of Women's Rights Litigation Clinic.

Courses taught: Civil Procedure, Employment Discrimination, Jurisprudence: Sexuality and Law, Women's Rights Litigation Clinic.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund 1991-2000

Senior Staff Attorney (Skadden Fellow, 1991-93). Counsel in numerous lesbian and gay civil rights impact litigation cases involving constitutional, statutory and common law claims; responsible for all phases of trial-level and appellate litigation in state and federal courts including in U.S. Supreme Court; advised and oversaw attorneys and legal interns on litigation, legislative and public policy analysis projects; advised employers on personnel matters, benefits and other employment issues. Extensive public speaking, media relations, and authorship and editing of informational, advocacy and scholarly publications.

Fordham Law School 1996-2000

Adjunct Professor of Law. Course taught: Jurisprudence: The Individual and the State.

New Jersey Supreme Court 1990-91 Judicial clerk for Justice Marie Garibaldi.

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Social Science Research Network, Advisory Board, Sexuality & the Law publications, 2007-2021.

Association of American Law Schools, Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues, Chair, 2009-10, Executive Comm. member 2007-11; Committee to Review Scholarly Papers, 2003 - 2004.

LGBT Law Faculty Workshop of Greater New York, Co-chair, 2007-11.

Association of the Bar of the City of New York

Committees: Sex and Law, 2001-2003; Lesbian and Gay Rights, 1998-2000; Civil Rights, 1995-1998.

Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems, Board of Directors 2007-present.

Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law, *Annual Review* Board of Advisors 1999-present.

Immigration Equality/Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force 1998-2005, Chair, Board of Directors, 1999-2004, Founder 1994.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles and Essays

Campus Crises and the Limits of Title VI, 126 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW FORUM 1 (2026) (co-authored).

Sexual Harassment, Workplace Culture, and the Power and Limits of Law, 71 AMERICAN LAW REVIEW 419 (2020).

Free Expression on Campus: Mitigating the Costs of Contentious Speakers, 41 HARVARD JOURNAL OF LAW & PUBLIC POLICY (2018).

Is There Really a Sex Bureaucracy?, 7 CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW ONLINE 107 (2016).

Reflections on Obergefell and the Family-Recognition Framework's Continuing Value, 84 UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY LAW REVIEW 707 (2016).

Obergefell at the Intersection of Civil Rights and Social Movements, 6 CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW CIRCUIT 157 (2015).

Multidimensional Advocacy as Applied: Marriage Equality and Reproductive Rights, COLUMBIA JOURNAL OF GENDER AND LAW (2015).

Risky Arguments in Social Justice Litigation: The Case of Sex Discrimination and Marriage Equality, 114 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW 2087 (2014) (Received *Dukeminier Award* for the Best Sexual Orientation Law Review Articles of 2015 From The Williams Institute of UCLA Law School).

Article III Double-Dipping, 161 UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW REVIEW ONLINE 164 (2013).

Discrimination by Comparison, 120 YALE LAW JOURNAL 728 (2011).

Family Law Scholarship Goes to Court: Functional Parenthood and the Case of Debra H. v. Janice R., 20 COLUMBIA JOURNAL OF GENDER & LAW 348 (2011) (co-authored with students).

Open Service and Our Allies: A Report on the Inclusion of Openly Gay and Lesbian Servicemembers in U.S. Allies' Armed Forces, 17 WILLIAM & MARY JOURNAL OF WOMEN AND THE LAW 547 (2011)

Sticky Intuitions and the Future of Sexual Orientation Discrimination, 57 UCLA LAW REVIEW 1375 (2010).

Marriage as Monopoly: On the Flaws of History, Tradition, and Incrementalism Rationales for the Marriage/Civil Union Distinction, 41 CONNECTICUT LAW REVIEW 1397 (2009) (symposium issue).

Marriage, Domestic Partnership, and the Future of Separate But Equal, SESQUICENTENNIAL ESSAYS FROM THE COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL FACULTY (2008).

Family Law Cases as Law Reform Litigation: Unrecognized Parents and the Story of Alison D. v. Virginia M., 17 COLUMBIA JOURNAL OF GENDER & LAW 307 (2008).

Equality Opportunity: Marriage Litigation and Iowa's Equal Protection Law, 12 JOURNAL OF GENDER, RACE & JUSTICE 107 (2008) (co-authored with students).

Intuition, Morals, and the Legal Conversation About Gay Rights, 32 NOVA LAW REVIEW 523 (2008) (Leo C. Goodwin Symposium Lecture).

Constitutional Tipping Points: Civil Rights, Social Change, and Fact-Based Adjudication, 106 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW 1955 (2006) (received *Dukeminier Award* for the best sexual orientation law review articles of 2006 from the Williams Institute of UCLA Law School).

A Historical Guide To The Future Of Marriage For Same-Sex Couples, 15 COLUMBIA JOURNAL OF GENDER & LAW 249 (2006).

Lawrence & *The Road From Liberation to Equality*, 46 SOUTH TEXAS LAW REVIEW 309 (2004) (symposium issue).

Morals-Based Justifications for Lawmaking Before and After Lawrence v. Texas, 88 MINNESOTA LAW REVIEW 101 (2004) (received *Dukeminier Award* for the best sexual orientation law review articles of 2004 from the Williams Institute of UCLA Law School).

Equality Without Tiers, 77 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 101 (2004) (received Outstanding Scholarly Paper Award from the Association of American Law Schools).

Thinking About Feminism, Social Justice, and the Place of Feminist Law Journals: A Letter to the Editors, 12 COLUMBIA JOURNAL OF GENDER AND LAW 582 (2003).

On Making Anti-Essentialist and Social Constructionist Arguments in Court, 81 OREGON LAW REVIEW 629 (2002).

Foreword: Personal Harms and Political Inequities, 1 GEORGETOWN JOURNAL OF GENDER AND THE LAW 197 (2000).

Gay Rights Through the Looking Glass: Politics, Morality and the Trial of Colorado's Amendment 2, 21 FORDHAM URBAN LAW JOURNAL 1057 (1994).

Facing the Challenge: A Lawyer's Response to Anti-Gay Initiatives, 55 OHIO STATE LAW JOURNAL 665 (1994).

Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death: Political Asylum and the Global Persecution of Lesbians and Gay Men, 26 CORNELL INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL 605 (1993) (cited by several federal courts).

In Pursuit of Workplace Rights: Household Workers and a Conflict of Laws, 3 YALE JOURNAL OF LAW AND FEMINISM 63 (1990).

Nicaragua: United States Assistance to the Nicaraguan Human Rights Association and the Nicaraguan Resistance, 1 HARVARD HUMAN RIGHTS YEARBOOK 260 (1988) (co-author).

Book Chapters

Costing Out Campus Speaker Restrictions, in THE PERILOUS PUBLIC SQUARE (Columbia University Press 2020)

"Not Tonight Dear – It's a Felony": Lawrence v. Texas and the Path to Marriage Equality, in LOVE UNITES US: WINNING THE FREEDOM TO MARRY IN AMERICA (The New Press 2016)

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act: Its Scope, History, and Prospects, in Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Discrimination in the Workplace: A Practical Guide (co-authored) (Bureau of National Affairs 2014)

Introduction, in SEXUALITY AND EQUALITY LAW (Ashgate 2013)

Why Marriage?, in MARRIAGE AT A CROSSROADS (Cambridge University Press 2012)

Intuition and Feminist Constitutionalism, in FEMINIST CONSTITUTIONALISM (Cambridge University Press 2012)

Categorical Instability: Identity-Based Discrimination and the Barriers to Complexity, in INTERSECTIONALITY AND EU NON-DISCRIMINATION LAW (Ashgate 2011)

Intuition as Axiological Source: A Case Study from Gay Rights, in CONSTITUTIONAL TOPOGRAPHY: VALUES AND CONSTITUTIONS (Eleven International Publishing 2010).

Intersectionality in Theory and Practice, in INTERSECTIONALITY AND BEYOND: LAW, POWER, AND THE POLITICS OF LOCATION (Routledge-Cavendish Press) (2009).

Litigating Law Reform: Unrecognized Parents and the Story of Alison D. v. Virginia M., FAMILY LAW STORIES (2008).

Books

STRANGERS TO THE LAW: GAY PEOPLE ON TRIAL, University of Michigan Press (1998) (co-authored).

SEXUALITY AND EQUALITY LAW, in The Library of Essays on Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law (2013) (edited volume and edited larger series).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Numerous blog posts, including on National Law Journal, ScotusBlog, American Constitution Society, and elsewhere.

Transgender People as Legal Scapegoats, amNY (March 2026)

Kim Davis wants the Supreme Court to join her crusade against same-sex marriage, MSNBC (August 2025)

The U.S. is Abandoning the Global Fight for Equality, Foreign Policy (July 2025) (co-authored with Jessica Stern)

Temporary Blocks: What You Need to Know about TROs and Preliminary Injunctions, Lawfare (February 2025)

Protecting LGBTQI+ Rights Is Good Foreign Policy, Foreign Policy (July 2024) (co-authored with Jessica Stern)

Keep Cross-Examination Out of College Sexual-Assault Cases, THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION (January 2019).

Costing Out Campus Speaker Restrictions, Emerging Threats Series, Knight First Amendment Institute (November 2017).

Clarity and Commitment, in Room for Debate, N.Y. TIMES (December 2014).

Unjust N.Y. law tears apart parent, child, ALBANY TIMES UNION (February 2010) (op-ed co-authored with students).

Europe's Modern Slave Trade, EUROPEAN LAWYER MAGAZINE (January/February 2009).

Sexual Harassment Law and Policy, Entry in LGBTQ AMERICA TODAY (2009).

Boy Scouts of America v. Dale, Entry in the ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES (2008).

Race, domestic violence and New York's ineffective Family Court law, THE JOURNAL NEWS (May 2008).

And Justice For All? Litigation, Politics, and the State of Marriage Equality Today, in 1 ADVANCE: THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION SOCIETY ISSUE GROUPS 33 (2007).

Decision on Gay Marriage is Absurd, Op-ed in NEWSDAY, July 2006.

Marriage Equality in New Jersey?, NEW JERSEY LAWYER, April 2005.

JUDICIAL AND OTHER TRAINING

Sexual Harassment and Harassment: What Happens After Training?, EEOC Technical Training, June 2018.

Sexual Orientation Law: Adoption, Custody, and Visitation for Lesbians and Gay Men, The New York State Judicial Institute, May 2007.

Sexual Orientation and Family Law: Issues from In and Out of State, New Jersey Judicial Training Institute, November 2006.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS, 2015—PRESENT

(Excluding U.S. government presentations, 2021-2025)

Legal scapegoating of LGBT people: Democratic vulnerability and the problem of judicial blinders, European University Institute (April 2026)

The arc of LGBT rights, Lyon 2, France (April 2026)

AI, Digital Violence, and the Promise – and Limits – of a Rights-Based Framework, La Sapienza, Italy (March 2026)

Codification and Contestation: Sex Discrimination and the Law, La Sapienza, Italy (March 2026)

Campus Crises and Title VI, American Society for Legal History (November 2025)

Legal Scapegoating of Transgender People and the Problem of Judicial Blinders, USC Gould School of Law (November 2025)

The Constitutional Law Implications of the Freedom-to-Marry Movement, Movement Legacies and Lessons Mercer Law School, Law Review Symposium (October 2025)

Anti-LGBT Legal Campaigns Across Borders, Conference on Comparative Sexual Orientation Law: Data for a developing discipline, University of Leiden Law School (June 2025)

Today's LGBTQ Landscape: Challenges, Hope, and Opportunity, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, Annual LGBTQ+ Health Lecture (June 2025)

Evaluating the Scope of the Psychotherapist-Patient Privilege Under Military Rule of Evidence 513, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces (May 2025)

The Anti-LGBT Playbook, Regulation of Family, Sex and Gender Workshop, University of Chicago Law School (April 2025)

Uses and Abuses of Title VI, CUNY National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions (March 2025)

Trans Rights Under Trump, American Constitution Society/Outlaws (March 2025)

Lawyers, Community, and Impact: A Conversation on Title VI (January 2025)

Transgender and Gender Identity Inclusion in the Legal Workplace (November 2024)

The Many Facets of *Bostock*, University of Florida, September 2020.

Sexual Harassment, Workplace Culture and the Power and Limits of Law, Law & Society Annual Conference, May 2020.

“Me Too and Global Change,” Columbia University Global Center, Amman, Jordan, November 2020.

Litigating Diversity, Los Andes Law School, Bogotá, Colombia, November 2019.

Keynote Address, #MeToo and Creating Change – Equity, Advocacy and Inclusion, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, June 2019.

Intersectionality & The #MeToo Movement Symposium, Fordham School of Law, April 2019.

Keynote Address, Ending Campus Sexual Assault, Rutgers Law School - Newark, April 2019.

Sexual Harassment, Workplace Culture and the Power and Limits of Law. Faculty Workshop, Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University, February 2019.

Keynote Address, Migratory Movements: Facing New Realities, Universidad del Rosario, Bogota, Colombia, November 2018.

Keynote Address, New Perspectives to Advance Gender Equality in Constitutional Law, 5th Annual Latin American Conference on Reproductive Rights, Santa Marta, Colombia, November 2018.

How Do We Think about the Relationship between #MeToo and the Law?, #MeToo and Epistemic Injustice, CUNY Graduate Center, October 2018.

Women and the Law: A Multidimensional View, American Inns of Court (New York), September 2018.

Best Practices on Diversity, Inclusion, and Sexual Respect, Columbia Global Centers, Santiago, Chile, July 2018.

When 'No' Means 'No': Promoting a Culture of Consent, Columbia Global Centers, Santiago, Chile, July 2018.

Marriage Equality as a Contested Site: Legalizing Same-Sex Marriage in An Unrecognized State,” Commentator, Cornell Transnational Feminism Conference, March 2018.

Beyond Discipline: Practical Tools for Responding Effectively to Bias Incidents, NACUA, New Orleans, February 2018.

Global Lessons in Marriage Equality Advocacy, Rutgers Law School, January 2018.

Free Speech and University Communities, Federalist Society National Student Symposium, March 2017.

On Dignity and Social Justice Claims, Dignity, the Constitution and Social Policy, University of Florida Law School, February 2017.

Intersectionality’s persistent challenge to anti-discrimination law: the problem of the comparator (Keynote Address), Equinet Conference: Diverse, Inclusive and Equal: Innovating at the intersections of gender equality, Belgium, December 2016.

Is There Really a Sex Bureaucracy?, Workshop on Regulation of Family, Sex and Gender, University of Chicago Law School, October 2016.

Multidimensional Advocacy, Marriage Equality, and Reproductive Rights, Fordham Law School Legal Theory Workshop, March 2015.