

# **Joan C. Williams**

**Distinguished Professor of Law, UC Hastings Foundation Chair and Director of the Center for WorkLife Law at UC Hastings College of the Law**

San Francisco, CA, US

Contacts: williams@uchastings.edu / 415-565-4706 / Office 402-100

---

## **Biography**

Described as having "something approaching rock star status" in her field by The New York Times Magazine, Joan C. Williams has played a central role in reshaping the conversation about work, gender, and class over the past quarter century. Williams is a Distinguished Professor of Law, Hastings Foundation Chair, and Founding Director of the Center for WorkLife Law at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

Williams' path-breaking work helped create the field of work-family studies and modern workplace flexibility policies.

Williams' 2014 book *What Works for Women at Work* (co-written with daughter Rachel Dempsey) was praised by The New York Times Book Review: "Deftly combining sociological research with a more casual narrative style, *What Works for Women at Work* offers unabashedly straightforward advice in a how-to primer for ambitious women." Following its success, Sheryl Sandberg and LeanIn.org asked Joan to create short videos sharing the strategies discussed in the book. The videos have been downloaded over 975,000 times and are featured by Virgin Airlines as in-flight entertainment, seen literally around the world. Most recently, Williams co-authored a workbook companion to *What Works for Women at Work*, available now from NYU Press.

Williams founded Gender Bias Bingo, a web-based project aimed at providing information and tools on gender bias to professors. Williams has explored the parallels and differences between gender and racial bias in two reports. The first, "Double Jeopardy? Gender Bias Against Women in Science" has been shared over 40,000 times in the media, and the second, "Climate Control? Gender and Racial Bias in Engineering" was co-authored by the Society for Women Engineers and surveyed over 3,000 engineers.

Williams is one of the 10 most cited scholars in her field. She has authored 11 books, over 90 academic articles, and her work has been covered in publications from Oprah Magazine to The Atlantic. Her awards include the Families and Work Institute's Work Life Legacy Award (2014), the American Bar Foundation's Outstanding Scholar Award (2012), and the ABA's Margaret Brent Women Award for Lawyers of Achievement (2006). In 2008, she gave the Massey Lectures in the History of American Civilization at Harvard. Her Harvard Business Review article, "What So Many People Don't Get About the U.S. Working Class" has been read over 3.7 million times and is now the most read article in HBR's 90-plus year history.

---

## **Expertise**

Education/Learning, Legal Services

---

## **Areas of Expertise**

Property Law, Feminist Legal Theory, Work Life Balance, Gender and Sexuality in the Law, Work Conflict

---

## **Affiliations**

WorkLife Law : Founding Director

---

## **Event Appearances**

**What Works for Women at Work: How to Spit Subtle Bias, and How to Eliminate It**  
Invited Talk

### **Managing Department Climate Change**

8th Annual Grantee Meeting for the National Science Foundation (NSF) ADVANCE Program

### **Work-Family Conflict and What To Do About It**

Sloan Work-Life Speaker Series

### **Keynote Speaker**

Denise D. Denton Distinguished Lecture

### **Want a Great Work/Life Balance? Go for It: Individual and Institutional Solutions**

Breakthroughs and Barriers: Gender in Academia, The Women Faculty Forum 2009 Lecture Series

---

## **Education**

### **Harvard Law School**

J.D. Law

### **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

M.A. City Planning

### **Yale University**

B.A. History

---

## **Accomplishments**

### **Work Life Legacy Award**

Awarded by the Families and Work Institute.

### **Hastings Visionary Award**

Awarded by The University of California at Hastings.

### **Outstanding Scholar Award**

Awarded by the American Bar Foundation.

---

[Please click here to view the full profile.](#)

This profile was created by [Expertfile.](#)