

**Katharine Vengraitis**  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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### Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law

*Anti-Poverty Fellow*

January 2025-Present

- *Course Taught:* Poverty Law, Policy, and Practice

Fall 2025

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## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

**Primary Interests:** Disability Justice, Public Health, Race & the Law, Aging & the Law

**Secondary Interests:** Administrative Law, Criminal Law, Federal Courts, Conflict of Laws

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## EDUCATION

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### 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, Community Service Manager and Executive Board Member

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### 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

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**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 April 2012-August 2012  
*Fellow, Opening Doors Health Disparities Research Training Program*

- 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 September 2011-June 2012  
*Community-Based Master's Project Intern*

- 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

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**Community Legal Services**, Philadelphia, PA August 2022-September 2024  
*Supervising Attorney, SSI and Health & Independence Units*

- 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*

January 2018-August 2018

*Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow*

September 2016-December 2017

- Addressed “school-to-prison pipeline” issues by creating a replicable advocacy 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

September 2015-September 2016

*Law Clerk to the Hon. Franklin S. Van Antwerpen (deceased)*

- 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

June 2014-August 2014

*Law Clerk, Disabilities Law Project*

## **OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE**

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**Brookfield Properties**, New York, NY

*Marketing Manager*

February 2009-August 2010

*Marketing Coordinator*

October 2007-February 2009

**PRADA USA Corporation**, New York, NY

*Public Relations Coordinator Prada Donna- Ready to Wear*

May 2007-September 2007

*Public Relations Communications and Media Relations Assistant*

October 2005-May 2007

## **SELECT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

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- 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 HealthChoices: 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**

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- 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**

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- 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, 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 Clinic at St. Francis Inn, September-November 2013

## **HONORS**

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- Supervision to Aid Reentry (STAR) Program ("Reentry Court"), United States Probation Office, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Robin Nilon Community Partner Award April 2025

## **BAR ADMISSIONS/ LANGUAGES**

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