

BENJAMIN PLENER COVER

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EDUCATION

YALE LAW SCHOOL, New Haven, CT

J.D., May 2009

Honors Arthur P. Liman Public Interest Fellowship

John H. Olin Foundation for Law, Economics and Organization Fellowship

Activities *Yale Journal of Law & Feminism*, Submissions Director

San Francisco Affirmative Litigation Project, Student Director

Prison Legal Services Clinic

Teaching Assistant to Prof. Dean Karlan, Principles of Microeconomics

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, London, United Kingdom

M.Sc., International Development, May 2005

Honors Commonwealth Scholar

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, Toronto, Canada

B.Sc., Mathematics & Economics, May 2004

Honors High Distinction; C.L. Burton Scholarship for Academic Achievement

Activities Engineers Without Borders, Chapter President

Semester in Zambia, volunteering with CARE International in Refugee Camp

Summer abroad at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel

PUBLICATIONS & WORKS IN PROGRESS

Soft Electoral Districting (in progress).

Quantifying Political Gerrymandering: An Evaluation of the Efficiency Gap Proposal, 70 STAN. L. REV. ____ (forthcoming 2018).

The First Amendment Right to a Remedy, 50 U.C. DAVIS L. REV. 1741 (2017).

EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO COLLEGE OF LAW, Moscow, ID (2014 – present)

Visiting Associate Professor. Courses taught: Torts, Advanced Torts, State & Local Government Law, Legislation & the Political Process, the First Amendment, Remedies, Property, Federal Courts, and Statutory Reading & Interpretation.

LA TOYA CANTRELL, CITY COUNCILMEMBER, New Orleans, LA (2013 – 2014)

Legislative Director. Advised councilmember and developed policy on issues including land use, zoning, taxation, budget, blight remediation, and implementation of federal consent decrees involving police department and jail. Coordinated committee on Health, Education, & Social Services.

ORLEANS PUBLIC DEFENDERS, New Orleans, LA (2009-2012)

Staff Attorney (2012). Represented indigent clients facing felony and misdemeanor charges in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court and Municipal Court.

Special Litigation Attorney & Client Services Director (2011 – 2012). Led comprehensive legal and institutional reform strategy to strengthen representation of indigent defendants in crucial stages following arrest. Argued, briefed, researched, and consulted on impact litigation, including briefing on successful appellate litigation before the Louisiana Supreme Court. Directed new office division to support holistic, community-based client services. By the end of this period, supervised nine full-time staff and fellows as client services director. Project work primarily funded by a grant obtained from the Vital Projects Fund. Admitted to the Louisiana bar in 2011.

Special Litigation & Pretrial Services Fellow (2009 – 2011). Led comprehensive legal and institutional reform strategy to strengthen representation of indigent defendants in crucial stages following arrest. Briefed, researched, and consulted on impact litigation, including successful appellate litigation before the Louisiana Supreme Court. Created new office division to support holistic, community-based client services. Project work primarily funded by Arthur P. Liman Public Interest Fellowship from Yale Law School.

DEBEVOISE & PLIMPTON LLP, New York, NY (Summer 2009)

Summer Associate.

ORLEANS PUBLIC DEFENDERS, New Orleans, LA (Summer 2008)

Summer Law Clerk.

24 HOURS FOR DARFUR, New Haven, CT (2006 – 2008)

Founder and Director. Created and managed new media project in response to humanitarian crisis in Darfur. Developed website that collected video messages from concerned citizens around the world. Organized flagship rally at U.N. on Global Day for Darfur. Helped secure over \$500,000 in funding. Sent research team to Eastern Chad to conduct survey with and record video testimonials from Darfurian refugees.

SAN FRANCISCO CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, San Francisco, CA (Summer 2007)

Affirmative Litigation Task Force. Developed strategy to protect medical coverage for juvenile detainees.

PROFESSOR SANJAY REDDY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, New York, NY (2003 – 2008)

Researcher. Conducted theoretical and empirical research on systemic biases of World Bank's poverty measurement methodology. Demonstrated fundamental conceptual and practical flaws with formulas used to estimate purchasing power parities. Co-wrote working paper on index numbers.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

“The First Amendment Right to a Remedy,” Ninth Annual Junior Faculty Federal Courts Workshop, Emory University School of Law, April 1, 2017.

“Evaluating the Efficiency Gap Test of Political Gerrymandering,” Political Science, Economics, and Geography (PEG) Working Group, University of Idaho, February 21, 2017.

“Will the Supreme Court Stop Political Gerrymandering?” Malcolm M. Renfrew Interdisciplinary Colloquium, University of Idaho, February 14, 2017.

“Making Sense of the Election: Interpreting the 2016 Results, Implications for Governance,” Malcolm M. Renfrew Interdisciplinary Colloquium, University of Idaho, November 15, 2016.

“Soft Electoral Districting,” Rocky Mountain Junior Scholars Forum, University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, November 3-4, 2016.

“Soft Electoral Districting,” Fifth Annual State & Local Government Law Works-in Progress Conference, University of Houston Law Center, October 7-8, 2016.

“Blurred District Lines: Addressing Political Gerrymandering Through Participation,” University of Idaho College of Law Junior Faculty Retreat, February 27, 2016.

“The First Amendment Right to a Remedy,” University of Idaho College of Law Faculty Colloquium, October 21, 2015.

“The First Amendment Right to a Remedy,” Junior Scholars Virtual Colloquium, University of Louisville – Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, July 22, 2015.

“The Neighborhood Revitalization Visa: Urban Redevelopment Through Immigration Federalism,” Junior Scholars Virtual Colloquium, Michigan State University College of Law, August 8, 2014.

“The Neighborhood Revitalization Visa: Urban Redevelopment Through Immigration Federalism,” Inland Northwest Scholars Workshop, Gonzaga University School of Law, July 14, 2014.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Lecturer, “Political Gerrymandering – Prospects for Reform,” Moscow League of Women Voters, March 22, 2017.

Guest lecturer on New Orleans pretrial detention and bail systems in Advanced Criminal Procedure course, University of Idaho College of Law, September 6, 2016.

Panelist, “Supreme Court Review,” November 12, 2015 (sponsored by the ACLU and Federalist Society).

Guest lecturer on New Orleans pretrial detention and bail systems in Advanced Criminal Procedure course, University of Idaho College of Law, September 8, 2015.

Panelist, “Paths to Law School Success,” 2015 Law Student Orientation, August 18, 2015.

Panelist, Legislative & Administrative Advocacy, Tulane Law School, Spring 2013.

Panelist, Southern University Law Center, Third Annual Symposium, The Journal of Race, Gender, and Poverty, “Registration of Juvenile Sex Offenders: A Civil Regulation or Criminal Punishment?,” February 23, 2012.

Panelist, “Accessing Racial and Environmental Justice: From Katrina to BP,” Fourteenth Annual Liman Colloquium, Yale Law School, Fall 2011.

COLLEGE OF LAW SERVICE

Torts Instructor, March 2017 (taught supplemental classes to first-year students on causation).

Orientation Instructor, Lawyering Fundamentals, August 2016.

Curriculum Subcommittee member, 2015-2016.

Judge and Juror, various mock trial & moot court competitions and practices.