

Ascanio Piomelli

Associate Dean for Experiential Learning and Professor of Law at UC Hastings College of the Law
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Biography

Professor Ascanio Piomelli serves as Associate Dean for Experiential Learning, directs the Community Group Advocacy & Social Change Lawyering Clinic, teaches the Individual Representation and the Community Economic Development Clinic, and is the faculty advisor of the Social Justice Lawyering Concentration. His scholarship centers on efforts by attorneys and other activists to foster progressive social change. He explores the models of lawyering and social change informing such work, the relationships between lawyers, clients, and communities, and the impact of race, class, and gender on those efforts. He is a leading exponent and analyst of a “collaborative,” “rebellious,” or what he and others label a “democratic” approach to social-change lawyering—in which lawyers work with, rather than on behalf of, clients and communities to collectively press for social change. His work has explored the participatory democratic vision, values, and practices that underlie such efforts.

He attended Stanford University, A.B. History (1982), and Stanford Law School, J.D. (1985). Before joining UC Hastings in 1992 to help launch the Civil Justice Clinic (now the Community Justice Clinics), he worked as a legal services attorney in Fresno, California, where he litigated on behalf of low-income workers and tenants. He also served as an attorney and later executive director of the East Palo Alto Community Law Project, then Stanford Law School’s primary clinical outplacement. There he worked to enforce the city’s rent stabilization law, improve housing conditions, and facilitate citizen participation in local land-use decisions—as part of community efforts to resist gentrification and residential displacement.

Professor Piomelli lives in San Francisco with his spouse, Joanne Lee, and their daughters. His passions include food, baseball, and jazz.

Expertise

Education/Learning, Legal Services

Areas of Expertise

Social-Change Lawyering, Clinical Legal Education, Community Legal Services, Wage & Hour Law, Community Group Advocacy, Community Economic Development, Democratic Participation, Rebellious Lawyering, Community Lawyering, Democratic Lawyering, Gentrification/Displacement

Affiliations

The Clinical Law Review : Board of Editors, Supreme Court of California : Bar Admission

Event Appearances

Lawyering Toward Our Ideals
IU Access to Justice Speaker Series

Opening Address, What's the G? Gentrification and the Myth of Fair Housing
UC Hastings Race & Poverty Law Journal Symposium

Community Engagement: Rewards and Challenges for Us as Lawyers, Teachers, Scholars, and Citizens
AALS Clinical Conference

Sensibilities for Social Justice Lawyers
Panel on Teaching and Practicing 21st Century Social Justice Lawyering. Conference on Representing the Vulnerable and Remembering Ralph Abacal: Lessons from the 1970s

Pointers and Perspectives on Scholarly Productivity (with Prof. Mae Quinn)
Clinical Law Review Writers Workshop

Strategies for Effectively Integrating Scholarship into Clinicians' Professional Lives (with Prof. Kate Kruse)
AALS Workshop for New Clinical Teachers

The Challenge of Democratic Laweyring
Symposium: The Lawyer's Role in a Contemporary Democracy, Louise Stein Center for Law & Ethics

Cross-Cultural Lawyering
Panel Presentation, Rebellious Lawyering Conference

Developing Clinical Scholarship
Indian Law Clinical Symposium

Essential Topics in Teaching Interviewing and Counseling: Criteria for Selecting Topics and Methods
Opening Plenary Panel Presentation, UCLA/BYU Conference on the Pedagogy of Interviewing and Counseling

Education

Stanford Law School
J.D. Law

Stanford University
A.B. History

Accomplishments

UC Hastings 1066 Foundation Faculty Award
for scholarly excellence

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