

Laura Oren
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EDUCATION:

University of Houston Law Center
J.D., December 1980 (first in class)

Yale University
Ph.D. in History, December 1974
M.Phil. in History, June 1969

Queens College
B.A., Magna Cum Laude, June 1966

OTHER CERTIFICATION:

A.A. White Dispute Resolution Center
Certificate in Basic Mediation Training, June 2012

EMPLOYMENT:

2014- Professor Emerita University of Houston Law Center

2005-2013, Law Foundation Professor of Law

2006-2010, Co-Director, Center for Children, Law & Policy at the University of Houston Law Center

1997-2005, Professor of Law, University of Houston Law Center

1986-97, Associate Professor of Law, University of Houston Law Center

1981-86, private practice of law

1977, Visiting Assistant Professor of History,
University of Houston/University Park

1976, Visiting Assistant Professor of History,
University of Houston/ Clear Lake City

1975-1976, Visiting Instructor, Lee College, Baytown

1971-1974, Assistant Professor of History,
University of Rochester

HONORS AND AWARDS:

National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, elected 1998

Foundation Medal for Academic Achievement, awarded by the University of Houston Law Foundation for the highest academic achievement in 1981.

Recognized for earning second highest score in the state on the Texas Bar exam, 1981.

1980, Federal Bar Association Award for the highest scholastic achievement in constitutional law.

Order of the Barons.

Associate Editor, HOUSTON LAW REVIEW.

Best Brief, John Black Freshman Moot Court Competition, 1978.

Research Fellow of the Center for Research on Women at Wellesley College, grant for research travel to England, 1977.

"Outstanding Women of the Year" Award from the Houston Chapter of the American Association of University Women, 1976 (recognized as founding member and first president of the Houston Area Feminist Credit Union).

Woodrow Wilson Fellowship.

Sterling Junior Fellowship (Yale University).

Phi Beta Kappa; Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society (President of the Queens College Chapter); Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society.

PUBLICATIONS:

"No-Fault Divorce Reform in the 1950s: The Lost History of the 'Greatest Project' of the National Association of Women Lawyers," 36 LAW & HIST. REV. 847-890 (2018). On-Line: LAW & HIST. REV. 1-44. Doi:10.1017/S0738248018000172.

"*DeShaney* and 'State-Created Danger': Does the Exception Make the 'No-Duty' Rule?" 35 ADMIN. & REGUL. L.NEWS 3-6 (2010).

"*Feminist Jurisprudence and Child-Centered Jurisprudence: Historical Origins and Current Developments*," (with Ellen Marrus) (Introduction to Symposium on Child-

Centered Jurisprudence and Feminist Jurisprudence: Exploring the Connections and Tensions), 46 HOU.L.REV.671 (2009).

“*True Mentoring: Lessons Learned from Professor Irene Merker Rosenberg*,” 46 HOU.L.REV. 664 (2009) (Tribute to Irene Rosenberg).

Children and Disasters: Child Evacuation in World War II and Public Policy in Great Britain, in CHILDREN AND DISASTERS: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM THE HURRICANES OF 2005? (Howard Davidson, Ellen Marrus, & Laura Oren, eds., 2008).

CHILDREN AND DISASTERS: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM THE HURRICANES OF 2005? (Laura Oren, ed., with Howard Davidson & Ellen Marrus, 2008).

Unmarried Fathers and Adoption: “Perfecting” or “Abandoning” an Opportunity Interest, 36 CAPITAL LAW REVIEW 253 (2007).

Some Thoughts on the State-Created Danger Doctrine: DeShaney is Still Wrong and Castle Rock is More of the Same, 16 TEMPLE POL. & CIV. R. L. REV. 47 (2007).

Thwarted Fathers or Pop-Up Pops? How to Determine When Putative Fathers Can Block the Adoption of Their Newborn Children, 40 FAM. L.Q. 153-190 (2006).

Honor Thy Mother?: the Supreme Court’s Jurisprudence of Motherhood, 17 HASTINGS WOMEN’S L. J. 187-226 (2006).

Civil Rights (42 U.S.C. §1983), 37 TEXAS TECH L.REV.707-727 (2005).

Safari Into the Snake Pit: The State-Created Danger Doctrine, 13 WM & MARY BILL OF RIGHTS J. 1139-1191 (2005). [Reprinted in part in MANDELKER, *et. al.*, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN A FEDERAL SYSTEM (2010).]

The Paradox of Unmarried Fathers and the Constitution: Biology “Plus” Defines Relationships; Biology Alone Safeguards the Public Fisc, 11 WM. & MARY J. OF WOMEN AND THE LAW 47-129 (2004).

Civil Rights (42 U.S.C. §1983), 35 TEXAS TECH L.REV.621-654 (2004).

Professor Yale Rosenberg, ha Moreh shel li, 39 HOU.L.REV. 892 (2002) (In Memoriam).

Righting Child Custody Wrongs: The Children of the ‘Disappeared’ in Argentina, 14 HARVARD HUMAN RIGHTS JOURNAL 123-195 (2001).

Marriage, in HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY, SECOND EDITION, edited by Angela Howard and Frances M. Kavenik (2000).

Divorce, in HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY, SECOND EDITION, ed. by Angela Howard and Frances M. Kavenik (2000).

If Monell Were Reconsidered: Sexual Abuse and the Scope-of-Employment Doctrine in the Common Law [Symposium on Reconsidering *Monell's* Limitation Upon Municipal Liability for Civil Rights Violations], 31 URB. LAW. 527-552 (1999).

Section 1983 and Sex Abuse in Schools: Making a Federal Case Out of It [Symposium on Constitutional Torts and Federalism, issue edited by Sheldon Nahmod, Distinguished Professor of Law, Chicago-Kent State College of Law], 72 CHICAGO-KENT LAW REVIEW 747-818 (1997).

'Protection,' Patriarchy and Capitalism: The Politics and Theory of Gender-Specific Regulation in the Workplace [Symposium on Institutional Barriers to Women in the Workplace], 6 UCLA WOMEN'S LAW JOURNAL 321-373 (1996).

In Memory of Gilbert L. Finnell, Jr., Teacher 'Par Excellence,' 31 HOU.L.REV. 1353 (1995) (In Memoriam).

Feminist Jurisprudence: What It is; How We Affect It; How it Affects Us, State Bar of Texas, Advanced Women and the Law Course, Continuing Legal Education Coursebook (April 28, 1995).

The State's Failure to Protect Children and Substantive Due Process: DeShaney in Context, reprinted (in part) in DAVID WESTFALL, FAMILY LAW (West, 1994).

[Book Review] of Carol Smith, *Regulating Womanhood: Historical Essays on Marriage, Motherhood, and Sexuality*, 5 GENDER AND HISTORY 141 (1993).

Signing Into Heaven: Zinermon v. Burch, Federal Rights, and State Remedies Thirty Years After Monroe v. Pape, 40 EMORY LAW JOURNAL 1-75 (Winter 1991).

DeShaney's Unfinished Business: The Foster Child's Due Process Right to Safety, 69 NORTH CAROLINA LAW REVIEW 113-158 (November 1990).

The State's Failure to Protect Children and Substantive Due Process: DeShaney in Context, 68 NORTH CAROLINA LAW REVIEW 659-731 (1990)

Immunity and Accountability in Civil Rights Litigation--Who Should Pay?, 50 UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH LAW REVIEW 935-1008 (1989)

Marriage, in A HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY, ed. by A. Zophy (1990)

Divorce, in A HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY, ed. by A. Zophy (1990).

Comment, *The Legal Status of Undocumented Aliens: In Search of a Consistent Theory*, 16 HOUSTON LAW REVIEW 667-709 (1979). This comment was cited by the court in deciding *In re Alien Children Education Litigation*, 501 F.Supp.544 (S.D. Tex. 1980) and was republished in 4 IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY LAW REVIEW 455 (1980-1981).

The Welfare of Women in Laboring Families: England, 1860-1950, in CLIO'S CONSCIOUSNESS RAISED: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE HISTORY OF WOMEN (M. Hartman and L.W. Banner, eds., 1974), also published in 1 FEMINIST STUDIES 107-125 (Winter-Spring 1973).

Annie (Wood) Besant, in BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF MODERN BRITISH RADICALS, Volume III, 1870-1914 (N. Gossman and J.O. Baylen, eds., 1983)

Book Review of S. Lewenhak, WOMEN AND TRADE UNIONS, in AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW (October 1978)

Book Review of R. Quinault and J. Stevenson, eds., POPULAR PROTEST AND PUBLIC ORDER, in VICTORIAN STUDIES (Winter 1977)

The Lady and the South, SISTER, Vol. V, #6 (June 1976) (for special issue on "Using History").

Sound Recordings:

(With Gelfand, David M.). "*Reconsidering Monell*," (Millersville, MD: Recorded Resources Corp. 1999).

WORK IN PROGRESS:

'EXCLUDED RACES' AND 'SEPARATE SPHERES': THE CONSTITUTION AND RACIAL AND GENDER JUSTICE

OTHER WORKS:

Ph.D. dissertation for Yale University, *The Problem of Casual Labor and the Origins of the Welfare State in England, 1889-1914* (early welfare legislation, urban poverty, and the dock industry in England).

Poor Joshua book review

"Here the U.S. is Again at the Edge of the 'Ugly Abyss of Racism,'" *Houston Chronicle*

July 5, 2017

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Oren-Here-the-U-S-is-again-at-the-edge-of-the-11268350.php>

“Family Separations Not Our Finest Hour,” *Houston Chronicle* July 10, 2018

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Family-separations-not-our-finest-hour-Opinion-13061204.php>

“What’s Wrong with ‘Chain Immigration’?” *Houston Chronicle* March 13, 2018, Local,

Gray Matters <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/local/gray-matters/article/family-chain-migration-trump-administration-12749594.php>

“Trump’s Family Separation Policy Echoes a Tragedy in Argentina,” *Houston Chronicle*, February 26, 2019

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Trump-s-family-separation-policy-echoes-a-13640542.php>

“The Separation of 545 Children Echoes Argentina’s “Dirty War,” *Houston Chronicle* October 29, 2020.

“Capitol assault echoes post-Civil War era,” *Houston Chronicle* January 8, 2021.

SELECTED INVITED TALKS/SCHOLARLY PAPERS:

Organizer and Commentator, “Child-Centered Jurisprudence and Feminist Jurisprudence: Exploring the Connections and the Tensions,” live symposium at the University of Houston Law Center, Center for Children, Law, & Policy, November 14, 2008.

“Evacuation and Public Policy: London 1939, New Orleans, 2005,” paper delivered at Children and the Law after the Katrina Disaster: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Young Evacuees, April 20, 2007, at conference organized by the Center for Children, Law & Policy at the University of Houston Law Center in collaboration with the ABA’s Center on Children and the Law (co-organizer of conference).

“The Constitution and the Many Shades of Fatherhood: What Does it Take to “Abandon” an Opportunity Interest?” (paper delivered at Symposium on No Parent Left Behind: Fathers’ Rights in Adoption, Third Annual Wells Conference on Adoption Law, Capital University Law School, February 15, 2007).

“Honor Thy Mother? The Supreme Court’s Jurisprudence of Motherhood,” (paper delivered at Twenty-first Century Motherhood: Change, a conference sponsored by the University of Houston Women’s Studies Program, October 20-22, 2005).

SELECT PRESENTATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Speaker at “Remembering the 45th Anniversary of the 1977 National Women’s Conference in Houston,” the Heritage Society Houston, November 17, 2022.

“May Her Memory Be a Revolution: The Life and Legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg,”
Lecture with Dr. Leandra Zarnow, moderated by Dr. Mark Goldberg, December 8, 2020.
sponsored by Rice Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Rice University
Jewish Studies, University of Houston Jewish Studies, and the Jewish Community Center
(Rabbi Samantha Safran).

Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights, “Best Interests Determination Panel,”
3/7/18 Panelist for disability rights/SPED Lauren Fisher. BID Panel is a convening of
experts from different fields who meet to develop recommendations in challenging cases,
pursuant to United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) guidelines. After
receiving information, the BID panel discusses the case and works to reach consensus
regarding a best interests recommendation for a child. I have attached the Young Center’s
best interests paradigm, which will frame our discussion. BID Panelists (role/specialty)
include:* Sarah Howell, Las Americas Newcomer School (Mental Health and Trauma);*
Carolina Rodriguez, Kids in Need of Defense (Immigration Law) ;* David Dean, Lone Star
Legal Aid (Family Law/Parental Rights);* Laura Oren, UHLC Professor Emerita (Disability
Rights);* TBA (Country Conditions) by Skype.

“Civil Rights and Sex: Legislation and Litigation,” TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY
INSTITUTE (partnership of UH and HISD), June 4, 2010.

HBA/CLE Constitution Day Seminar, September 17, 2009, “The Lasting Meaning of
Brown v. Board of Education : Does the Living Constitution Still Permit Race-Conscious
Measures to Promote Integration in Our Public Schools?”

Gulf Coast American History Academy, June 29, 2009, “*A Contemporary Constitutional
Controversy: The Equal Protection Clause and the Lasting Meaning of Brown v. Board of
Education.*”

“Conversation on Race: In Memory of James Byrd Jr.,” Houston PBS (KUHT), hosted by
Ernie Manouse, panelist, June 20, 2008.

Gulf Coast American History Academy, June 17, 2008, “*Race, The First Amendment,
Military Necessity, and the Living Constitution*”

Gulf Coast American History Academy, June 8, 2007, “*The Constitution and its Living
History: Sex Equality in the Supreme Court*”

Faculty Senate Commission on University Governance (“FsCoug”) (one of four faculty
members selected by the Faculty Senate campus-wide), 2004-2006

“Women and Feminist Jurisprudence—How the Law Affects Women, their Families and their Lives,” Annual Conference and CLE: Women and the Law: Then and Now (sponsored by the Texas Women Lawyers), February 19, 2005.

FAMILIES IN CRISIS conference series (Tenneco Symposium)—planner and organizer of interdisciplinary conferences (with Steven Mintz; also with Ellen Marrus and/or Thomas Oldham), 1999-2005. Co-organizer and planner of the antecedent 1997 Forum on Law and the Humanities, “The Moveable Boundaries of Public and Private Life from the Renaissance to the Contemporary World,” featuring the late Professor Gerda Lerner.

“The History of the Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union,” 4/15/04, Interview by Anelle Williams, KPFT 90.1 Radio (about experience as founder and first President of HAFFCU).

University Grievance Committee (elected), 1995- 2003 (Chair, 2000-2002)

Sexual Harassment Board, (hearing board), 1994-99 (Chair, 1997); Ombudsperson, University of Houston Sexual Harassment Grievance Board, 1991.

University of Houston’s President’s Task Force on Sexual Assault, 1992-1993, and University of Houston’s Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedure Implementation Committee, 1991-1995 (drafted initial University policies).

Co-Program Chair, Civil Rights Legislation and Litigation Section of the American Association of Law Schools, 1998-99; Executive Committee (organizing) of the Civil Rights Legislation and Litigation Section of the American Association of Law Schools, 1992-93.

Founding member and first President of the Houston Area Feminist Credit Union, 1974-1975.

TEACHING AREAS:

Constitutional Law, Family Law, Women and the Law, Civil Rights (Section 1983), State and Local Government Law, Conflict of Laws