

SHELDON BERNARD LYKE

Loyola University Chicago School of Law • 25 E. Pearson St. • Chicago, IL 60611
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Employment

Loyola University Chicago School of Law Jul 2023 – present

Associate Professor (tenure effective July 1, 2026)
Faculty Affiliate, Dept. of Sociology
Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Racial Justice
Courses: Property, Estates, Natural Resources, Critical Race Theory (CRT), and CRT Workshop

University of Baltimore School of Law Aug 2020 – Jun 2023

Associate Professor
Courses: Property, Trusts & Estates, Critical Race Theory, and Comparative Environmental & Natural Resources Law

Northern Kentucky University Chase College of Law Aug 2018 – Jun 2020

Assistant Professor
Courses: Property, Wills & Trusts, and Critical Race Theory

Whittier Law School Aug 2013 – Jun 2018

Assistant Professor
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Whittier College (courtesy)
Courses: Property, Wills & Trusts, Critical Legal Theory, and Community Property

Visiting Appointments

Howard University School of Law Jan 2023 – May 2023

Visiting Associate Professor
Course: Property

University of Maryland Carey School of Law Jan 2023 – May 2023

Adjunct Professor
Course: Critical Race Theory

UC Irvine School of Law Aug 2016 – Dec 2016

Visiting Assistant Professor
Course: Wills & Trusts

Northwestern University School of Law Jan 2012 – Aug 2013

Visiting Assistant Professor
Courses: Law & Society and Critical Race Theory

The Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law <i>Dorr Legg Law and Policy Fellow</i>	Jul 2011 – Dec 2011
Columbia College Chicago <i>Adjunct Professor, Dept. of Humanities, History, & Social Sciences</i> <u>Course:</u> Introduction to Sociology	Sep 2006 – Jun 2011
Illinois Institute of Technology <i>Adjunct Professor, Dept. of Social Sciences</i> <u>Courses:</u> Law in American Society, Contemporary Constitutional Issues, and Introduction to Legal Analysis	Sep 2008 – Dec 2009
Saint Xavier University <i>Adjunct Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice</i> <u>Course:</u> Introduction to Sociology	Sep 2002 – Dec 2002
University of Chicago <i>Lecturer</i> <u>Courses:</u> Race as Property, Sexuality & Human Rights, and Contemporary Global Issues <i>Teaching Assistant</i> <u>Courses:</u> Sexuality: Identity and the Life Course; Contemporary Issues in Human Rights; Globalization: Theoretical & Empirical Elements; Transnationalism in a Post-Colonial World; and The Regulation of Vice	Jan 2000 – Jun 2008

EDUCATION

University of Chicago

Ph.D., Sociology. June 2013.

- Dissertation: *Cosmopolitan Courts & Strange Laws: Essays on Judicial Globalization and the Resistance to Foreign Law*. Committee: Saskia Sassen, Mario L. Small (co-chairs), and Len Rubinowitz.
- Special Field Exam Areas: (1) Social Change: Globalization of Law; (2) Qualitative Methods

Northwestern University School of Law

J.D., Juris Doctor. May 1999.

- Senior Writing Project: *Public Health vs. Private Freedoms: Constitutionality of Sex Regulation in Gay Bathhouses*. Advisor: Dorothy Roberts
- 1998 Top Five Appellate Brief Julius Miner Moot Court.

Princeton University

A.B., Sociology, cum laude. June 1996.

- Thesis: *Searching For Connections: Examining Homosexual Male Chat Services*. Advisor: Howard Taylor

SCHOLARSHIP & PUBLICATIONS

Works in Progress

College Admissions as Home Appraisals, draft

Institutional Timidity: Reading Len Rubinowitz Toward a Structural Theory of Civil Rights Enforcement, 21 NORTHWESTERN JOURNAL OF LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY (forthcoming Spring 2026)

Published Articles, Essays, and Book Chapters

Toward a Perpetual Practice of Affirmative Action, 120 NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 75 (2025)

Gay Quotas, 54 SOUTHWESTERN LAW REVIEW 233 (2025)

Defense Against the Dark Arts: The Failed Affirmative Defense of Affirmative Action, 80 WASHINGTON AND LEE LAW REVIEW 1873 (2024)

Can Affirmative Action Offer a Lesson in Fighting Enclosure? in THE CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF COMMONS RESEARCH INNOVATIONS (eds. Sheila Foster and Chrystie Swiney) (Cambridge University Press, 2022)

Is Resistance to Foreign Law Rooted in Racism?, 109 NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW ONLINE 41 (2014)

Making Strange Laws, 35 UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 675 (2014)

Diversity as Commons, 88 TULANE LAW REVIEW 317 (2013)

Catch Twenty-Wu? The Oral Argument in Fisher v. University of Texas and the Obfuscation of Critical Mass, 107 NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW COLLOQUY 209 (2013)

Brown Abroad: An Empirical Analysis of Foreign Judicial Citation and the Metaphor of Cosmopolitan Conversation, 45 VANDERBILT JOURNAL OF TRANSNATIONAL LAW 83 (2012)

Lawrence v. Texas as an Eighth Amendment Case: Sodomy and the Evolving Standards of Decency, 15 WILLIAM & MARY JOURNAL OF WOMEN AND THE LAW 633 (2009)

Opinions & Commentary

Northwestern Law School is target of conservative attacks on faculty diversity. CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, July 26, 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/24p3fr3x>

Racism is Not a Crime of Hate. RACE AND THE LAW PROF BLOG, March 26, 2021. <https://tinyurl.com/5n8pbs47>

SELECTED MEDIA

How Will Princeton Respond to SCOTUS Ruling on Affirmative Action? PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY, 2023.

Britney Spears' Conservatorship: What Happens Next? BILLBOARD, 2021.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks & Conference Papers

Non-Fungible Wills presented at:

- University of Chicago Legal Scholarship Workshop sponsored by Lisa Bernstein. Nov. 7, 2025.
- ALPS 15th Annual Meeting. Panel: Digital Tokenisation, Digital Assets, and Non-Fungibility. Association of Law, Property, and Society (ALPS), University of New South Wales. May 31, 2025.

Net-Zero Discrimination: The New Affirmative Action. Panel Session: Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard and the Death of Affirmative Action. Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association (LSA), Denver, Colorado. June 7, 2024.

The Past and Future of Affirmative Action. Symposium on Affirmative Action. Indiana Journal of Law and Social Inequality. Indiana University Maurer School of Law. February 16, 2024.

Imperial Parks 2.0 presented at:

- ALPS 14th Annual Meeting. Panel: Public Lands and National Parks. Association of Law, Property, and Society (ALPS), Pepperdine University. June 14, 2024.
- Lutie/Langston Midwestern Writing Workshop. University of Chicago Law School. Discussant Farah Peterson. December 1, 2023.
- Third Annual Loyola University Chicago Environmental Law Scholars Workshop. Starved Rock State Park. October 19, 2023.
- UCLA/Colorado Works-in-Progress Environmental Workshop. UC Santa Barbara. August 11, 2022.

The Slavery Question. Chicago-Kent Law Review Symposium: Teaching Law in a Time of Change and Conflict. Chicago-Kent College of Law. November 17, 2023.

Let It Go—The Diversity Tar Baby. Critical (Legal) Collective Inaugural Convening. Duke University School of Law. November 11, 2023.

Offense Against the Dark Art/Net-Zero Discrimination. Panel: Admissions and Affirmative Action. Critical (Legal) Collective Inaugural Convening. Duke University School of Law. November 11, 2023.

Be Like Elsa: Letting Go of the Diversity Rationale. Epoch Spotlight Symposium 2023: Going Forward: The Role of Affirmative Action, Race, and Diversity in University Admissions. Seattle University School of Law. September 8–9, 2023.

Birth of a Nation(al) Park, presented at:

- ALPS Association of Law, Property, and Society Virtual Conference 2021, Panel Session X: Racism, Reform, and Parks. May 28, 2021.
- University of Baltimore RED Talks. February 2, 2021.

Why Malia and Sasha Obama Need Affirmative Action, presented at:

- University of Baltimore School of Law, November 2019.
- Northern Kentucky University Chase College of Law, December 2017.
- University of Chicago Legal Scholarship Workshop, September 2017.
- Seton Hall University School of Law, November 2017.
- Eighth Annual John Mercer Langston Writing Workshop at Drexel University Thomas Kline School of Law. July 2017.

- 2016 Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, New Orleans, Louisiana. June 2016.

Who Killed Whittier Law School? The Socially Constructed Crisis in Legal Education. Law and Society 2019/International Intersectionalities in Legal Pedagogy. Law and Society Association, Washington, DC. June 1, 2019.

What is a National Park? ALPS 10th Annual Meeting/Property, Protected Spaces, and the State. Association of Law, Property, and Society (ALPS), Syracuse, NY. May 17, 2019.

Gay Quotas, presented at:

- Common Cause: Synthesizing the Work of Human Rights and Civil Rights Scholars and Practitioners. NKU Chase College of Law Review, Highland Heights, KY. April 12, 2019.
- 4th National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference. National People of Color 2019, Washington, DC. March 22, 2019.

The Chicken Little Commons: The Socially Constructed Crisis in Legal Education. Celebrating Commons Scholarship Conference of the International Association for the Study of Commons at Georgetown University Law Center. October 6, 2018.

Can Antiproperty Save the Commons? Ninth Annual John Mercer Langston Writing Workshop at UCLA School of Law. July 6, 2018.

Social Identity as Commons presented at the 2014 Critical Race Studies Annual Symposium: "Whiteness as Property:" A Twenty-Year Appraisal at the UCLA School of Law. October 2014.

The New American Stranger? Political Resistance to Foreign Law in the United States presented at the 2014 Culp Colloquium at the Center on Law, Race, and Politics. Duke University School of Law. May 2014.

The Thirty-Five Year Conservative Colorblind Campaign to Eliminate Affirmative Action in America. Guest lecture presented at the University of Chicago Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Workshop. June 2013.

Diversity as Commons, presented at:

- 2013 Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, Boston, Massachusetts. June 2013.
- Hofstra University School of Law, December 2012.
- Whittier Law School, November 2012.
- SUNY Buffalo Law School, October 2012.

Racism and Citation to Foreign Law presented at "Globalization and Race" Fourth Annual Spring 2013 Symposium of the Notre Dame Journal of International and Comparative Law at Notre Dame Law School. February 2013.

Marginality as Commons. UCLA School of Law. Williams Institute. Workshop Presentation. November 2011.

Blackness as Anti-Property. Reproduction of Race and Racial Ideologies Workshop. Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture at the University of Chicago. October 2011.

Lawrence v. Texas as an Eighth Amendment Case: Sodomy and the Evolving Standards of Decency. Crime and Punishment Workshop. University of Chicago Law School. February 22, 2008.

Towards a Conceptualization of Cosmopolitan Courts. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, regular session (sociology of law section). August 11, 2007.

Understanding Judicial Restraint. Guest lecture in course: Environmental Public Policy. University of Chicago. February 2005 and November 2006.

Health and Human Rights. Guest lecture in course: Human Rights III: Contemporary Issues in Human Rights. Human Rights Program. University of Chicago. May 21, 2003.

The Legal History of Affirmative Action: What's Really Going On? Panelist for Teach-In on the History, Context, and Importance of Affirmative Action. University of Chicago. May 15, 2003.

Grounding the Oscars: A Socio-Historical Understanding of Halle Berry's 2002 Academy Award for Best Actress. Panelist for The Oscars Revisited or Noche de los Negros, sponsored by the University of Chicago Race/Film Group. April 16, 2003.

Bathhouses as Commercial Sexual Landscapes. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, refereed round table on Sexualities, Space and Place (sexualities section). August 16, 2002.

The McDonalds of Gay Sex? Bathhouses and Globalization. Transnational Tools: Theories and Methodologies of Globalization conference (Fourth Annual Globalization Conference) sponsored by the University of Chicago. May 4, 2002.

Electronic Space and the Digital Divide: A Theoretical Look at the Issues and Borders Surrounding Inequality in Electronic Space. Panel entitled: Internet–Inner City. Envisioning Globalization conference (Third Annual Globalization Conference) sponsored by the University of Chicago. May 19, 2001.

Bush v. Gore: An Analysis of the Supreme Court Decision. Guest lecture in course: Symposium on Politics: What Can We Learn From the 2000 Election? Department of Political Science. University of Illinois at Chicago. February 20, 2001.

Legal but Persecuted: The State of Commercial Sex Work in Tanzania. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, refereed round table on Women, Identity and Law (sociology of law section). August 16, 2000.

The Regulation of Tobacco and Internet Vice: Prostitution, Gambling and Pornography. Guest lecture in The Regulation of Vice. Department of Economics. University of Chicago. Spring 2000 & 2001.

Commentator & Discussant

Commentator. Ending the War on Drugs & Stopping Fascism. Work presented by Steve Ramirez and andre cummings. ClassCrits XIV. Southwestern Law School. February 9, 2024.

Commentator, *Deal!* Book chapter by Michael Heller and James Salzman. UCLA/Colorado Works-in-Progress Environmental Workshop. UC Santa Barbara. August 11–12, 2022.

Commentator, *Gentrification and Interest Convergence Theory*. Paper by Jade Craig. Twelfth Annual John Mercer Langston Writing Workshop at UC Berkeley School of Law. July 8, 2021.

Commentator, *Critical Clinical Pedagogy: A Critical Theory of Clinical Legal Education*. Paper by Etienne C. Toussaint. Tenth Annual John Mercer Langston Writing Workshop at Howard University School of Law. July 19, 2019.

Commentator, *Medicalization and the New Civil Rights*. Paper by Craig Konnoth. Ninth Annual John Mercer Langston Writing Workshop at UCLA School of Law. July 6, 2018.

Commentator, *'Black Like Obama' Revisited: Partial Postracialism's Permanence*. Paper by Amos N. Jones. Eighth Annual John Mercer Langston Writing Workshop at Drexel University Thomas Kline School of Law. July 7–8, 2017.

Discussant, *Involuntary Heroes: Hurricane Katrina's Impact on Civil Liberties*. Book by Mitchell F. Crusto. Author Meets Reader panel at the annual meeting of the Law and Society Association in New Orleans, Louisiana. June 2016.

Discussant, *Mitigated Forms of Personhood as Death-defying Constructs: Race and Gender in the Case of Wanda Jean Allen*. Paper by Brackette F. Williams. The Reproduction of Race and Racial Ideologies Workshop. Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture at the University of Chicago. November 29, 2007.

Discussant, *From Jineteras to Raperas: Constructions of Race, Gender, and the Body in Cuba*. Mellon Dissertation Dialogues Roundtable. Washington University. June 12, 2004.

Discussant. "Can the US do anything about Sex Trafficking in Asia?" Paper by Victor Boutros, sponsored by the Human Rights Workshop. University of Chicago. May 8, 2002.

Panelist

Panelist. *The Obama Presidential Center, 10 Years in the Works: Revisiting the Pushback and Looking Ahead to Community Impact*. Sponsored by The Chicago Maroon. The Cloister Club, Ida Noyes Hall, University of Chicago. April 7, 2025.

Panelist. Responding to the Attack on DEI and Racial Justice Movements. Racial Justice at the Crossroads: A Summit to Situate the Moment and Shape the Future. DePaul University College of Law. April 19, 2024.

Panelist. 303 Creative Panel. Sponsored by Northwestern OUTLaw and the Office of DEI. Northwestern University School of Law. October 16, 2023.

Panelist. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, sponsored by the Black Law Students Association at Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University. February 19, 2019.

Panelist. *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin*, sponsored by the Black Law Students Association at Northwestern University School of Law. February 7, 2012.

CREATIVE WORKS

Music (as B.R.K.F.S.T.)

The Breakfast Years. EP. Independent release, 2025.

"With a Side of Fashion (It's Breakfast)." Single. Independent release, 2025. Accompanying music video directed by the author.

HONORS & AWARDS

- Outstanding 1L Professor of the Year, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, 2025–26
- Keynote Address, Loyola University Chicago School of Law Black Law Students Association Alumni Awards Brunch, 2024
- Truth, Justice, and Equality for All People Award, NAACP Northern Kentucky Branch, 2019

- Faculty Marshal, Whittier Law School (honor given to runner-up for Professor of the Year), 2015–16
- Lectureship in Race and Ethnic Studies, Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture at the University of Chicago, 2008–09
- Social Science Research Council, Mellon Mays Doctoral Research Grant, 2005
- International Studies Prize Lectureship, University of Chicago, 2004
- Mellon Dissertation Seminar Summer Fellow, 2004
- Human Rights Lectureship, University of Chicago, 2003
- University of Chicago Trustees Fellow, 1999–2005
- National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow Honorable Mention, 1996
- Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellow, 1994–1996
- Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholar, 1992–1996

UNIVERSITY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Committee Work

Loyola University Chicago School of Law

- Member, Dean’s Advisory Committee (2023–26), Library Committee (2023–24), Mission Integration Committee (2024–26), Technology Committee (2023–24), and Student Well-Being Workgroup (2023–24)

University of Baltimore School of Law

- Member, Student Life Committee (2020–23), Assessment Committee (2020–22), Curriculum Committee (2021–23), and Dean’s Advisory Council (2020–21)

Northern Kentucky University Chase College of Law

- Member, Faculty Appointments Committee (2019–20); Law Library Committee (2018–19)

Whittier Law School

- Chair, Curriculum Committee (2016–17)
- Member, Center for International and Comparative Law Committee (2013–14, 2017–18), Long Range Planning Committee (2013–17), Curriculum Committee (2014–15), Honor Board Committee (elected, 2014–18), Student Life (2016–17), Tenure, Retention, and Promotion Committee (elected, 2017–18)

Faculty Advising

Loyola University Chicago School of Law

- OUTLaw (2024–25)

University of Baltimore School of Law

- University of Baltimore Law Forum Journal (journal on Maryland law) (2022–23); OUTLaw (2022–23)

Northern Kentucky University Chase College of Law

- National Lawyers Guild Chase Student Chapter (2019–20)

Whittier Law School

- Black Law Students’ Association (2013–18), Federalist Society (2014–18), Iranian Law Students’ Association (2014–17), Armenian Law Students’ Association (2017–18)

Academic Organizations

- Association for Law, Property, and Society (ALPS): Treasurer (2025–26); Secretary (2024–25); Board Member (2021–24); Webmaster, alps-law.org (2023–present)

Civic Engagement

- Friends of the Parks, Board Member (2024–present)

Manuscript Review

- American Journal of Sociology; Law and Social Inquiry; American Quarterly; Journal of Law, Property, and Society