

RYAN T. SAKODA

Harry A. Bigelow Teaching Fellow and Lecturer in Law • University of Chicago Law School
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EDUCATION

Harvard University Ph.D. in Economics, 2017

Dissertation: “Essays on Law, Economics, and Punishment”
Committee: Lawrence Katz, Claudia Goldin, and Roland Fryer

Yale Law School J.D., 2012

Yale Law Journal, Editor
Prison Legal Services/Complex Federal Litigation Clinic

The London School of Economics M.Sc. in Economics, 2007

Fulbright Scholar
Graduated with Distinction

University of California, Berkeley B.A. in Economics and B.S. in Business, 2003

Highest Honors
Phi Beta Kappa
Claudius & James White Finance Award
Golden Key

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary: Criminal Procedure; Criminal Law; Evidence; Law and Economics; Empirical Legal Studies; Prisons and Punishment; Sentencing; Law and Social Science

Secondary: Contracts; Civil Rights Law

PUBLICATIONS

Solitary Confinement and the U.S. Prison Boom, CRIM. JUST. POL’Y REV. (forthcoming) (with Jessica T. Simes), <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0887403419895315>.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Translating Policy: The Role of Discretion in Criminal Justice Reform

Efficient Sentencing? The Effect of Post-Release Supervision on Low-Level Offenders

Can the Elimination of Aid Toward For-Profit Colleges Shift Student Enrollment? California as Case Study (with Oded Gurantz and Shayak Sarkar)

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Committee for Public Counsel Services, Boston, MA

Trial Attorney, Public Defender Division 9/2016 – 6/2019
Represented indigent criminal defendants facing felony and misdemeanor charges from arrest through final disposition. Counseled clients, made bail arguments, investigated cases, argued motions, negotiated pleas, litigated at trial, collaborated with staff social service advocates and investigators.

Liman Public Interest Fellow, Public Defender Division 9/2015 – 8/2017
Represented indigent clients in court proceedings and administrative hearings related to housing matters arising from an arrest, charge, or criminal conviction. Provided legal advice and training sessions to public defenders with clients who faced housing issues related to current or past criminal cases.

Connecticut Sentencing Commission

Member, Recidivism Reduction Committee 5/2012 - 8/2012
Coauthored white paper titled, “Evidence-Based Reentry Initiatives Devoted to Strengthening Positive Social Relationships.” Participated in meetings of the CT Sentencing Commission Recidivism Reduction Committee to discuss the future direction of the committee and areas to focus white paper research.

Prison Legal Services/Complex Federal Litigation Clinic, New Haven, CT

Student Attorney 2/2009 - 8/2009
Handled the files of several clients who had complaints against the Connecticut Department of Corrections or the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Washington, D.C.

Intern Summer 2008

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago Law School (Harry A. Bigelow Teaching Fellow & Lecturer in Law)
Legal Research and Writing
Lawyering

Harvard University, Economics Department (Teaching Fellow)
Microeconomic Theory
Economics of Crime and Criminal Justice

OTHER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Professors Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz
Research Assistant, Professor John Donohue
Referee for *American Law and Economics Review*

BAR ADMISSION

Massachusetts State Bar 6/2015 – Present (currently inactive)

INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

University of Chicago Crime Lab, "Solitary Confinement and the U.S. Prison Boom," 5/2020
Junior Scholars Colloquium, University of Chicago Law School, "Translating Policy: The Disconnect Between Legislation and Application in Criminal Justice Reform," 4/2020
"Privilege and Punishment: How Race and Class Matter in Criminal Court" Book Workshop for Matthew Clair, Invited Panelist, 4/2019
The Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law, Yale Law School, "Policing, Poverty, & Communities of Color" Invited Panelist, 11/2017
"Housing for All? Crime and Mental Illness" Invited Panelist, Harvard Law School, 4/2017
Kansas Sentencing Commission Meeting, 8/2014
National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute, Economics of Crime Working Group, 7/2014
American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting, 5/2014
Harvard Law School Law and Economics Seminar, 2/2014

AWARDS & HONORS

Becker Friedman Institute Data Acquisition Grant, 2020
Coase-Sandor Institute for Law and Economics Data Acquisition Grant, 2019
Liman Public Interest Fellowship, 2015-2017
Washington Center for Equitable Growth, Young Scholar Grant (with Shayak Sarkar), 2014-2015
Terence M. Consideine Fellow in Law and Economics, 2013-2014
Warburg Research Funds, 2013
Inequality & Criminal Justice Doctoral Fellow, Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy, Harvard University, awarded 2010
F. Robert & Patricia N. Naka Fellowship, 2009
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention, 2009
Fulbright Scholarship, US-UK Fulbright Commission, 2006-2007