

CLARA J. POTTER

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

TULANE LAW SCHOOL, New Orleans, LA

***Clinical Assistant Professor, Tulane Environmental Law Clinic*, April 2023-present**

Supervise students on case teams representing individual clients and community groups in state and federal proceedings addressing a range of environmental issues impacting Louisiana communities' air and water. Cases include challenges to individual facility permitting under state and federal regulatory frameworks, challenges to individual land use approvals for industrial sites, civil rights actions targeting discriminatory industrial siting patterns, and objections to agency rulemakings.

***Supervisor, Tulane Non-Profit Externship Course*, Summer 2024**

Supervised student attorneys at non-profit externship placements across the country; edited student reflection papers and writing samples; provided professional development and career guidance.

SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER, ECONOMIC JUSTICE PROJECT, New Orleans, LA

***Staff Attorney*, September 2020-March 2023**

***Law Fellow*, September 2018-September 2020**

Develop and participate in community-driven litigation at the state and federal levels on behalf of individual clients, community groups, and classes of individuals across the Southeast, with a focus on discriminatory economic practices, such as those that criminalize poverty, target the homes and homelands of communities of color, and lead to the inequitable distribution of public benefits. Lead multi-person case teams by managing the deadline and administrative needs of cases, including ethical issues as they arise, and directing communications with co-counsel and opposing counsel. Research and draft court filings and participate in oral advocacy at the trial and appellate levels. Manage discovery, including drafting responses to written requests and taking and defending depositions. Maintain client relationships over the life of a case. Direct field investigations into developing issues using varied strategies including public records requests and court watching. Work with coalitions of community organizations to provide legal support, as requested. Participate in policy advocacy on issues such as the criminalization of homelessness and inequitable tax assessment policies. Supervise summer interns, including regular research and writing assistance and weekly supervision check-ins.

NYU LAW IMMIGRANT DEFENSE CLINIC, New York, NY

***Student Advocate*, January 2018-May 2018**

Represented clients in removal proceedings because of criminal convictions and immigration law violations.

NYU LAW PROFESSOR ERIN MURPHY, New York, NY

***Research Assistant*, January 2017-May 2018**

Researched the history of the civil rights struggle for voting rights and welfare reform, with an emphasis on assessing the legal construction of white privilege.

ACLU CRIMINAL LAW REFORM PROJECT, New York, NY

***Legal Intern*, June 2017-August 2017**

Researched caselaw and drafted memoranda in support of litigation about policing, bail reform, and the right to indigent defense. Traveled to states where active litigation was ongoing to conduct investigations and meet with clients.

NYU LAW RACIAL EQUITY STRATEGIES CLINIC, New York, NY

***Student Advocate, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund*, January 2017-May 2017**

Conducted legal writing, research, and fieldwork relating to policing, with an emphasis on restructuring excessive use of force policies. Participated in seminar about strategies to achieve racial and economic justice.

BROOKLYN DEFENDER SERVICES, SPECIAL LITIGATION UNIT, Brooklyn, NY

***Legal Intern*, September 2016-January 2017**

Researched topics related to deficiencies in the criminal justice system that affect clients, such as bail, court fees, and intersections between family and criminal court cases. Contributed to briefs to support impact advocacy on those topics.

THE BRONX DEFENDERS, CIVIL ACTION PRACTICE, Bronx, NY

Legal Intern, May 2016-August 2016

Met with clients to discuss housing and employment-related legal concerns. Conducted research relating to civil legal matters faced by clients, such as the deprivation of housing or employment. Assisted attorneys with document drafting and client intake. Contributed to impact and policy efforts relating to prosecutorial misconduct and the effect of drug policies on housing.

NYU LAW PROFESSOR HELEN HERSHKOFF, New York, NY

Research Assistant, May 2016-September 2016

Researched access to justice, with a focus on civil asset forfeiture, for Professor Hershkoff's publication, *The Rights of Poor and Low-Income People*.

EDUCATION

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, New York, NY

J.D., May 2018

Activities: Review of Law and Social Change, *Digital Articles Editor*
American Constitution Society, *Litigation Advocacy Committee Co-Chair*
REACH (Research Education and Advocacy to Combat Homelessness), *Fair Hearings Coordinator and Student Advocate*
SAFER (Student Advocates for Empowerment Through Harm Reduction), *Clinic Volunteer*

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, COLUMBIA COLLEGE, New York, NY

B.A. in Philosophy and German, *cum laude*, May 2012

Honors: Deutscher Verein Prize for Excellence in German Writing
German Departmental Honors

Activities: English Tutoring Program

Study Abroad: Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany, Spring 2011

PUBLICATIONS

The Slow Violence of Carbon Capture: How Federal Regulatory Gaps Embed Long-Term Risk in Environmental Justice Communities (work in progress, intended submission date February 2025).

Lauren E. Godshall and Clara Potter, *Renting at the edge of the World: how Climate Change Protections Are Failing Renters*, 74 WASH U JOURNAL OF LAW AND POL'Y 1.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

New Directions in Environmental Justice, April 2024

Presentation for the New Direction in Environmental Law Conference, NYU Law

If I am no for others, what am I? And if not now, when? March, 2024 (panelist)

Panel Discussion for the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers

Cancer Alley and Environmental Justice, March 2024, (panelist)

Panel Discussion for Tulane Environmental Law Summit

Environmental Justice Litigation in Louisiana, June 2024

Presentation for the annual retreat of the Southern Poverty Law Center

Legal Ethics in Environmental Litigation and Representation, March 2023, (co-presented with Professor Chris Dalbom)

CLE for the Tulane Environmental Law Summit

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Louisiana Bar, 2018-present

National Lawyers Guild, Louisiana Chapter, 2018-present

OTHER SKILLS

Fluent French, Advanced German