

Gail Silverstein

Clinical Professor of Law at UC Hastings College of the Law

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Biography

Professor Gail Silverstein graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, B.A. (1995); and UC Berkeley School of Law, J.D. (1999). After finishing law school, where she was awarded the annual public service award, Professor Silverstein was the recipient of a public interest fellowship sponsored by the firm formerly known as Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro to work on a special project advising federal disability benefits recipients on the legalities of returning to work.

After her fellowship, Professor Silverstein joined East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC), a community-based clinic of Berkeley Law and the largest provider of free legal services in the East Bay. During her tenure at EBCLC, she was a staff attorney and clinical supervisor in the HIV/AIDS unit, specializing in legal services to women and children in a variety of civil matters. In this position, she was also Chair of the Executive Committee of the Family Care Network, a multi-disciplinary group of AIDS service providers.

At UC Hastings, Professor Silverstein co-directs and co-teaches Individual Representation Clinic and Mediation Clinic. She has litigated in the areas of state and federal public benefits, employment, housing, and “clean slate” law. She represents clients in state court and at state and federal administrative hearings. Professor Silverstein has also mediated hundreds of cases and has developed expertise in housing and employment discrimination and retaliation matters, workplace disputes, and small claims court matters.

When not supporting students in their litigation and mediation skills, you can also find her working on scholarship and innovative pedagogical modalities regarding the attorney-client relationship and professional identity formation, being a faculty advisor, convening local Social Security disability representatives, and participating in the AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education and ABA Section on Dispute Resolution.

Professor Silverstein is an active member of her community. She is an honorary director of the Berkeley Law Foundation, a post-law school public interest fellowship funder. In the recent past, Professor Silverstein served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Disease (WORLD), a women’s HIV/AIDS advocacy organization. She lives in Berkeley with her husband, two young children, and cat. She enjoys chocolate, podcasts, running and yoga.

Expertise

Education/Learning, Legal Services

Areas of Expertise

Public Interest Law, Clinical Teaching, Individual Representation, Mediation, Ethics in Practice

Affiliations

AALS : Clinical Section, Clinical Legal Education Association : Member, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Northern California : Member, Social Security Claimants' Representatives (SSCR), San Francisco Chapter : Member, Bay Area Social Security Claimants' Representatives (BASSCR) : Member, American Bar Association, Section on Dispute Resolution : Member, State Bar of California : Member

Event Appearances

Presenter, "Effectively Managing Our Own and Our Students' Emotions in This Political Moment,"
Northern California Clinician's Conference

Invited speaker, Relationship-centered Legal Approaches

Conference on Relationship-centered Approaches to Training and Practice Across Disciplines, UC Cooperative Extension

Moderator "Gentrification and Vulnerable Populations,"

Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal's conference on Gentrification

Invited speaker, "Thirty-minute Mediation,"

SEEDS Community Resolution Center

Becoming a Better Clinician by Integrating Mindfulness Practices into Your Clinical Seminar

AALS Clinical Conference

Integration of Policy Work in Clinics (Moderator)

Northern California Clinician's Conference

Real Solutions from the Ground Up

Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal Conference on Health Care Access and the Affordable Care Act

Teaching of Mediation Ethics Post-Cassel v. Superior Court of Los Angeles,

Northern California ADR Professors' Conference

Mediation in Management-Employee Disputes

Human Resources Managers' Monthly Group Meeting

Invited Speaker

Relationship-centered Legal Approaches, Relational Engagement on Climate Change & Other Contentious Issues

Presenter, Making it Explicit: Introducing and Engaging Students in Professional Identity Development

2018 Northern California Clinical Conference

Presenter, Advancing Social Justice through ADR
2018 ABA Section on Dispute Resolution Annual Conference

Presenter, Teaching the Whole Lawyer: Deliberate, Mindful and Culturally Conscious Professional Identity Formation
2018 AALS Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education

Education

University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law
J.D. Law

University of Michigan
B.A. Spanish Literature

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