

KAVITHA LAKSHMI IYENGAR, JD

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

J.D. Earned May 2020 and PhD Candidate in Jurisprudence and Social Policy, May 2023

CA Bar, October 2020

Activities: Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law (BJELL); Berkeley Law Organizing Collective (BLOC); National Lawyers Guild (NLG); Women of Color Collective (WOCC); Coalition for Diversity (CFD); Law and Contemporary Theory Reading Group; Black American History Seminar.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR

B.A. with Highest Distinction May 2015, Honors in American Culture and Spanish

Programs of Study: GPA 4.0; Majors American Culture & Spanish, Minor in Moral and Political Philosophy

Activities: ESL Instructor; Gregory House Cooperative President; South Asian Awareness Network; Study Abroad in Havana, Cuba and completed all coursework in Spanish.

Honors: James B. Angell Scholar; Phi Beta Kappa; American Culture Departmental Writing Award

EXPERIENCE

UAW2865 STUDENT WORKERS UNION

Sep. 2016 – Present

Legal Lead. I serve on elected leadership for our statewide union, representing all readers, tutors, and graduate student instructors at UC's nine teaching campuses for over four years. Across the state I now co-coordinate grievances and have developed a statewide grievance tracking system, have trained grievance handlers across the state, represent the Union in mediations and arbitrations, represent the Union at the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB), and represent the Union and associated UAW union in contract negotiations with the University.

TAUGHT WITH DR. TOMLINS, DR. BRILLIANT, DR. KUTZ and DR. BROWN

Aug. 2016-Present

Graduate Student Instructor. I am currently teaching a course on American Legal and Constitutional History. I co-taught "Theories of Justice," "Wall Street/Main Street," "Youth, Crime, and Culture," "Theories of Law and Society" and "Making Empire: Law and Colonization of the Early Americas". I have lectured, produced discussion material, led writing tutorials and review sessions, and encouraged collective student engagement while co-teaching these courses.

OPEN DOOR LEGAL

May 2018-Aug. 2018

Employment Law Intern. Last summer I worked at Open Door Legal in San Francisco and worked with residents of the Bayview neighborhood. I supported intakes, filed wage and hour complaints with the DLSE, drafted discrimination complaints for DFEH, and wrote legal memos/did research for ODL's internal database on disability discrimination and reasonable accommodations in employment.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH WITH DR. PENNINGROTH AND DR. TANI

Jan 2016 – Present

Research Assistant. I helped to collect court cases from five states' federal and state courts and law review articles from major law reviews to conduct textual analysis of these documents with Python for a history project about African Americans' relationship to civil rights from 1800-1970; I compiled bibliographies and read and summarized literatures about symbolic compliance in employment and sexual violence; I edited an article historically contextualizing Title IX in colleges and universities; I read through and catalogued primary source materials about disability rights activists and access and navigation of state welfare benefit schemes.

TAUGHT ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

2011-Aug. 2017

Instructor. I have taught English as a Second Language classes to adults through SEIU in Fruitvale most recently, to children in Cuba, and to adults and High Schoolers in Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, Michigan.

WRITING RESEARCH WITH PROFESSOR JONATHAN MARSHALL **Aug. 2015 – May 2016**
Research Assistant. Funded through a Center for Teaching and Learning Grant, I researched best practices to teach writing, interviewed faculty in legal studies to evaluate our current practices, and compared our practices to similar programs across the university and country to evaluate our department’s writing program.

EDITING WITH PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER KUTZ **Aug. 2015**
Research Assistant. I worked with Professor Christopher Kutz to copy edit his book *On War and Democracy*.

CHICANA POR MI RAZA **Aug. 2012-May 2015**
Research Assistant. I worked with Professor Maria Cotera at the University of Michigan to organize and digitize Chicana feminists’ personal archives on a web-based database, attended conferences and conducted oral histories, transcribed interviews and wrote biographies/timelines for the project.

FOOD SERVICES **2011-2014**
I worked at BurgerFi in Ann Arbor, Michigan and as a University Food Services Worker in Residential Dining Services at the University of Michigan. I held twelve different positions while working in these two facilities.

ACTIVITIES

BERKELEY JOURNAL OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR LAW **Aug. 2017 – Present**
Community Coordinator and Symposium Editor. I founded and have served as BJELL’s Community Coordinator for two years to connect the journal to labor and employment organizations in the Bay Area. BJELL’s 2017 symposium, “The Age Discrimination in Employment Act at 50: Silver Anniversary or Midlife Crisis?” will be published in BJELL’s 2018 edition. I coordinated hosting the symposium with the AARP in November 2017 and as we go into its publication phase, I will write an introductory note to the journal edition.

BERKELEY LAW AND ORGANIZING COLLECTIVE **Aug. 2018 – Present**
Coordinator. The Berkeley Law and Organizing Collective is a Student-Initiated Legal Services Project (SLP) that first year law students participate in to supplement their course work and begin to get first-hand experience in the legal world. BLOC runs grievance support and contract enforcement projects for UAW 2865.

READING GROUPS **Aug. 2015- August 2018**
Facilitator. I co-facilitate the Law and Contemporary Theory Reading Group with Professor Marianne Constable at UC Berkeley and help to run the Black American History Seminar with history graduate students.

ORGANIZING FOR AMERICA **Summer 2012**
Fellow. I interned for the Obama Campaign in the Lansing, MI field office. I was tasked with registering and canvassing voters full-time and maintained a region-wide database.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- “The Venceremos Brigade: North Americans in Cuba since 1969,” *International Journal of Cuban Studies*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (Winter 2015), pp. 236-264.
- "Recent Cases: Janus v. AFSCME," *Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law*, Vol. 40, No.1 (2019), pp.181-200;
- "Status and Insecurity in the Modern Workplace," *New Labor Forum*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (June 2021), pp. 112-122.
- Working Project: “The San Francisco *Elevator*: Participatory Legal Culture and Race Politics in a Black San Francisco Newspaper”

OTHER INFORMATION

- Highly Proficient in Spanish after studying Spanish and living in Cuba for six months
- Certified yoga instructor and learn to swim instructor