

Verna L. Williams  
University of Cincinnati College of Law

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## **Academic Experience**

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF LAW

CINCINNATI, OHIO

*Dean and Nippert Professor of Law*, April 2019 – present

*Interim Dean and Nippert Professor of Law*, May 2017 – April 2019

*Special Assistant to the Provost for the College of Law*, April 2017 – May 2017

*Judge Joseph P. Kinneary Professor of Law*, July 2013 – April 2017

*Professor*, August 2006 - 2013

*Associate Professor*, August 2004 – July 2006

*Assistant Professor*, July 2001 – July 2004

*Affiliate Professor*, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and Department of Africana Studies

*Co-Founder and Co-Director*, Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice

*Co-Director*, University of Cincinnati Joint Degree Program in Law and Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies

## **Courses Taught**

Constitutional Law

Juvenile Law

Gender and the Law

Title IX Seminar

Family Law

Directed Reading: Work, Family,  
and Gender

Recipient of Goldman Prize for Excellence in Teaching (2004, 2011)

## **Selected Publications**

"My Supreme Court Debut: Flattered, Excited, and Obligated," Law360.com, Oct. 4, 2017.

*Making Gender Visible: Title IX and Discriminatory School Discipline*, 6.1 TENN. J. OF RACE, GENDER, & SOC. JUSTICE 67 (2017)

*Guns, Race, and Sex: The Second Amendment through a Feminist Lens*, 83 TENN. L. REV. 983 (2017).

"Feminist Legal Theorizing about the Second Amendment," concurringopinions.com, August 2016.

"Nine to Five: A Mini-Treatise on Gender Discrimination at Work," concurringopinions.com, June 2016.

*The Patriarchy Prescription: Cure or Containment Strategy* 8 GEORGETOWN J. OF MODERN CRITICAL RACE PERSPECTIVES 61 (2016).

*Social Justice Feminism*, 18 UCLA WOMEN'S L. J. 131 (2010) (with Kristin Kalsem).

*The First (Black) Lady*, 86 DENVER U. L. REV. 833 (2009).

*Student-to-Student Harassment*, in THE PRINCIPAL'S LEGAL HANDBOOK (Kenneth Lane, Mark A. Gooden, Julie F. Mead, Patrick Pauken, and Suzanne Eckes, eds., 2008).

THE HEART OF THE GAME: *Putting Race and Educational Equity at the Center of Title IX*, 7 VA. SPORTS & ENT. L. J. 199 (2008) (with Deborah L. Brake).

*Reading, Writing, and Reparations: Systemic Reform of Public Schools as a Matter of Justice*, 11 MICH. J. OF RACE & L. 419 (2006).

*Private Choices, Public Consequences: Public Education and Feminist Legal Theory*, 12 WM. & MARY J. WOMEN & L. 563 (2006).

*On Being a Mentor*, 22 HARV. BLACKLETTER L.J. 127 (2006).

*Reform or Retrenchment: Single Sex Education and the Construction of Race and Gender*, 2004 WIS. L. REV. 15.

*Symposium Introduction: Women's Work is Never Done: Employment, Family, and Activism*, 73 U. CIN. L. REV. 361 (2004) (symposium) (with Kristin Brandser Kalsem).

*Founder and contributing editor*, UC Social Justice Blog, available at <https://ucsocialjustice.com/>.

### ***Work- in-Progress:***

Book manuscript: *Scars and Stripes: A Memoir of Race, Gender, and Social Justice*

### **Selected Presentations, Conferences, Symposia, Meetings**

#### **Convening: Is Separation the Solution? The Theory and Practice of Gender-Based School Reforms for At-Risk Students of Color**

Panelist: "Intersectionality and Educational Equality: Single-Sex Education," UCLA School of Law, May 2016

#### **Ninth Annual Feminist Legal Theory Conference**

Panelist: "Considering Criminalization and Gun Control through a Gender Lens," University of Baltimore School of Law, March 2016.

#### **Ninth Annual Lutie Lytle Black Law Faculty Writing Workshop**

*Work-in-Progress:* "Gun Safety as a Matter of Reproductive Justice," Vanderbilt University, July 2015.

**“The Moynihan Report: 50 Years Later,” Georgetown Journal of Law & Modern Critical Race Perspectives Symposium**

Panelist: “The Black Family,” Georgetown University Law Center, February 2014.

**Conversation with Olympia Snowe**

Moderator and Interviewer: The Women's Fund of Greater Cincinnati, March 2014.

**Feminism and Human Rights Meeting**

*Invited Participant*, Pauli Murray Project and Duke Human Rights Center, Duke University, June 2013 and October 2012.

**Women's Economic Justice Roundtable**

*Invited Participant*, Ford Foundation, January 2013.

**"Does Reparations Have a Future? Rethinking Racial Justice in a "Color-Blind" Era: A Multi-Disciplinary Symposium**

*Panelist*: "Reparations and the University," University of Virginia, Carter G. Woodson Institute, March 2013.

**Keynote address**, "Walking the Line: When the First Lady is a Lawyer," Lena O. Smith Luncheon of the Minnesota Black Women Lawyers, Minneapolis, Minnesota; April 2011.

**Keynote address**, "The First (Black) Lady, 2010 Midwest Regional Bankruptcy Seminar, Cincinnati, Ohio, August 2010.

**Intersectionality: Challenging Theory, Reframing Politics, Transforming Movements**

*Panelist*: "Intersectionality in Action: Social Justice Feminism," (with Kristin Kalsem), March 2010.

**Obama Phenomena: Facets of a Historic Campaign**

*Panelist*: "The First (Black) Lady," University of Denver Sturm College of Law, August 2008

**Eleventh Annual Conference for the Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities**

*Panelist*: "Social Justice Feminism: Movements, Theory, and Practice," University of California, Berkeley School of Law (with Kristin Kalsem), March 2008.

**American Association of Law Schools Conference**

*Panelist*: "The Heart of the Game: Putting Race and Educational Equity at the Center of Title IX," (with Deborah Brake), January 2008.

**Reconstructions: Historical Consciousness and Critical Transformation,**

*Moderator*: "Reconstructed Histories," University of Cincinnati College of Law, October 2007.

**Twelfth Annual Latino/a Critical Race Theory Conference**

*Panelist*: "Critical Pedagogy," Faculty Development Workshop, Florida International University, October 2007.

**Changing Social Norms? Title IX and Legal Activism: Harvard Journal of Law and Gender Conference**

*Panelist*: "Title IX, Sexual Harassment, and Social Justice Feminism," Harvard Law School. Excerpts published in 31 HARV. J.L. & GENDER 378, 391 (2008), April 2007.

**Sticky Cultural Norms: The Transformative Potential of Title IX**

*Panelist:* "Title IX and Social Justice Feminism," Hofstra University School of Law, April 2007.

**Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference**

*Panelist:* "Private Choices, Public Consequences: Examining Public Education Reform through a Feminist Lens," University of New Mexico School of Law, April 2006.

**University of Cincinnati Scholar Exchange Program**

*Presenter:* work-in-progress, "Education Reform and Feminist Legal Theory, Chicago-Kent School of Law," February 2005.

**Tenth Annual Latina/o Critical Race Theory Conference**

*Panelist:* "Reading, Writing, and Reparations: Systemic Reform of Public Education as a Matter of Justice," Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, School of Law, October 2005.

**University of Cincinnati Scholar Exchange Program**

*Presenter:* work-in-progress, "More than a Paycheck: Education Reform as a Means of Reparations," University of Maryland School of Law, September 2004.

**Ninth Annual Latina/o Critical Race Theory Conference**

*Panelist:* "Reform or Retrenchment? Single Sex Education and the Construction of Race and Gender," Villanova Law School, April 2004.

**Speaker Series: Equity and Opportunities for Women: Initiatives in Law and Public Policy**

*Keynote:* "Single Sex Education and the Construction of Race and Gender Hierarchies," University of Tennessee, April 2004.

**Law, Culture, and Humanities Conference**

*Panelist:* "Reform or Retrenchment? Single Sex Education and the Construction of Race and Gender," March 2004.

**Title IX and Gender Equity in Education: The Unfinished Agenda**

*Presenter:* "Single Sex Education and the Bush Administration," University of Pittsburgh School of Law, March 2004.

**Law, Ethics, and Affirmative Action: A Symposium**

*Panelist:* "*Grutter v. Bollinger*: The Promise of the Anti-Subordination Principle," University of Cincinnati College of Law, October 2003.

**Exploring Key Concepts in Feminist Legal Theory: Race and Ethnicity**

*Panelist:* "Reform or Retrenchment? Single Sex Education and the Construction of Race and Gender," Cornell Law School, September 2003.

**"The Formal Equality Trap: Considering Race in Admissions"**

*Keynote:* Western Michigan University School of Social Work, April 2002.

**"The Push for Single Sex Education: Implications for Gender Equity"**

*Keynote:* Colorado State University, November 2002.

**“A Fly in the Buttermilk: Reflections on Gender, Race, and Diversity”**

University of Pittsburgh School of Law, November 2001.

**“Integration as a Compelling State Interest”**

Moot court presentation concerning *Grutter v. Bollinger*, University of Cincinnati College of Law, October 2001.

**College, University, and Community Service**

**College Service:**

- Co-Director, Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice (2010 – present)
- Member, Academic Policy Committee (2016-17, 2014-15)
- Chair, Review Panel for Seed Funding Grants (2015) (Appointed by President Santa Ono)
- Chair, Appointments Committee (2010-11)
- Member, Appointments Committee (2013-14; 2011-12, 2006-07)
- Member, Dean’s Advisory Committee (2013-14; 2009-10; 2007-08)
- Chair, Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure Committee (2009-10)
- Member, Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure Committee (2007-08)
- Co-chair, Committee on the Joint Degree Program in Law and Women Studies (2001-present)
- Faculty Advisor to FREEDOM CENTER JOURNAL (2006–08)
- Conference Organizer, *Women Coming Together: Claiming the Law for Social Change*, conference funded by the Ford Foundation and presented in February 2005
- Faculty Advisor to Black Law Students Association (2003 – present)
- Member, Diversity Committee (2005-07)
- Member, Committee on the Honor Council (2003-05)
- Member, Committee on Student Petitions (2002-03)

**University Service:**

- Faculty Advisory Board, UC Press (2017 – present) (appointed by Provost Kristi Nelson)
- Dean Search Committee (2014-15)(elected)
- External Mentor, New Faculty Institute, Center for Teaching and Learning (2012-15)
- Provostal Committee on Teaching Excellence (2012) (appointed by Provost Santa Ono)
- Provost Search Committee (2010) (appointed by President Gregory Williams)
- Faculty Senate (2005-06)

**Community Service:**

- Vice-Chair, Task Force on the Ohio Bar Examination (Appointed by Ohio Supreme Court Justice Maureen O’Connor) (2017-2018)
- Board of Directors, Ms. Foundation (2008- 2016)
- Leadership Council, Women’s Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation (2008 – 2012)
- Consultant to the Ford Foundation (July 2003-2007)

**EDUCATION**

**HARVARD LAW SCHOOL**

J.D., *cum laude*, 1988

**CAMBRIDGE, MA**

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY**

B.S. Spanish, *cum laude*, 1982

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**Vice President and Director of Educational Opportunities.** Successfully argued *Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education*, Supreme Court litigation establishing obligation of educational institutions to address student-to-student sexual harassment under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Responsible for development and administration of education project, including policy and legislative analysis, litigation, and developing public education materials. 1998-June 2001.

**Senior Counsel** in areas of education, employment, health care, civil rights, and income security. 1993–1998.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**Special Assistant, Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices.**

Assisted Special Counsel in administration of office; designed and coordinated procedure for selection and administration of public information grants; prepared testimony and speeches for Special Counsel. 1992-1993.

**Trial Attorney, Voting Rights Section, Civil Rights Division.** 1991 - 1992

**SIDLEY AUSTIN, LLP**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**Associate in Regulatory Litigation Group.** Primary area of practice: Communications Law. 1989 – 1991.

Admitted to Practice in Washington, D.C., and Massachusetts; United States Supreme Court; First and Eleventh Circuit Courts of Appeal.

**REFERENCES**

Mary Asbury  
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Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati  
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Peter Landgren  
President  
University of Cincinnati Foundation  
513-556-6703  
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