

Katharine Vengraitis
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EDUCATION

Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, PA • J.D. May 2015

- Honors: *magna cum laude*, Order of the Coif, Dean's List all semesters, Rubin Presser Public Interest Honor Society Fellow, Beth Cross Award for Dedication to Underserved Populations, Harry and Esther Brown Foundation Scholarship for Outstanding Achievement in Health, Aging or Disability Law, Cozen O'Connor Summer Public Interest Fellowship, Sloviter Summer Public Interest Fellowship, Conwell Scholarship
- *Temple Law Review*, Executive Editor, Staff Member
- Clinics: Mazzoni Center Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Temple Legal Aid Office Family Law Litigation, Legal Clinic for the Disabled Medical Legal Partnership
- Activities: Faculty Selection Committee, Women's Law Caucus Co-Chair, Student Public Interest Network Community Service/Pro Bono Co-Chair, Health Law Society Co-Outreach Coordinator

Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health, Philadelphia, PA • M.P.H. June 2012

- Honors: Delta Omega National Public Health Honor Society, Dean's List all quarters, Dean's Academic Scholarship, Exemplary Community-Based Master's Project Award
- Thesis: *Utilization by Race of Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers for Severely Physically Disabled, Non-Elderly Individuals*
- Health Management and Policy Club Co-President

Cornell University College of Arts and Sciences, Ithaca, NY • B.A. in History May 2005

- Honors: Dean's List Spring 2002, Fall 2002, Fall 2003, Spring 2005, Academic Excellence Award for Contribution to the Minority Community
- On Site Volunteer Services, Executive Board Member

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary Interests: Disability Rights, Public Health, Race and the Law, Restorative Justice

Secondary Interests: Administrative Law, Federal Courts, Conflict of Laws, Education Law

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, PA August 2014-May 2015

Teaching Assistant for Professor Brian M. Murray, Legal Research and Writing

- Collaborated on model answer for first-year legal research and writing memo.
- Met with students to discuss citations, memo organization, and research questions.

Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health, Philadelphia, PA

Teaching Assistant for Michael Yudell, Intro to Public Health, Community Health & Prevention August 2011-December 2011

- Led weekly discussion section for twenty first-year graduate students.
- Provided feedback on drafts, papers, and held office hours.

Biostatistics and Epidemiology Tutor, Center for Academic Success January 2011-June 2012

- Provided one-on-one support to graduate students to supplement classroom instruction.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

American Law Institute, Philadelphia, PA

February 2015-July 2015

Research Assistant to Restatement Third, Conflicts of Law Associate Reporter Laura Little

- Compiled research on caselaw to reflect developments since 1971.
- Summarized and discussed findings with Professor Little.

Temple University College of Education, Philadelphia, PA

September 2014-June 2015

Legal Researcher, Institute on Disabilities

- Researched policies impacting individuals with developmental disabilities in PA.
- Drafted memos and grants on the implementation of Medicaid fund self-directed waivers.

Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, PA

June 2013-September 2014

Research Assistant to Professor Gregory Mandel

- Assessed economic, legal, and scientific literature on international intellectual property.
- Analyzed data on the impact of patent protection on innovation.

Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health, Philadelphia, PA

Fellow, Opening Doors Health Disparities Research Training Program

April 2012-August 2012

- Created a meta-analysis examining risk factors for HIV based on misclassification of sexual orientation, sexual behavior, drug and alcohol use.

Research Assistant, Department of Community Health & Prevention

August 2011-October 2011

- Researched public health ethics programs at competing institutions.
- Wrote sections of a business plan for a public health ethics program at Drexel.

Research Assistant, Department of Health Management & Policy

November 2010-December 2010

- Researched and wrote portions of a grant for a federally qualified health center.

Pennsylvania Health Law Project, Philadelphia, PA

Community-Based Master's Project Intern

September 2011-June 2012

- Analyzed long-term care utilization among disabled adults to identify racial disparities.

First-Year Master's Practicum Intern

March 2011-June 2011

- Conducted research and stakeholder interviews examining health care reform. Drafted recommendations for a partnership between universities and non-profits.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, PA

Supervising Attorney, SSI and Health & Independence Units

August 2022-September 2024

- In addition to staff attorney responsibilities, reviewed and discussed client matters, ethics questions, and systems advocacy for attorneys and paralegals supervised in both units.
- Supported supervisees in professional development.

Staff Attorney, SSI and Health & Independence Units

August 2018-August 2022

- Represented children and adults seeking benefits in adjudications before the Social Security Administration (SSA) and on appeal in federal court.
- Advocated on behalf of older adults and individuals with disabilities for benefits including long-term care services, health insurance, food stamps, and cash assistance.
- Engaged in systemic and legislative advocacy with local and national groups to push SSA to improve access, equity, and service throughout the agency.
- Trained CLS staff and conducted community education and nationwide outreaches.

Legal Intern, SSI and Health & Independence Units

June 2013-August 2013

Defender Association of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
Educational Specialist/ Children and Youth Justice Attorney
Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow

January 2018-August 2018
September 2016-December 2017

- Addressed issues with the “school-to-prison pipeline” by creating a replicable model.
- Provided direct representation for court-involved youth with education needs.
- Trained defense attorneys and special education attorneys on cross-systems advocacy.
- Coordinated case management with attorneys and social service advocates.

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Easton, PA
Law Clerk to the Hon. Franklin S. Van Antwerpen (deceased)

September 2015-September 2016

- Prepared bench memoranda and researched issues of law in pending cases.
- Prepared the judge for sittings and assisted the judge during courtroom proceedings.
- Drafted orders and opinions. Proofread the judge’s orders and opinions.

Community Legal Aid Society Inc., Wilmington, DE
Law Clerk, Disabilities Law Project

June 2014-August 2014

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Brookfield Properties, New York, NY
Marketing Manager
Marketing Coordinator

February 2009-August 2010
October 2007-February 2009

PRADA USA Corporation, New York, NY
Public Relations Coordinator Prada Donna- Ready to Wear
Public Relations Communications and Media Relations Assistant

May 2007-September 2007
October 2005-May 2007

SELECT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law
 - Visiting Lecturer, Community Lawyering Clinic, March 20, 2023
- Juvenile Defenders Association of Pennsylvania
 - Advocating for Your Client’s Educational Needs, April 26, 2018
 - Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission Conference, Education and the Law 101: What You Need to Know in Order to Address Client’s Educational Needs, February 24, 2017
- Philadelphia Bar Association, Civil Rights Committee
 - SSI Asset Limits: A Barrier to Financial Stability, February 26, 2024
- Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN)
 - Presenter, Covid-19 Related SSI Overpayments: New Guidance and Opportunities, March 14, 2024
 - Presenter, Advocacy to Raise the SSI Asset Limits: A Barrier to Financial Stability for Recipients, October 4, 2023
 - Presenter, SSI and Social Security Non-Disability, September 15, 2023
 - Presenter, Disability Advocacy Project Skill Building Training on SSA Overpayments, October 25, 2022
 - Presenter, Community Health Choices: Let’s Talk About Time and Task Tools, October 18, 2021
 - Presenter, Addressing Erroneous SSI Overpayments Caused by Federal Stimulus Payments, September 18, 2021
 - Presenter, Avoiding and Transition from Nursing Homes: Accessing the Community HealthChoices Waiver, October 6, 2020
- SSA Equity Advocacy Group

- Presented, In-Kind Support and Maintenance, July 21, 2023
- Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania
 - Presenter, Impact of Incarceration on Public Benefits, June 7, 2022

MEDIA

- Quoted: Lorie Konish, *These Beneficiaries are First to Receive a New Cost-of-Living Adjustment for 2024. Here's What to Watch for*, CNBC (Jan. 3, 2024), <https://www.cnbc.com/2024/01/03/ssi-beneficiaries-to-receive-a-cost-of-living-adjustment-in-2024.html>
- Jonathan Stein & Katharine Vengraitis, Opinion, *Reopening Social Security Offices is Just the First Step to Serving Those in Need*, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (May 25, 2022), <https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/social-security-office-closures-covid-congress-20220525.html>
- Quoted: Alfred Lubrano, *Reopening of Social Security Offices Expected to Bring Crowds and Confusion*, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (Apr. 4, 2022), <https://www.inquirer.com/news/pennsylvania/social-security-ssi-low-income-disabilities-pandemic-20220404.html>
- Quoted: Samantha Melamed, 'We Should Have Done More to Protect You.' Kids in Placement Describe Abuse, Isolation and Lack of Education, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (May 17, 2018), <https://www.inquirer.com/philly/news/pennsylvania/philadelphia/david-hess-wordsworth-sex-abuse-physical-assault-city-council-20180517.html>

SELECT COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Poll Worker and Volunteer, Pennsylvania Bar Association Democracy Task Force, October-November 2024
- Co-Chair, Committee for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Philadelphia Bar Association, 2020-2021
- Mentor/ Volunteer, Mighty Writers, 2018-2020
- Volunteer, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Renewal Clinic, September 2017
- Justice Rising Advocate Member and Expungement Clinic Volunteer, September 2016 to June 2018
- Volunteer Tax Preparer, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), Spring 2014
- Volunteer, Wills for Heroes, Spring 2014
- Volunteer, Domestic Violence Assistance Project, Fall 2013, Spring 2014
- Volunteer, Homeless Advocacy Project Legal Clinic at St. Francis Inn, September-November 2013

BAR ADMISSIONS/ LANGUAGES

- State: New Jersey, Pennsylvania Admitted 2015
- Federal: Eastern District of Pennsylvania Admitted 2018
- Intermediate French and Spanish