



TOLD ME TO BE DISAGREEABLE
A LADY. AND FOR

HER, THAT MEANT
BE YOUR OWN
PERSON, BE
INDEPENDENT.

REACTING IN
ANGER OR ANNOYANCE
WILL NOT ADVANCE ONE'S
ABILITY TO PERSUADE.

BELIEVER IN
LISTENING AND
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I REALLY
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Evicting America: The Next National Crisis

by Alex Cerbo, Editor-in-Chief

In due time, millions of American will have to prepare to lose their home. By the end of this year, 29-43% of renter households, or 30-40 million Americans, are at risk of eviction. Many renters are on the verge of losing their rental properties. And, if things do not change quickly, the most developed country on the world will see many of its citizens sleeping on the streets. But how, you may ask. Unfortunately, this incoming eviction surge has been on the horizon for decades. COVID-19 is just here to deliver the final blow.



Recent estimates from The Aspen Institute find pre-COVID-19, 20.8 million renter households, (47.5% of all renter households), were already rental-cost burdened. This term is used to define households that pay over 30% of their income towards rent. When the pandemic began, 10.9 million renter households, (25% of all renter households), were spending over 50% of their earnings every month on rent. And one out of every four Americans, living below the poverty line, spent over 70% of their income towards housing costs. As alluded to previously, the housing crisis in America did not just

happen. Many Americans came into the pandemic already vulnerable to eviction. This national crisis can be attributed to three primary issues: rental housing becoming increasingly unaffordable, continuous underfunding by the federal government, and a scary shortage of affordable housing.

According to an article published in the U.S. News and World Report back in January of this year, a study conducted by the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies found that between July 2018 and July 2019, the median cost of rent for unfurnished units in a new apartment building was \$1,620. That price has increased by 37% since 2000. In addition, only 25% of eligible renters receive financial assistance from the federal government. Examples of this include housing vouchers and other types of renter assistance. For those who could afford housing, the supply does not seem to be there.

Over the last decade, the U.S. has lost 4 million affordable housing units, with a shortage of 7 million affordable apartments available to the lowest income renters. The U.S. has seen an increase of available high-end units. From 2012 to 2017, that same study from Harvard noticed an increase of 5 million rental units costing \$1,000 or more a month. During this same timeframe, the number of rental units, which go for under \$600 a month, decreased by 3.1 million.

Even with a housing shortage, landlords seem more eager than ever to kick tenants out. Princeton University's Eviction Lab estimates that from 2000 to 2016, 61 million eviction cases were filed in the U.S. Eviction judgement amounts are often for failure to pay only one to two months' rent-less than \$600 total. But, landlords face trouble as well.

Individual landlords own roughly 47% of rental units in the U.S. housing market. 58% of those landlords do not have access to any credit or other emergency funds that may be needed to say, pay their mortgage when there is no rental income coming from tenants. Lack of rental income from tenants leads to an inability for landlords to pay their mortgage, property taxes, and maintenance costs. This then leads to a much greater risk of bankruptcy and ultimately, foreclosure, only furthering the existing housing shortage.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provided abundant financial support and other protections to those in need. The extra \$600 a week in unemployment helped many pay their rent. However, as the financial assistance from the federal government has come to an end, rent payments have as well. According to recent data, 18.3% of renters nationwide reported that they were unable to pay July's rent on time. Just over 40% have expressed "slight or no confidence" in their ability to pay rent in the future. Could this lack of confidence be related to the CARES Act unemployment assistance coming to an end? Or, is this how many tenants have felt all along, particularly before the coronavirus struck?

This author believes the latter. While the federal eviction moratorium protected many tenants and provided a much-needed reprieve from making rental payments, not all were so lucky. Between 28% and 45% of renter households were estimated to have been covered under the 120-day CARES Act moratorium, as it only applied to federally-backed mortgages (such as through federal government housing voucher or assistance programs and federal government instrumentalities, like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac).

State-level eviction moratoriums ranged in duration greatly. Some states have already elected to extend their protections past the July 25th benchmark imposed by the federal government. Massachusetts, for example, has chosen to extend evictions protections until October 17th. Many other states have yet to do the same.

Most states lack protective measures to support tenants facing eviction. With an estimated 11.6 million evictions to be filed in the next four months, states and local communities have limited financial assistance at their disposal. The financial support available to renters is from leftover funds states received from the federal government in the early stages of the pandemic, which is typically dispersed in the form of grants. It appears, however, that the need for rental assistance far exceeds the resources available.

Whatever the plan states, and the federal government for that matter, are to use going forward, one thing is clear: more financial assistance needs to be provided, particularly to renters in need, and quickly. If not, millions of Americans will not be able to stay at home.





EVICTION IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

The Next National Crisis

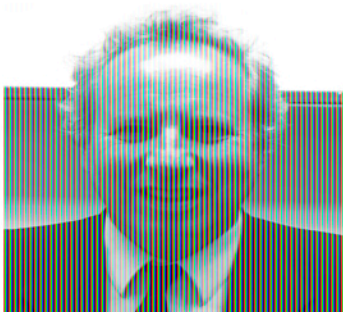
This Virtual Panel will take place on

Friday, October 2, 2020

2:00 p.m. EST

Free and open to the public

Please join our panel in discussing the impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on an already existing housing crisis



JOEL FELDMAN, ESQ.
Attorney/Shareholder
Heisler, Feldman, &
McCormick, P.C.



MICHAEL J. DOHERTY
Clerk Magistrate
Western Division
Housing Court



DAVID LEVELLEE
ATTORNEY
Rhode Island Legal
Services
Housing Law Center

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Opportunities Abound for Students on Nontraditional Career Paths

by **Chelsea Contrada**

Staff Writer

Law school is an extreme commitment and the decision to pursue a law career is not to be taken lightly. This is probably why so many law students know exactly what interests them and have specific career goals. However, there are still a number of law students who aren't quite sure what their future holds. For some, the idea of a career in the courtroom is not particularly appealing.

Fortunately, students who are willing to apply the knowledge and skills gained in law school, but who do not see themselves in a traditional role as lawyers, have a variety of career opportunities available.

“Nontraditional ways of applying a Juris Doctor degree in employment are numerous and rather diverse,” states Laura Fischer, director of career services at the law school. “You’d be surprised how many law graduates end up in these roles, either directly out of law school or after some time practicing.”

According to Fischer, non-traditional law jobs are typically referred to as “J.D. Preferred” or “J.D. Advantage” and include positions like political office, human resources, regulatory affairs and compliance, contracts analysis entrepreneurship, legislative advocacy, and certain positions in higher education.

“These are roles where having a law degree is a real advantage, but the roles don’t require the actual practice of law,” Fischer states.

However, the skills and knowledge that law students acquire are extremely valuable no matter what path they end up taking.

“Top notch analysis and communication skills are important for any job after law school,” says Fischer. “A law graduate must be able to analyze situations closely and perform critical analysis. The work you are putting in now reading cases and statutes closely, analyzing the potential issues, and then problem solving is not for nothing.”

Fischer also recommends that law students carefully hone their communication and analytical skills.

“Learn to speak and write with clarity, precision, and thoughtful organization. In short: learn to use your words judiciously, and to write concisely.”



For those students who would prefer a J.D. Advantage career, the good news is that there are plenty of opportunities out there. Fischer has noticed the most growth in areas related to regulatory affairs and compliance, data privacy and protection, and contract analysis.

For example, companies like hospitals rely on lawyers to help them deal with the realities of data privacy and protection, especially as new laws are enacted that concern breach reporting and disclosure.

However, Fischer warns students against taking these types of careers for granted or assuming they will be qualified just because they have a law degree.

“It is important for students to think through why they want to pursue a nontraditional career instead of practicing law. A lot of employers look for reasons why the applicant does not want to be a practicing lawyer, and why the applicant is specifically interested in that certain nontraditional role.”

Any WNE Law student who is interested in learning more about traditional or nontraditional law careers is encouraged to contact Career Services. In addition to reviewing and providing feedback on application materials like resumes, cover letters, and writing samples, counselors can offer individualized assistance to all students and can also connect students with alumni who work in traditional and nontraditional fields.

For more information about how Career Services can help you with your career goals, please visit their website: <https://www1.wne.edu/law/career-services/index.cfm>

The office is open from 8:30 - 4:30 p.m. during the academic terms, with extended hours on Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. However, please contact the office for any updates or policies related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of Career Services
Blake Law Center, Room 126



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 careers@law.wne.edu

Surviving the Semester: Tips for Success During a Global Health Pandemic

by Rachel Ferreira
Staff Writer

Welcome Back WNEU School of Law Students! Whether you are joining our community as a 1L, or you are a 3L entering your final year, this year brings with it strange circumstances that may be leaving you with feelings of doubt or uncertainty. With the added stressors of a new school year, it's more important than ever to ensure that you are taking care of yourself! In order to help you survive the semester here are a few tips:

1. Try to Stay Focused- With many of us adapting to hybrid and online courses, and extensive blocks of time on Zoom its more important than ever to be able to find a way to stay engaged in learning. One helpful tip would be to use your phone's do not disturb function to limit notifications when you're getting work done. If the internet is your downfall, you might consider a productivity app like Be Focused , which uses the Pomodoro Technique to help you get work done.

2. Participate- Interacting online can be a vastly different experience than being in class. To help increase your level of engagement try turning on your camera (if your professor allows it). Online interactions can also be beneficial, especially for those of us who are a little shy, as the chat function of many platforms allows for written interaction with classmates and professors.

3. Use study groups- Study groups are a great learning technique and can be incredibly valuable in working through difficult concepts or reinforcing key topics. As it may be more difficult to meet in person, you can take advantage of platforms such as Zoom and Google hangouts to host study group meetings. A platform like Google even allows you to share notes and simultaneously edit a document!

4. Put yourself and your health first- Remember to put yourself and your health first! With potential heightened anxiety surrounding COVID-19, it's important to take care of your mind and body. Go for walks, meditate, listen to podcasts and whatever else relaxes you. Even a quick walk around the room between classes is helpful! If you are struggling with anxiety, stress or just need someone to talk to Lawyers Concerned with Lawyers (LCL) is a free and confidential service available to law students. LCL offers a multitude of resources from those focused on managing stress and mental health to career support and services and many topics in between. If you are interested, I encourage you to view resources on their website, <https://www.lclma.org/> and reach out to schedule a free consultation. The American Bar Association also has an extensive list of resources available on their website.

5. Have fun- Part of law school is also the social component. Many of us are used to interacting with our peers' face to face, on a much more frequent basis. Although it may feel different, utilize technology to your advantage! You can host a virtual game night, movie night or even just a quick Facetime- just take time to connect with your friends and loved ones.

Have a great semester, and welcome back again to our Golden Bear Community!



by **Marisa Marturano**

Staff Writer

As the year progresses on, society strives to return to normalcy. The economy has been affected in 2020 and has severely changed the way retail services are conducted. Stores have shortened their hours while restaurants try to explore ‘contactless’ delivery options. Businesses are opening their doors again for customers. On the other hand, some doors are remaining closed for reasons of personal decisions to close or actual bankruptcy.

Even though companies are updating their practices with new, innovative ways, many have shuttered due to the pandemic. Bankruptcy is a significant and yet untouched area of law, in which there is the law of bankruptcy but may not always be first and foremost in legal thinking. Throughout the fiscal year, companies may choose to critique their finances. Data and numbers are significantly evaluated to judge performance standards and comparisons may also be utilized to understand how a company is completing its tasks overall. “Big box” stores are slowly deteriorating due to the influx of online shopping and successful e-commerce platforms.

Within a click of the ‘place order’ button, items are shipped directly to your residence or business place. For instance, Lord & Taylor, a standard department store, has sought to have higher priced items, offering quality items for purchase. A shopping customer may surmise it is similar to Macy’s. Before the times of COVID-19, I would frequently shop at the mall in my town. One of the major stores was a Lord & Taylor, which has been existing in the retail location for many years. Lord & Taylor existed as a common name for close to two centuries. The stores were useful for either a mall jaunt or seasonal shopping. Unfortunately, this company did not manage keeping its practices up to date and soon ended up in the bankruptcy position.

Creditors seeks the direction of the court system to provide assurance. If a company is not organized, they may choose to file Chapter 11 bankruptcy. This summer, Lord & Taylor and the attempted fashion brand owner, Le Tote filed Chapter 11 in U.S. Bankruptcy court for the possibility of a buyer. Companies that are suffering financially seek bankruptcy law as a form of remediation. It seems that the stores are closing, and the correct evaluation of the company is liquidation. At times of bankruptcy, many stores may post signage of “store closing” or “liquidation”. From a comical standpoint, this may mean to some as a “sign of the times”. As majority of society are consumers, we may strive to take advantage of discounts and sales. Looking from this standpoint, are we contributing to the economy? Can liquidation be perceived as a push for failing companies to enter bankruptcy court? After all, consumers may be part of the reason why stores in shopping malls are closing.



A department store offering limited amounts of items cannot compete with e-commerce such as, Amazon. Amazon seeks to have a higher advantage by fast shipping along with the option of third party purchasing. An array of sellers holds strong merit in comparison to the only items in actual store locations. All in all, we can all learn from a company that comes and goes. An iconic brand that has been around for decades may never return. We can understand that time moves by quickly. The sudden repetition of a business closure shows how the business legal world can change rapidly. As businesses adjust to the e-commerce platform, legal thinkers should adjust to a new time and a new world.

*"I always wondered why somebody didn't
DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT,
then I realized, I AM SOMEBODY."* ~Lily Tomlin

The Center for Social Justice at WNEU School of Law advances justice through research, education, advocacy and public engagement. Join the Center and **make a difference today!** We are seeking students for:

Externships. Consumer Debt Initiative Spring 2020 (apply ASAP). Over 50% of Hampden County neighborhoods of color have a debt in collection. Apply for this court-based externship to represent consumer defendants facing wrongful credit card collection actions. A 10-minute court hearing can impact someone's life and their ability to get loans, rent an apartment, and provide for their family.

Pro Bono Projects. Work with us on a wide variety of pro bono projects, including:

Racial Justice Sentencing Project: join the Center in partnership with CPCSS to address racially disparate sentencing outcomes for people of color in our community. This project is data-driven and research-based and may also involve drafting a report of findings.

Consumer Debt Initiative: you do not need to be a lawyer to argue in small claims court, so come on "down" to the Court (i.e. log onto Zoom), interview and counsel clients, appear in court with opposing counsel, and fight for justice against the powerhouse debt collection industry.

Covid Relief Coalition: this past summer the Small Business Clinic, Center, and Small Business Development Center forces to bring this brief legal advice clinic for small businesses and nonprofits to Springfield. Be part of the economic recovery of Springfield by helping to demystify available legal resources.

Independent Pro Bono Project: passionate about a particular issue or have ideas for a new project? Great! Let's figure out how you will make it a reality and go on to change the world.

Access to Technology Centers: this topic has become the greatest access to justice barrier. Litigants now need specific technology access, applications, and capacity in order to access the courthouse's (now virtual) front door. You can be part of the solution by working with us to create technology access centers with the Center, Hampden County Bar Association, and Small Business Development Center.

Social Media and Website Gurus. We need you! Help us access the community through our **communications strategies** designed to promote the Center's important work to the community. Available as pro bono and student employment opportunities.

For more information about any of the above (or just to chat about all things law), please contact **Center Director Ariel Clemmer** at ariel.clemmer@law.wne.edu

Check out our upcoming events at: https://bit.ly/WNE_CSJ. You won't want to miss these!

by Tyler Maute
Staff Writer

While national coverage has died down, the protests in Portland, Oregon, stemming from the death of George Floyd, continue on a near nightly basis. Due to their size and the use of federal officers in the vicinity of the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse, just one of a mosaic of large demonstrations spread throughout the country, the Portland demonstrations attracted a critical eye.

One of the first stories regarding the arrests in Portland was a somewhat uplifting one. Following suit with many other big city protests, bail funds were set up to assist protestors, so that those arrested were not stuck in jail due to lack of funds. This wave of bail funds has come at a time when progressive voices in government have rightfully attacked the U.S. status quo of a cash bail system for what it is - a classist policy that incarcerates the poor and is barely an obstacle to the rich.

The predominant bail fund for protestors in Portland is a GoFundMe called “PDX Protest Bail Fund”, which was started May 30th, 2020 by representatives of The General Defense Committee Local 1 in Portland, Oregon. At the time of this writing, the fund stands at a value of \$1,366,460 (via 30,000 donors) out of a total fundraising goal of \$1,690,420.

However, a more sinister story has been playing out throughout the Summer. Originally reported in ProPublica, and further expanded upon in a later story by ABC, at least a dozen protestors have only been offered bail on strict conditions that ban them from protest activities, with some bail agreements using such general phrasing as to ban the accused from “public gatherings”.

Despite the fact that a federal building was the epicenter of the protests that led to many of the arrests, it seems to have been the city itself that sought the general language in, and general application of, these bail agreements, as it has been reported that the City Attorney’s Office asked for the protest bans for most of the arrested protestors, but the court only agreed to allow the condition in cases where the protester had a pre-existing criminal record, or was accused of a violent crime. Additionally, while he did not respond himself, a spokesman for U.S. attorney Billy J. Williams offered that his office did not seek these general terms, but only a curfew and a ban from a five-block radius of Hatfield Courthouse.



Shortly after the ProPublica story broke, these conditions ceased being used, but those remaining are being challenged in federal court, and, not so ironically, will likely be litigated inside the very courthouse outside of which the alleged crimes took place. In addition to the blatant first amendment questions at hand, there have also been concerns raised regarding the proportionality of these terms. It was reported that in the majority of cases in which these terms were applied, the protester was only accused of “disobeying a lawful order”.

Importantly, while no statutes were cited in the available news articles, some research reveals that this phrase likely falls under an Oregon statute titled “Interfering with a peace officer” Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 162.247 (West). Violation of this statute is a class A misdemeanor, and the language of the statute implies a very particular application; it expressly stipulates that this statute does not apply to behavior that would constitute resisting arrest, but also does not include passive resistance.

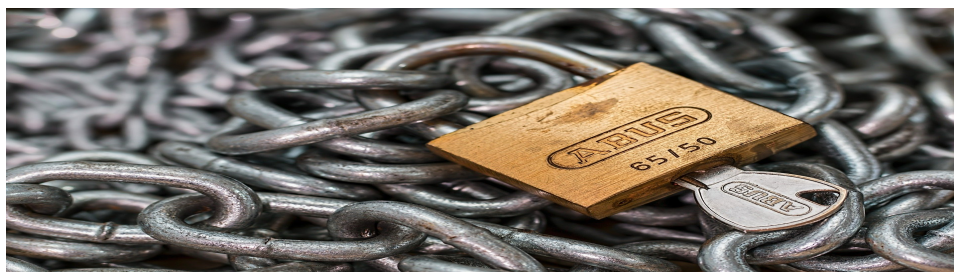
So, having been charged with violating this statute, we can assume that those charged were not resisting arrest, but what about the other end of the spectrum? An Oregon Supreme Court case implies that this statute may be misused in some cases *State v. McNally*, 361 Or. 314, 392 P.3d 721 (2017). In this case, the court held that the trial court erred in not issuing jury instructions that made it explicitly clear that having engaged in passive resistance is in fact a defense to this charge, and that the passive resistance mentioned in the language of the statute includes noncooperation, so long as it does not include “active measures”.

All of this information leaves us with an unsettling set of facts: The City Attorney’s Office in Portland insisted on applying these bail terms, which in practice amount to a throttling of one’s first amendment rights, to arrested protesters as a group, but only successfully had them applied to those who were accused of violent crimes or had criminal records. Of this group, it has been reported that most were charged only with violating the statute cited above.

The parameters of that statute imply that, if the charges are true, those charged are guilty of stepping forward when ordered to retreat, of stepping to the left when ordered to the right, etc. Orders which were issued by members of a profession which itself was the target of the protests; a profession which is blanketed with qualified immunity and strong unions; a profession which fewer Americans trust each day, especially as it appears unyielding to cries for reform and justice.

Rather than a conclusion, it is perhaps more constructive to end in questions. Do non-violent offenders deserve having their first amendment rights limited? Can Americans be reasonably expected to follow the orders of “peace officers” when they have no faith in them, nor their profession?

Can a courthouse at the center of a wave of protests be trusted to rule on issues arising from those protests without bias?



In the Legal Spotlight: Senator Kamala Harris

by **Julia Napolitano**

Staff Writer

With the countdown to the 2020 Political Election quickly dwindling, politics have been front and center on every commercial, social media platform, and news media outlet. Former Vice President and current presidential nominee, Joe Biden, formally announced his running mate, Senator Kamala Harris, on August 11, 2020. Being a woman in the legal field, I was interested to take some time to research her background and look into her previous legal work prior to partnering with presidential candidate, Joe Biden.

After graduating from Westmount High School, Harris attended Howard University, in Washington, D.C. During her time pursuing her undergraduate degree, Harris interned as a mail room clerk for Senator Alan Cranston, of California. She also was on the Economics Society and was active on the debate team. Harris graduated from Howard University with a degree in political science and economics.¹

Harris was hired as a deputy district attorney in California. In 1998, Harris was recruited as an assistant district attorney. At that point, Harris became the Chief of the Career Criminal Division, where she was in charge of supervising five other attorneys. During this time, the crimes she focused on were homicide, burglary, robbery and sexual assault. Harris switched gears a little bit in August of 2000, where she started running the Family and Children's Services Division representing child abuse and neglect cases.

Shortly after, Kamala Harris began to serve as the District Attorney of San Francisco. During her campaign, Harris' office worked hard to prosecute different types of fraud and extortion charges, in hopes of preserving and protecting the integrity of the United States political process.



Although Harris had several noteworthy initiatives in her legal career, one of her initiatives that really stood out to me was her stance on truancy. In 2006, Harris began to narrow in on truancy reduction. As the city's homicide rate continued to skyrocket, Harris noted that the majority of prison inmates and homicide victims were school dropouts or habitual truants.

Harris spent a large amount of time meeting with high-risk schools and parents, and sent out letters to families, emphasizing the legal consequences of truancy. Some of the penalties included fines up to the \$2,500.00, or even jail time. In 2006, San Francisco had 2,856 truants, and the number continued to decrease annually, reaching a new low in 2009, with only 1,330 truants.

Some of Harris' other legal and political efforts include co-sponsoring legislation to ban the gay and trans panic defense in court, which passed, and California became the first state to enact this type of legislation. Harris worked to prioritize putting an end to hates crimes.

Harris worked diligently on criminal justice reform, launching re-entry programs and partnerships with the district attorney's offices. Some of these proposed programs have provided opportunities to nonviolent, first-time offenders between the ages of 18 and 30, especially hard cases, with her stance never wavering.

Kamala Harris is an educated, inspiring, and successful leader in the legal community. Kamala Harris was announced as Joe Biden's running mate in the upcoming political election, essentially becoming a household name overnight. Her experience, success, and intelligence are indisputable. Kamala Harris is an inspiring example of a woman who was able to use her law degree to pursue a variety of her passions, and always advocate for justice.



Upcoming Events at WNE School of Law

Big Dirty Money: The Shocking Injustice and Unseen Cost of White Collar Crime
Wednesday, September 30, 5:00 p.m.
Zoom

Information Session:
Careers with the U.S. Air Force JAG Corps
Wednesday, September 30, 12:00 p.m.
Zoom

Eviction in the time of COVID-19: The Next National Crisis
Friday, October 2 2:00 p.m.
Zoom

Civil Rights and Fair Housing Conference
Thursday & Friday October 1 & 2, All Day.
Zoom

25th Annual United States Supreme Court Review
Conference Western New England University School of Law
Tuesday, October 13, 2020, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m..
Zoom

If you have any questions about these events you can email

Dee Westcott dee.westcott@law.wne.edu

Getting to Know Professor Taub

by **Areaona Roberson**

Staff Writer

Professor Jennifer Taub is the newest faculty member of Western New England Law. She comes to us from Vermont Law School. Her B.A. from Yale and her J.D. from Harvard, (both with honors) were her steppingstones into the professional world. Before her career in academia, Professor Taub was an associate general counsel at an investment group.

What kind of child were you growing up?

It is very common for children around the age of 3 to ask “why” all of the time. I never stopped asking. Being stubbornly curious is at the core of my identity.

If you were stranded on a deserted island what 5 things would you bring?

1) A waterproof satellite radio with a long-lasting battery for communication and GPS. 2) A straw with a carbon filter to transform unsafe water into drinkable water. 3) A large bottle for collecting water 4) A large box of protein bars 5) A recipe book identifying edible and poisonous vegetation.

What advice would you give your 1L self?

I wish that I had the wisdom and support to deal with the emotional strain I was under at the time. I was balancing the struggles of a close family member in recovery, anxiety, and a related-recurring eating disorder. It was hard to focus and build confidence.

What was the hardest challenge you faced in law school and how did you overcome it?

It was building confidence that I was cut out to be a lawyer. I was terrified both of public speaking and of test taking.

What made you decide to come to Western New England?

I was drawn to people and programs here. The Center for Social Justice, Dean Setty, and the impressive committed faculty here. Living in Western Mass, I wanted to be more a part of its’ legal community.

You were not sold on the concept of “think like a lawyer.” Instead, you prefer to speak and write like a lawyer, while thinking like a client. How did you come to this realization?

I was repelled by the notion that law school would teach you to “think like a lawyer.” It seemed like we’d come in as human beings with unique ways of seeing the world and emerge like robots. Creativity, original thought, critical thinking were all things I prized. Plus, like many, I thought then (and still do now), that lawyers should not just accept the status quo, but study it and try to change it to enrich all our lives. When I started teaching law back in 2011, I came up with the alternative formulation.

This is your first time teaching Civil Procedure. How did you prepare for this experience?

Civ Pro was my favorite first semester class in law school. I still stay in touch with my professor who now teaches Constitutional Law. To prepare, I reached out to the main author of our casebook, participated in a conference call with hundreds of Civ Pro professors across the country to talk about the course generally and online teaching more specifically.

What is the most important tip you can give to students to ace Civil Procedure?

Create a flowchart that diagrams the litigation process from subject matter jurisdiction all the way through appeals. The decision points on that flowchart (which way to go next), should tie to the legal elements someone needs to show or prove along the way. Also, watch the PracticePerfect videos and do the self-quizzes.

What is your proudest moment in your legal career and why?

It is really hard to point to one moment, so let me tell you about something from when I was a law student working in a legal services clinic. One of the proudest moments was when my client who was a first-time mom, struggling suddenly with unemployment was able to get benefits she needed including a layette for her baby and public assistance. It felt so good to help someone who was initially reluctant and felt shame but ended up stronger and more prepared to parent thanks to our legal work.

What made you write Big Dirty Money?

With my first book, *Other People's Houses*, I set out to expose the decades of deregulation that helped cause the 2008 financial crisis, related mortgage meltdown, and painful recession. At the book launch in 2014, and then at every event that followed, audience members always posed this question. "Why didn't any bankers go to jail?" This bothered me. I had explained in the book that there was fraud at every link of the toxic mortgage supply chain. But I did not have a clear answer to that pressing question. There was accounting fraud at the banks, so why did no bank executives go to prison? Why didn't the prosecutors even try? So, I dug into more research. This book, *Big Dirty Money* is the result of that exploration.

Now, getting away with it is the case not just in banking, but across many sectors now, such as Big Pharma with the Sackler family remaining unscathed despite owning a company that itself years ago pleaded guilty to a felony, and yet they earned billions of dollars as their firm continued to push a highly addictive and deadly opioid on the public.

Being a woman in the legal field comes with its challenges. How did you deal with microaggressions?

I have faced more microaggressions and outright sexism in academia than I ever did as a practicing lawyer. Really. It's not easy to deal with, but one of the benefits of tenure is that I can challenge this kind of behavior. But to be clear, as a white upper-middle class woman, I also have a lot of privilege that balances that out and try to use that to speak up for others without tenure and without as much privilege when I can.

To learn more about Professor Taub, please visit her website:

<https://www.jennifertaub.com/>





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