

**LAURA ROVNER**  
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## ***EDUCATION***

<b>Georgetown University Law Center</b> LL.M. in Clinical Teaching	1995
<b>Cornell Law School</b> Note Editor, <i>Cornell Journal of Law &amp; Public Policy</i> Stanley E. Gould Prize for Outstanding Dedication to Public Interest Law	1993
<b>University of Pennsylvania</b> B.A. in Philosophy, Minor in Psychology <i>Phi Beta Kappa</i> <i>Magna cum laude</i>	1990

## ***EMPLOYMENT***

<b>University of Denver Sturm College of Law</b> Denver, Colorado <i>Professor of Law</i>	2004 - present
<i>Director, Civil Rights Clinic</i>	2016 - present
<i>Ronald V. Yegge Clinical Director</i>	2004 - present
Teach and supervise Civil Rights Clinic students in their representation of clients in complex civil rights cases before federal district and appellate courts. Directed clinical program comprised of 5 clinics and graduate clinical teaching fellowship program. Created Clinical Teaching LLM program. Developed and taught Comparative Criminal Punishment course.	2011 - 2018
<b>University of North Dakota School of Law</b> Grand Forks, North Dakota <i>Associate Professor of Law</i> <i>Director of Clinical Education Program &amp; Civil Rights Project</i>	2002-2004
Oversaw clinical legal education program, including supervision of clinic faculty, staff, student directors and students. Founded and directed the Civil Rights Project, in which I supervised students representing clients in complex civil rights matters. Administered grants and clinic budget as well as outreach efforts with local grassroots organizations.	
<b>Western State University College of Law</b> Fullerton, California <i>Associate Professor of Law and Director of Externship Program;</i> <i>Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, 2000-01</i>	2000 - 2002
Courses: Externship Director, Advocacy, Civil Procedure, Civil Rights, and Torts.	

**Syracuse University College of Law**

1997 - 2000

Syracuse, New York

*Assistant Professor of Law*

*Director, Public Interest Law Firm*

Supervised and evaluated clinic students in their representation of clients in complex federal civil rights cases primarily involving disability discrimination in employment, prison conditions, public accommodations and public services; taught clinic seminar; developed course materials and clinic manuals. Designed and co-taught Federal Disability Law course.

**National Association of the Deaf Law Center**

1995-1997

Silver Spring, Maryland

*Equal Justice Works Fellow/Staff Attorney*

Selected for EJW (formerly NAPIL) Fellowship to design and conduct project to address discrimination against deaf and hard of hearing people who were denied communication access to health care and to the legal system. Represented deaf and hard of hearing clients in disability rights litigation before federal courts and administrative agencies. Provided technical assistance regarding disability rights laws. Created model program for medical societies to facilitate provision of interpreters for consultations between doctors and deaf patients. Developed model hospital policy for deaf/hard of hearing patients.

**Georgetown University Law Center,  
Institute for Public Representation**

1993-1995

Washington, DC

*Graduate Fellow in Clinical Education*

Supervised and evaluated clinic students in their representation of clients in civil rights matters, particularly involving the rights of individuals with disabilities under federal and state civil rights laws. Represented clients before federal district and appellate courts and administrative agencies. Planned and conducted classes, assisted in developing course materials.

***SCHOLARLY & CREATIVE WORK***

*Litigating for Better Medical Care* in PUBLIC HEALTH BEHIND BARS – FROM PRISONS TO COMMUNITIES (Robert B. Greifinger, ed.) (Springer Books, forthcoming 2020) (with Rhonda Brownstein).

*On Litigating Constitutional Challenges to the Federal Supermax: Improving Conditions and Shining a Light*, 95 DENVER L. REV. 457 (2018).

*“Everything Is at Stake if Norway Is Sentenced. In that Case, We Have Failed”*: Solitary Confinement and the “Hard” Cases in the United States and Norway, 1 UCLA CRIM. J. L. REV. 77 (2017).

*The Law of Solitary Confinement* in HELL IS A VERY SMALL PLACE: VOICES FROM SOLITARY CONFINEMENT 16 (Casella, Ridgeway & Shourd) (The New Press, 2016).

*Dignity and the Eighth Amendment: A New Approach to Challenging Solitary Confinement* (Issue Brief), American Constitution Society, Sept. 2015.

*Testing the Rationales for Long-Term Isolation: Three Scenarios*, Vol. XXVI CORR. L. REP. No. 1, 13 (2014).

*Seeking Integrity: Learning Integratively From Classroom Controversy* (with Patti Alleva), 42 SW. U. L. REV. 355 (2013).

*Extradited to a Future of Torture in a U.S. Supermax Prison, Solitary Watch* (Oct. 2012).

*Requiring the State to Justify Supermax Confinement for Mentally Ill Prisoners: A Disability Discrimination Approach* (with Brittany Glidden), 90 DENVER L. REV. 55 (2012).

*Preferring Order to Justice* (with Jeanne Theoharis), 61 AM. U. L. REV. 1331(2012).

*The Unforeseen Ethical Ramifications of Classroom Faculty Participation in Law School Clinics*, 75 U. CIN. L. REV. 1113 (2007).

*Disability, Equality & Identity*, 55 ALABAMA L. REV. 1043 (2004) (reprinted in part in EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION LAW: CASES, PROBLEMS AND CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES (Prentice Hall 2005)).

*Perpetuating Stigma: Client Identity in Disability Rights Litigation*, 2 UTAH L. REV. 247 (2001).

*The Right to Be Heard: The Obligation of State Courts to Pay for Interpreters for Deaf Litigants*, 2 CORNELL J. LAW & PUB. POLICY 205 (1992).

### **EXPERT TESTIMONY**

Hearing on CO SB 14-064: Restricting the Use of Solitary Confinement for Prisoners with Serious Mental Illness, testimony before the Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee, Mar. 10, 2014.

Hearing on Reassessing Solitary Confinement II: The Human Rights, Fiscal, and Public Safety Consequences, Hearing Before the S. Subcomm. On the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights, 113th Cong., Feb. 24, 2014 (Written Testimony of Prof. Laura Rovner).

*Minister for Justice v. Ali Charaf Damache*, Dublin, Ireland, Sept. 2013 (written reports submitted on behalf of defendant challenging extradition to U.S. on basis of his conditions of confinement in federal supermax prison if convicted).

*U.S. v. Minh Quang Pham*, 12-cr-423 (SDNY), March & Aug. 2013, (written report and oral testimony on behalf of defendant challenging extradition from United Kingdom to United States on basis of conditions of confinement at federal supermax prison where he would likely be confined if convicted)

*Hearing on Reassessing Solitary Confinement: The Human Rights, Fiscal, and Public Safety Consequences*, Hearing Before the S. Subcomm. on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights, 112th Cong., June 15, 2012 (Written Testimony of Prof. Laura Rovner).

European Court of Human Rights, *Ahmad, et al., v. United Kingdom*, App. Nos. 24027/07 et seq., May 2011 (written report submitted on behalf of six men challenging their extradition to the U.S. in the European Court of Human Rights on basis that conditions in federal supermax prison would violate international human rights law).

*Matter of An Application for Permission to Apply for Judicial Review Between K. Al Fawwaz & Adel Abdel Bary, and the Secretary of State for the Home Department*, 2008-09 (written reports submitted

on behalf of two men challenging extradition to U.S. on basis of their conditions of confinement in federal supermax prison if convicted of crimes with which they were charged).

*McKinnon v. the United Kingdom*, App. No. 36004/08, Sept. 2008 (written report submitted on behalf of defendant with mental illness challenging extradition to U.S. on basis of his conditions of confinement in federal supermax prison if convicted).

### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

Panelist, “Solitary Confinement, Human Dignity, and the Eighth Amendment,” Northwestern Law Review Symposium: Rethinking Solitary Confinement, Chicago, IL, November 2019.

Peer-to-Peer Trainer, “Non-Directive Supervision,” All-Russian Conference on the Hands-On Method of Teaching - Nationwide Advanced Training for Law Professors, Moscow State University – Krasnovidovo, October 2019.

Panelist, “The participation of students in court representation: current approaches,” The Program of the International Forum of Legal Education – Tenth Nationwide Conference of Russian Legal Clinics, Moscow State University, October 2019.

Panelist, “The Rights of the Accused: A Comparative Analysis of the U.S. and Italy,” Italian Justice Under Trial: Insights from *Knox v. Italy*, University of Naples Federico II Law School, Naples, Italy, June 2019.

Panelist, “Abolition of the Current Criminal Justice System,” Denver Law Civil Rights Summit, Denver, CO, February 2019.

Panelist, “Prisoners’ Rights & Holding Prisons Accountable,” Denver Law Civil Rights Summit, Denver, CO, February 2019.

Speaker, “Why US Prisons Need to Abolish Solitary Confinement,” TEDxMileHigh, Denver, CO, December 2018.

Panelist, “Legal Strategy in Solitary Confinement Reform—Opportunities and Challenges,” (with Prof. Jules Lobel, Prof. Alex Reinert, & Prof. Judith Resnick) Santa Cruz Academic Summit on Solitary Confinement & Health, Santa Cruz, CA, May 2018.

Panelist, “The Courts’ Impact on Solitary Confinement Reform” (with U.S. District Judge James Patterson & U.S. District Judge (ret.) Shira Scheindlen), Rethinking Solitary Confinement, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Center on Media, Crime and Justice, New York, NY, April 2018.

Presenter, “Using Cross-Clinic Collaboration to Benefit Students, Clients, and Communities,” (with Prof. Michael Martin & Prof. Chris Northrop), AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Denver, CO, May 2017.

Presenter, “The Impact of Unconstitutional Prison Conditions on Clients and Strategies to Alleviate and Explain Them” (with Ed Aro, Arnold & Porter), Federal Death Penalty Resource Counsel Project – 2016 Strategy Session, Denver, CO, November 2016.

Presenter, “Evaluating New Forms of Clinical Education” (with Prof. Claudia Angelos, Prof. Wendy Bach, Prof. Phyllis Goldfarb, Prof. Donna Lee, Prof. Alex Scherr, and Prof. Ann Shalleck), AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Baltimore, MD, May 2017.

Presenter, “Faculty Governance” (with Prof. Brad Colbert & Prof. David Santacrose), AALS Workshop for New Law School Clinical Teachers, Baltimore, MD, April 2017.

Affiliated Faculty, US-European Criminal Justice Innovation Program, Oslo, Norway, September 2016.

Presenter, “What Public Defenders Should Know About Prison Law,” (with Prof. Lindsey Webb), Office of the Colorado State Public Defender, Denver, CO, November 2014.

Presenter, “Teaching Professional Identity Across the Curriculum,” 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Philadelphia, PA, June 2014.

Presenter, “Solitary Confinement and Human Rights,” Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, May 2014.

Presenter, “Role of the Client in Prison Conditions Litigation,” Prisoners’ Advocates Conference, Loyola University College of Law, New Orleans, LA, February 2014.

Panelist, “Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Discussion of the Consequences of Solitary Confinement,” ACLU of Colorado, Denver, CO, October 2013.

Presenter, “Incarceration and Isolation,” Columbia Law School, New York, NY, April 2012.

Presenter, Federal Bureau of Prisons Homicides – Authorized Case Training Conference, Denver, CO, March 2012.

Panelist, “Solitary Confinement,” Dart Society Conference, John Jay College, New York, NY, March 2012.

Co-presenter (with Prof. Jeanne Theoharis), “Preferring Order to Justice – Post 9/11 Civil Rights Issues in the Federal System,” Columbia Law School, Human Rights Institute, New York, NY, March 2012.

Panelist, “The Civil Rights Crisis in the Federal System Post-9/11,” Brooklyn College, New York, NY, October 2011.

Co-presenter (with Prof. Patti Alleva), Plenary Session – “Content and Context,” AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Seattle, WA, June 2011.

Co-presenter (with Prof. Patti Alleva), “A Five-Lesson Framework for Reaping Dividends from Spontaneous Classroom Controversy,” Institute for Law Teaching and Learning – Summer Conference, New York, NY, June 2011.

Congressional Briefing, “The Abuses of Solitary Confinement in the U.S. Criminal Justice System,” Washington, DC, April 2011.

Presenter, “When and How to Use the Broader Civil Rights Laws When Representing People with Disabilities,” Jacobus tenBroek Disability Rights Symposium - Bridging the Gap between the Disability Rights Movement and Other Civil Rights Movements, Baltimore, MD, April 2011.

Speaker, “Litigation Strategies to Limit the Use of Isolated Confinement,” ACLU Stop Solitary Conference: Building a National Campaign to End Long-term Isolated Confinement, Washington, DC, November 2010.

Co-presenter (with Prof. Patti Alleva), “The Moment as Microcosm: Making the Most of Spontaneous Classroom Controversies As Integrated Learning Opportunities,” Central States Law Schools Association Conference, Grand Forks, ND, September 2010.

Speaker, “Solitary Confinement,” ACLU of Colorado, Denver, CO, June 2010.

Speaker, Roundtable: “The Intersection of Terrorism and Criminal Justice,” The Constitution Project, Washington, DC, June 2010.

Presenter, “Suing on Behalf of Federal Prisoners: From Private Prisons to Terre Haute,” Prisoners’ Rights Litigation: A Workshop for Advocates, Liman Colloquium, *Imprisoned*, Yale Law School, New Haven, CT, March 2010.

Speaker, “The Road to Freedom: A Panel Discussion on Disability and Identity,” The Learning Effectiveness Program and the Center for Multicultural Excellence, University of Denver, Denver, CO, February 2007.

Speaker, “Assaults on Academic Freedom and Strategies for Dealing with Those Assaults in a Clinical Context,” Society of American Law Teachers Annual Teaching Conference, Boston, MA, September 2006.

Co-presenter (with Prof. Patti Alleva), “The Quandaries of Controversy: A Theoretical Framework for Handling Sensitive Situations in the Law School Classroom,” AALS Conference on New Ideas: Teaching Intentionally, Vancouver, BC, June 2006.

Speaker, “Ethical and Practice Issues in Legal Collaborations,” AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education: Collaboration in Learning, Teaching and Lawyering, New York, NY, May 2006.

Speaker, “Does the ADA Apply Behind Bars? A Discussion of *Goodman v. Georgia*,” American Constitutional Society, Univ. of Denver College of Law, January 2006.

Speaker, “Alternative Ways to Look at Reproductive Rights: Same-Sex and Disability Rights,” University of Denver Sturm College of Law, January 2006.

Speaker, “Ethical Ramifications of Collaborations Between Doctrinal Faculty and Clinical Programs,” Sixth International Clinical Conference on Clinical Legal Education and Scholarship, UCLA School of Law, October 2005.

Speaker, “Issues Faced By Women in Law: Relating to Clients and Colleagues, Navigating the System and Balancing It All,” University of Denver College of Law, March 2005.

Co-presenter (with Prof. Patti Alleva) “The Quandaries of Controversy: Handling Sensitive Situations in the Classroom,” Rocky Mountain Regional Conference on Clinical Legal Education, University of Denver College of Law, October 2004.

Speaker, “Disability, Equality and Identity,” Disability Law: Equality and Difference — A Symposium on American Disability Law and the Civil Rights Model, University of Alabama School of Law, Tuscaloosa, AL, November 2003.

Keynote Speaker, “Political Interference in North Dakota,” Hard Choices in Hard Times: Crafting Creative Solutions, 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Clinical Teachers Conference, William Mitchell School of Law, Minneapolis, MN, October 2003.

Speaker, “The Quandaries of Controversy: Handling Sensitive Situations in the Classroom,” University of North Dakota Reflecting on Teaching Conference, Grand Forks, ND, Sept. 2003.

Speaker, “*Roe v. Wade* 30<sup>th</sup> Year Commemoration—The Reality of Women’s Experiences, Health and Bodies,” University of North Dakota School of Law, Grand Forks, ND, April 2003.

Speaker, “Human Rights in North Dakota,” The 2002 Peace Congress—Human Rights: The Roots of Peace and Social Justice, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND, October 2002.

Speaker, “Litigating Employment Discrimination Cases Under the Americans with Disabilities Act,” University of North Dakota Homecoming Continuing Legal Education Program, Grand Forks, ND, October 2002.

Coordinator, “Selective Justice: Do People with Disabilities Have Equal Access to American Courts?” Presidential Showcase Program, American Bar Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 2001.

Speaker, “Learning from Clients and Students with Disabilities,” Association of American Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Albuquerque, NM, May 2000.

Panelist, “E.E.O.C. in the New Millennium,” Syracuse University College of Law, March 2000.

Faculty, Legal Issues Plenary. American Judicature Society Conference, “Improving Access to the Courts for People Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.” Presented at four regional conferences for state court judges in 1996-97.

Moderator and Speaker, “Beyond Ramps and TTYs: Employment Rights for People with Disabilities,” National Association for Public Interest Law Conference, Washington, D.C. 1997.

### ***AWARDS & HONORS***

University of Denver, Distinguished Teaching Award, 2016.

Hughes-Ruud Pilot Grant Recipient – 2016.

5280 [The Denver Magazine] - Top Lawyers (Civil Rights) – 2015, 2016.

American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado, Edward Sherman Award for Outstanding Legal Work on Behalf of Furthering Civil Liberties in Colorado, 2014.

Faculty of Federal Advocates Counsel/Co-Counsel Program, In Recognition of Dedication and Professionalism to Which the Program Aspires, 2012, 2018, 2019.

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Public Interest Law Group, Excellence in Public Service Award, 2011.

## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

Admitted in Colorado, the District of Columbia, Maryland (inactive), and North Dakota (inactive).

Also admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, Tenth, and D.C. Circuits, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and the U.S. District Courts for the Districts of Colorado, North Dakota, Maryland, the District of Columbia, the Northern District of New York, and the Southern District of Indiana.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Association of American Law Schools**

Co-chair, Political Interference Group	2010 - present
Planning Committee, 2015 Conference on Clinical Legal Education	2014-15
Standing Committee on Clinical Legal Education (Chair 2006)	2004-07; 2015- present
Member, Section on Clinical Legal Education	2000 - present

### **American Bar Association, Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities,**

1998 - present

Vice-Chair, Committee on the Rights of People with Disabilities (1998-2005, 2010-2016)

Co-Chair, Committee on the Rights of People with Disabilities (2005-2010)

Co-authored ABA amicus briefs before the United States Supreme Court in *State of Tennessee v. Lane* (2004) and *Goodman v. State of Georgia* (2005)

Facilitated development of national organization of disabled law students

**American Bar Association, Commission on Mental & Physical Disability Law** 2000 - 2003

**American Bar Association, Task Force on Mental Illness & the Death Penalty** 2002 - 2008

**American Bar Association, Co-Chair, Subcommittee on Prison Litigation Reform Act** 2011 - 2014

**American Bar Association, Site Team Inspector** March 2007

**ACLU of Colorado Legal Panel** 2005 – present

**American Constitution Society, Colorado Chapter** 2014 – present  
Board of Advisors

**Center on Human Policy, Syracuse University School of Education** 1997 - 2000  
Member, Advocacy Board.

<b>Civil Rights Education &amp; Enforcement Center (CREEC)</b> Litigation Committee	2013 – present
<b>Clinical Legal Education Association</b> Board of Directors Chair, 2005 Elections Committee Political Interference Group, Website Committee, Personnel Committee Selection Committee, <i>Clinical Law Review</i>	2004 - 2007
<b>Colorado State Legislature – Serious Mental Illness in Long-Term Isolated Confinement Work Group</b> Appointed by CO legislature to working group created as part of Senate Bill 14-064. Advise Department of Corrections on policies and procedures related to proper care and treatment of prisoners with serious mental illness in long-term isolated confinement	2014 - 2017
<b>Colorado Prison Law Project</b> Board of Directors Litigation Advisory Committee	2010 - 2013
<b>Faculty of Federal Advocates, Board of Directors</b>	2010 - 2013
<i>Journal of Disability Law</i> , SSRN – Advisory Board	2006 - 2007
<b>Mental Disability Rights International</b> Provided advice to disability rights groups in Central/Eastern European countries regarding new legislation as well as feasibility of constitutional challenges to the classification and education of children with disabilities.	1997 - 1998
<b>New York Civil Liberties Union, Central New York Chapter</b> Board of Directors; Local Liaison for Reproductive Rights Issues	1998 - 2000
<b>North Dakota Human Rights Coalition</b> Board of Directors	2004 - 2006
<b>Prisoners’ Advocates Conference</b> Steering committee member; (Chair, 2018 Conference)	2015 – present
<b>Red River Valley Community Action, Grand Forks, ND</b> Board of Directors	2002 - 2004
<b>Society of American Law Teachers</b> Academic Freedom Committee	2006 – present
<b>Solitary Watch</b> Board of Advisors	2009 - present
<b>U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado</b> Pro Bono Standing Committee	2013 – present