JOHN BLISS

University of Denver Sturm College of Law

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Denver Sturm College of Law
Associate Professor of Law (2024-present)
Assistant Professor of Law (2020-2024)
Visiting Assistant Professor of Law (2018-2020)
Hughes-Ruud Research Professorship (2022-23)

Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession
Affiliate Faculty (2018-present)
Visiting Researcher (2022-23)
Postdoctoral Fellow (2016-18)

Harvard Law School Animal Law & Policy Program
Visiting Researcher (Spring 2022)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., *University of California, Berkeley, Jurisprudence and Social Policy* (2016)
Dissertation: "The Dynamics of the Professional Self: Findings from Law School and Early Law Careers" (Calvin Morrill, chair)

J.D., *University of California, Berkeley* (2010)
Legal Aid Society Employment Law Center, workers' rights clinic
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, asylum representation clinic
East Bay Community Law Center, HIV, health, and immigration summer associate

Double B.A., *University of Washington* (2004)
Anthropology, Comparative History of Ideas

PUBLICATIONS

Books

THE MAYBE?! MOVEMENT: AI AND THE POLITICS OF DEEP UNCERTAINTY (forthcoming 2027 with Stanford University Press)

THE ANIMAL LAWYER: MOVEMENT LAWYERING IN THE ANIMAL RIGHTS CONTEXT (with Justin Marceau and Kristen Stilt) (forthcoming with Oxford University Press)

Articles

The Epistemics of Legal Futurism: Lawyers at the Horizon of Artificial Legal Intelligence (in progress)

Teaching Law in the Age of Generative AI, JURIMETRICS 111 (2024)

Existential Advocacy: Lawyering for AI Safety and the Future of Humanity, 37.1 GEO. J. LEGAL ETHICS 39 (2024)

Pass for Some, Fail for Others: An Empirical Analysis of Law School Grading Changes in the Early Covid-19 Pandemic (with David Sandomierski and Tayzia Collesso), 56.2 UBC L. REV. 605 (2023)

Learning Without Grade Anxiety: Findings from the Pass/Fail Experiment in North American Legal Education (with David Sandomierski), invited contribution, OHIO N.U. L. REV. 555 (2022)

Becoming Global Lawyers? A Comparative Study of Civic Professionalism, 46(3) LAW & SOC. INQUIRY 731-54 (2021)

Rebellious Lawyers for Fair Housing: The Lost Scientific Model of the Early NAACP, WISC. L. REV. 1433 (2021)

The Legal Ethics of Secret Client Recordings, 33 GEO. J. LEGAL ETHICS 55 (2020)

From Idealists to Hired Guns? An Empirical Analysis of "Public Interest Drift" in Law School, 51 U.C. DAVIS L. REV. 1973 (2018)

Divided Selves: Professional Role Distancing Among Law Students and New Lawyers in a Period of Market Crisis, 42 LAW & SOC. INQUIRY 855 (2017)

Book Chapters

Reimagining Legal Education at the Dawn of Artificial Legal Intelligence: Toward a Human-Centric Hybrid, forthcoming in THE RESEARCH HANDBOOK FOR GLOBAL LEGAL EDUCATION.

Transitioning into Practice: Lawyer Socialization in the Chinese Corporate Bar, forthcoming in THE CHINESE LEGAL PROFESSION IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION, Sida Liu & David B. Wilkins, eds. Cambridge University Press.

From Fringe to Frontlines: The Evolution of the AI Safety Movement, in CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES AND MOVEMENTS, 191 Doug McAdam, Dana Moss and David Snow, eds., Wiley (2025).

Beyond Critique: The Pragmatic Turn in the Study of Social-Change Litigation, in LEADING WORKS ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION, Daniel Newman ed. 241 (2023)

Rationalizing Pro Bono: Corporate Social Responsibility and the Reinvention of Legal Professionalism in Elite American Law Firms (with Steven Boutcher), in GLOBAL PRO BONO: CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES, AND CONTESTATION, Scott Cummings, Fabio de Sa e Silva & Louise Trubek, eds. Cambridge University Press 77 (2022)

Review Essays

Studying Lawyers in an Equal Place, special issue relating to SCOTT L. CUMMINGS, AN EQUAL PLACE: LAWYERS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR LOS ANGELES __ (forthcoming 2026)

Book Review: Justin Marceau, Beyond Cages: Animal Law and Criminal Punishment, 54.4 LAW & SOC. REV. 903 (2020)

Other writings

AI Lawyering Empirics, research blog (2023-present), *http://ai-lawyering.blog*

Teaching "Good Work" in the Law, The Good Project, Harvard Graduate School of Education (July 4 2020), https://www.thegoodproject.org/good-blog/2020/7/4/teaching-good-work-in-the-law

Drifting Law Students: Public Interest Caught in the Law Firm Pipeline (lead article), THE PRACTICE (May 2018), https://thepractice.law.harvard.edu/article/drifting-law-students

Rethinking the First Year Curriculum (interview with Erwin Chemerinsky), THE PRACTICE (May 2018), https://thepractice.law.harvard.edu/article/rethinking-the-first-year-curriculum

The Law School Laboratory: A Call for Developing the "Third Apprenticeship" Through Experimental Research, NEW LEGAL REALISM CONVERSATIONS (February 2018) http://newlegalrealism.org/2018/02/12/bliss-on-law-teaching-reform

The Professional Identity Formation of Lawyers: How Does Becoming a Lawyer Change You? (lead article), THE PRACTICE (March 2016) https://thepractice.law.harvard.edu/article/the-professional-identity-formation-of-lawyers

RESEARCH PROFILES

An Interview with John Bliss, The NEW LEGAL REALISM PODCAST (Dec. 2023), https://newlegalrealism.org/2023/12/01/an-interview-with-john-bliss

A Conversation with John Bliss on the Benefits and Risks of Generative AI for Lawyers, INSIGHT, HARVARD LAW SCHOOL CENTER ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION (Feb. 2024), https://clp.law.harvard.edu/knowledge-hub/insights/a-conversation-with-john-bliss-on-the-benefits-and-risks-of-generative-ai-for-lawyers/

Scott L. Cummings, *How Does Law School Matter in the Pursuit of Public Interest Careers?*, JOTWELL (December 20, 2019) (reviewing John Bliss, *From Idealists to Hired Guns? An Empirical Analysis of "Public Interest Drift" in Law School*, 51 U.C. Davis L. Rev. 1973 (2018)), https://legalpro.jotwell.com/how-does-law-school-matter-in-the-pursuit-of-public-interest-careers/

David B. Wilkins, *Finding the Lawyer Identity* (December 11, 2018) (reviewing John Bliss, *Drifting Law Students: Public Interest Caught in the Law Firm Pipeline*, THE PRACTICE (May 2018)), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRdlSVqFVrM&feature=emb_logo

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Legal Profession, Property, AI and the Future of the Legal Profession, 1L Public Good Program

UC Berkeley, Graduate Student Instructor

Sociology of Law, Introduction to Legal Studies, Law in Chinese Society, Theories of Law and Society, Law, Self, and Society, Introduction to Quantitative Methods

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

Reimagining Legal Education at the Dawn of Artificial Legal Intelligence. Law and Society Association. San Francisco, CA. May 2026.

Reimagining Legal Education at the Dawn of Artificial Legal Intelligence. University of Denver Sturm College of Law. April 2026.

AI and the Future of the Legal Profession. Invited guest lecture in *Issues of Accountability for Lawyers and the Legal Profession*, UC Irvine School of Law. 2023-2026.

The Maybe?! Movement: AI and the Politics of Deep Uncertainty. University of Denver Sturm College of Law. August 2025.

The Maybe?! Movement: AI and the Politics of Deep Uncertainty. Roundtable on AI Safety Law, Tuscaloosa, AL. April 2025.

Teaching Law in the Age of Generative AI. Harvard Law School, New Legal Realism 20th Anniversary, Cambridge, MA. October 2024.

The Epistemics of Legal Futurism: Lawyers at the Horizon of Artificial Legal Intelligence. Law and Society Association, Denver, CO. June 2024.

Existential Advocacy: Lawyering for AI Safety and the Future of Humanity. Cambridge University Centre for the Study of Existential Risk. May 2024.

Lawyering at the Uncertain Horizon of Artificial Legal Intelligence. Denver Law Review Symposium, Denver, CO. April 2024.

Lawyering at the Horizon of Artificial Legal Intelligence. Colorado Bar Association, Denver, CO. March 2024.

Teaching Law in the Age of Generative AI. AALS Section on Technology, Law, and Legal Education (remote). June 2023.

Teaching Law in the Age of Generative AI. Law and Society Association, San Juan, PR. June 2023.

Teaching Law in the Age of Generative AI. Legal Ethics Schmooze, Denver, CO. May 2023.

Teaching Law in the Age of Generative AI. University of Denver Modern Learning Series. April 2023.

Existential Advocacy: Lawyering for AI Safety and the Future of Humanity. UC Irvine Center for Empirical Research on the Legal Profession. April 2023.

Existential Advocacy: Lawyering for AI Safety and the Future of Humanity. Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession, Cambridge, MA. November 2022.

Existential Advocacy: Lawyering for AI Safety and the Future of Humanity. UC Berkeley Center for the Study of Law and Society (remote). September 2022.

Existential Advocacy: Lawyering for AI Safety and the Future of Humanity. Legal Priorities Summer Institute, Oxford, UK. September 2022.

Existential Advocacy: Lawyering for AI Safety and the Future of Humanity. Law and Society Association (remote). July 2022.

Existential Advocacy: Lawyering for AI Safety and the Future of Humanity. Multidisciplinary Forum on Longtermism and the Law, Hamburg, DE. June 2022.

Pass for Some, Fail for Others: An Empirical Analysis of Law School Grading Changes in the Early Covid-19 Pandemic. Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law (remote). March 2022.

Pass for Some, Fail for Others: An Empirical Analysis of Law School Grading Changes in the Early Covid-19 Pandemic. Canadian Association of Law Teachers (remote). June 2021.

Pass for Some, Fail for Others: An Empirical Analysis of Law School Grading Changes in the Early Covid-19 Pandemic. Law and Society Association (remote). May 2021.

Becoming Global Lawyers? Mapping Professional Identity Formation in the U.S. and China. Vanderbilt Law (remote). March 2021.

Pass for Some, Fail for Others: An Empirical Analysis of Law School Grading Changes in the Early Covid-19 Pandemic. Association of American Law Schools (remote). January 2021.

Pass for Some, Fail for Others: An Empirical Analysis of Law School Grading Changes in the Early Covid-19 Pandemic. Western University Faculty of Law (remote). September 2020.

Becoming Global Lawyers? Mapping Professional Identity Formation in the U.S. and China. Western Law (remote). March 2020.

Rebellious Lawyers for Fair Housing: The Lost Scientific Model of the Early NAACP. AALS Section on Property Law, Washington, DC. January 2020.

Identity and Discrimination in the Legal Profession: Empirical Perspectives. Denver Law Professionalism and Inclusiveness Speaker. 2020.

Rebellious Lawyers for Fair Housing: The Lost Scientific Model of the Early NAACP. Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession Speaker Series. November 2019.

Becoming Global Lawyers? Mapping Professional Identity Formation in the U.S. and China. Law and Society Association, Washington, DC. June 2019.

The Legal Ethics of Secret Client Recordings. UC Irvine School of Law, Legal Ethics Schmooze. June 2019.

The Legal Ethics of Secret Client Recordings. Harvard Law School. March 2019.

The Legal Ethics of Secret Client Recordings. Association of American Law Schools, New Orleans, LA. January 2019.

Rebellious Lawyers for Fair Housing: The Lost Scientific Model of the Early NAACP. Midwest Law and Society Retreat, Madison, WI. October 2018.

Rebellious Lawyers for Fair Housing: The Lost Scientific Model of the Early NAACP. Law and Society Association, Toronto, ON. June 2018.

Rebellious Lawyers for Fair Housing: The Lost Scientific Model of the Early NAACP. Harvard Law School, Progressive Property Workshop. May 2018.

Rationalizing Pro Bono: Corporate Social Responsibility and the Reinvention of Legal Professionalism in Elite Law Firms. UCLA School of Law, Global Pro Bono Conference. November 2017.

From Idealists to Hired Guns? An Empirical Analysis of "Public Interest Drift" in Law School. Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Center for Law, Society, and Culture. October 2017.

Becoming Global Lawyers? Mapping Professional Identity Formation in the U.S. and China. Harvard Law, Comparative and International Law Workshop. September 2017.

Rebellious Lawyers for Fair Housing: The Lost Scientific Model of the Early NAACP. Northeastern Law, Property Works in Progress Conference. September 2017.

Becoming Global Lawyers? Mapping Professional Identity Formation in the U.S. and China. American Sociological Association, Montreal, QC. August 2017.

From Idealists to Hired Guns? An Empirical Analysis of "Public Interest Drift" in Law School. UCLA School of Law, Legal Ethics Schmooze. July 2017.

Becoming Global Lawyers? Mapping Professional Identity Formation in the U.S. and China. Law and Society Association, Mexico City, CDMX. June 2017.

From Idealists to Hired Guns? An Empirical Analysis of "Public Interest Drift" in Law School. UC Irvine Law, Center for Empirical Research on the Legal Profession. June 2017.

Rebellious Lawyers for Fair Housing: The Lost Scientific Model of the Early NAACP. University of Michigan, Association for Law, Property & Society. May 2017.

Becoming Global Lawyers? Mapping Professional Identity Formation in the U.S. and China. Harvard University, China-US Lawyers Forum. March 2017.

Becoming Global Lawyers? Mapping Professional Identity Formation in the U.S. and China. American Bar Foundation, "Legal Education in Crisis?" Conference. March 2017.

Becoming Global Lawyers? Mapping Professional Identity Formation in the U.S. and China. Yale Law School Doctoral Scholarship Conference. November 2016.

Rationalizing Pro Bono: Corporate Social Responsibility and the Reinvention of Legal Professionalism in Elite Law Firms. Law and Society Association, New Orleans, LA. May 2016.

Divided Selves: Professional Role Distancing Among Law Students and New Lawyers. American Anthropological Association, Denver, CO. November 2015.

Divided Selves: Professional Role Distancing Among Law Students and New Lawyers. Stanford Law School, Law and Society Conference for Junior Scholars. May 2015.

Divided Selves: Professional Role Distancing Among Law Students and New Lawyers. Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia. May 2015.

Divided Selves: Professional Role Distancing Among Law Students and New Lawyers. UC Davis School of Law, ClassCrits VII. November 2014.

Divided Selves: Professional Role Distancing Among Law Students and New Lawyers. American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA. August 2014.

Divided Selves: Professional Role Distancing Among Law Students and New Lawyers. Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse, NY. June 2014.

Divided Selves: Professional Role Distancing Among Law Students and New Lawyers. Law and Society Association, Minneapolis, MN. May 2014.

Divided Selves. UVA Law, Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities. March 2014.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Scholars Research Fellow, Brooks Institute of Animal Law & Policy 2024-2025
Hughes-Ruud Research Professorship, Denver Law, 2022-2023
Legal Priorities Project Senior Research Fellow, 2022-2023
Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award, Canadian Association of Law Teachers, 2022
Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2014-2015
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley, 2014
Jurisprudence and Social Policy Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2013-14
UC Berkeley Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2012-13
UC Berkeley Graduate Division Summer Grant, UC Berkeley, 2012, 2013
Selznick Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2009-10
Bonderman Travel Fellowship, University of Washington, 2003-04
Mary Gates Leadership Fellowship, University of Washington, 2002-03
Evans Scholarship (full ride), University of Washington, 2000-04

AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession (affiliate faculty)
Institute for Law & AI (senior research affiliate)

Law and Society Association
International Association of Legal Ethics
Rocky Mountain Collective on Race, Place & Law
Collaborative Research Network on Global Legal Ethics and Technological Innovations in Legal Practice

Selected Academic Leadership and Professional Service

Founding co-director, 1L Public Good Program, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, 2019-present.

Co-chair, AI Task Force, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, 2025-present

Peer reviewer, including for Law & Social Inquiry, Law & Society Review, Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, American Sociological Review, AI & Society, Journal of Professions and Organizations, and Cambridge University Press.