

APARNA POLAVARAPU

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS WILLIAM S. BOYD SCHOOL OF LAW, Las Vegas, NV
Professor of Law 2025 –
Co-Director, Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF LAW, Columbia, SC
Professor of Law 2024 – 2025
Executive Director and Founder, SC Restorative Justice Initiative 2020 – 2025
Associate Professor with Tenure 2019 – 2024
Assistant Professor 2012 – 2019

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER, Washington, DC 2010 – 2012
Teaching Fellow and Supervising Attorney – International Women’s Human Rights Clinic

EDUCATION

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER, LL.M. in Advocacy (with distinction) 2014

THE FLETCHER SCHOOL OF LAW AND DIPLOMACY AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY, M.A.L.D. 2010
Concentrations: Law and Development, Development Economics, Human Security

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER, J.D. 2005
Certificate in Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, B.S. 2001
Major in Brain and Cognitive Sciences (Concentration: Systems Neuroscience); Minor in Biology

SELECT PUBLICATIONS – ACADEMIC

Restorative Justice and Building Communities of Radical Belonging in the Law School Classroom, 73.4 J. LEGAL EDUC. (forthcoming 2025).

Restorative Justice in Legal Education 73.4 J. LEGAL EDUC. (forthcoming 2025) (with Lindsey Pointer and Alanna Ojibway).

Human Rights, Human Duties: Making a Rights-Based Case for Community-Based Restorative Justice, 30 WM. & MARY J. RACE GENDER. & SOC. J. 53 (2023).

Dangerous Liaisons: Restorative Justice and the State, in THE CRIMINALIZATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES (Oxford University Press 2023).

Myth-Busting Restorative Justice: Uncovering the Past and Finding Lessons in Community, 13 UC IRVINE LAW REV. 949 (2023).

Without Land, Without Justice: How Women's Lack of Land Rights Impedes Access to Justice, in GENDER, POVERTY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE: POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Routledge 2020).

Global Carceral Feminism and Domestic Violence: What the West can Learn from Reconciliation in Uganda, 42 HARV. J. L. & GENDER 123 (2019).

Expanding Standing to Protect Democracy: Third Party Public Interest Standing as a Tool for Emerging Democracies, 41 YALE J. INT'L L. 105 (2016).

Initial Reflections on an Interdisciplinary Approach to Rule of Law Studies, 8 L. & DEV. REV. 277 (2015) (with Joel Samuels).

Reconciling Indigenous and Women's Rights to Land in Sub-Saharan Africa, 42 GA. J. INT'L & COMP. L. 93 (2013).

Procuring Meaningful Land Rights for the Women of Rwanda, 14 YALE HUM. RTS. & DEV. L.J. 105 (2011).

Child Marriage and Guardianship in Tanzania: Robbing Girls of their Childhood and Infantilizing Women, 7 GEO. J. GENDER & L. 357 (2006) (with Tamar Ezer, Kate Kerr, Tina Tolentino, and Kara Major).

SELECT PUBLICATIONS – OTHER

Director, Producer, and Speaker, BRIDGING WORLDS: NARRATIVES OF LAW, JUSTICE, AND CONNECTION (YouTube, Aug. 3, 2025).

Co-contributor, as member of the national AANHPI Elder Safety and Wellness Think Tank, ASIAN PACIFIC INSTITUTE ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE & FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE, AANHPI ELDER SAFETY & WELLNESS: STRENGTHS, CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES (2024).

Author, *Amy Cooper's Charges were Dismissed. But White Privilege isn't Restorative Justice*. NBC THINK, Feb. 20, 2021.

Author, GENDERED DIMENSIONS OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE REGISTRATION LAWS IN AFRICA (2016) (prepared for Data2x, UN Foundation).

Author, BEYOND ACCESS: THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE FOR WOMEN IN UGANDA (2015) (prepared for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State and the Rule of Law Collaborative at the University of South Carolina).

Co-Supervisor and Co-Editor, THE STAKES ARE HIGH: THE TRAGIC IMPACT OF UNSAFE ABORTION AND INADEQUATE ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION IN UGANDA (2013) (prepared for the Center for Reproductive Rights).

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, *Abolition pedagogy as a tool to question the assumptions of the U.S. legal system and legal education*, Symposium on Prison Abolition Pedagogy: Teaching Across Disciplines, University of Miami School of Law, Apr. 14, 2025.

Panelist, *Restorative Criminal Justice*, State of the South Conference, Georgia State University Center for Access to Justice, February 7, 2025.

Presenter, *Ending Violence in API Cultural Contexts: Restorative Justice, Transformative Justice, and other Community-Based Mechanisms*, API-GBV National Summit, August 29, 2024.

Panelist, *Restorative Justice in the South*, National Center on Restorative Justice webinar, April 24, 2024.

Presenter, *Human Rights, Human Duties: Making a Rights-Based Case for Community-Based Restorative Justice*, Symposium on Restorative Justice, William & Mary Law School, March 1, 2024.

Plenary Roundtable, *Moving into Practice: Politics, Policies, and Organizing in Building RJ Responses to Gender-Based and Intimate Violence*, Justice Innovations Summit at University of Hawai'i Mānoa, February 18, 2024.

Presenter, *Insight to Action: Building Restorative Responses to Gender-Based Violence*, Justice Innovations Summit (Pre-Summit Workshop) at University of Hawai'i Mānoa, February 16, 2024.

Featured Speaker, *Restorative Justice, Restorative Practice: Possibilities for TDX*, Theta Delta Chi Annual Convening, August 5, 2023.

Presenter, *Using Restorative Justice Circles to Address Financial Exploitation in Caregiver Relationships*, Futures without Violence 2023 Convening: Community-Centered Solutions, June 8, 2023.

Presenter/Facilitator, *Restorative Practice for Community Organizers*, Black Liberation Fund's Justice Weekend, June 2, 2023.

Presenter, *Restorative Justice*, South Dakota Advanced Victim Assistance Academy hosted by South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault, Dec. 1, 2022.

Panelist, *Restorative Justice Responses to Harm*, Reimagining the Movement to End Gender Violence Symposium, University of Miami School of Law, Feb. 18, 2022.

Keynote/Plenary, *Restorative Justice*, Virginia Victim Assistance Network Annual Statewide Conference, Nov. 18, 2021.

Presenter, *Developing a Restorative Justice Practice: From Concept to Implementation*, Georgia Commission on Family Violence Annual Statewide Conference, Nov. 10, 2021.

Panelist, *Restorative Justice & Sexual Assault: An Introduction to What Civil Legal Service Providers Need to Know*, Victim Rights Law Center, Sept. 1, 2021.

Presenter, *Restorative Justice and its Practice with Youth in the Criminal System*, South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense Annual Juvenile Defense Training Conference, Aug. 6, 2021.

Panelist, *Restorative Justice and Criminal Practice*, webinar hosted by The Florida Bar (various sections) and the Florida Restorative Justice Association, June 25, 2021.

Panelist, *Table Talk: Social Justice*, Central Carolina Community Foundation, May 25, 2021.

Speaker, *Leaving Punishment Behind: Embracing New Ideas of Justice*, TEDxTufts, Apr. 11, 2021.

Presenter, *Restorative Justice*, Social and Behavioral Sciences Week at Midlands Technical College, Mar. 31, 2021.

Presenter, *An Exploration of Specific Restorative Justice Practices to Address Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault*, webinar hosted by the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA), Mar. 19, 2021.

Presenter, *Restorative Justice and Intimate Partner Violence*, webinar hosted by the NY Lawyers Committee Against Domestic Violence, Feb. 24, 2021.

Testified to the South Carolina Senate Constitutional Laws Subcommittee, in opposition of a bill to criminalize abortion provision (S. 1), Feb. 3, 2021.

Presenter, *Cultivating Restorative Justice*, Arizona State University, Oct. 28, 2020.

Panelist, *Re-Thinking Policing: Why do we Need to Reimagine Public Safety?*, co-hosted by College of Charleston and the People's Budget Coalition, Oct. 26, 2020.

Panelist, *Re-examining How we Provide Legal Services (Domestic Violence)*, Virginia Poverty Law Center Annual Conference, Oct. 21, 2020.

Presenter/Facilitator, *From Disposability to Accountability: Disrupting Harm in SC*, Women's Rights and Empowerment Network 4th Annual Summit, Sept. 17, 2020.

Presenter, *Human Rights, Community Justice, and the State*, Law and Politics Speaker Series, Occidental College, Sept. 15, 2020.

Panelist, *Restorative Justice and Gender-Based Violence*, webinar co-hosted by the ABA Section on Civil Rights & Social Justice and the Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, July 22, 2020.

Presenter/Trainer, *Restorative Justice: A Framework to Address Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)*, webinar hosted by the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA), Jan. 31, 2020.

Presenter/Trainer, *Utilizing Restorative Justice to Address Intimate Partner Violence*, at the Retreat for Executive Directors of the Members of the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA), Jan. 24, 2020.

Panelist, *Time, Justice, and Abolition*, Conference on Prison Abolition, Human Rights, and Penal Reform: From the Local to the Global, The Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice at the University of Texas at Austin School of Law, Sep. 28, 2019.

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Testified to the South Carolina Senate Subcommittee on Medical Affairs, in opposition of a bill to criminalize abortion provision (H. 3020), Sep. 17, 2019.

Presenter, Columbia City of Women Launch, co-hosted by the Women's Rights and Empowerment Network and Historic Columbia, Mar. 31, 2019.

Presenter, *Global Carceral Feminism and Domestic Violence*, Harvard Law School, hosted by Harvard Journal of Law and Gender and Global South Dialogue, Nov. 16, 2018.

Presenter, *Restorative Justice and Domestic Violence*, South Carolina Supreme Court CLE, Oct. 10, 2018.

Moderator and Presenter, For Freedoms Town Hall, Columbia Museum of Art, Sep. 24, 2018.

Panelist, *Future Trends in the Civil Law Systems in Transition*, U.S. Department of State/ROLC JUSTRAC, Interagency Civil Law Training, Apr. 5, 2018.

Moderator, *Strategies in Pursuit of Access to Justice*, at the Symposium on Women as Agents of Change in Rule of Law, hosted by the Rule of Law Collaborative, Feb. 22, 2018.

Panelist, *Rule of Law and Justice on the Streets of South Carolina*, at the South Carolina Judicial Conference, Aug. 17, 2017.

Moderator, Modern Constitution Making, hosted by the Rule of Law Collaborative, Mar. 22, 2017.

American Society of Comparative Law Younger Comparativists Fifth Global Conference, hosted by Tulane University Law School, Mar. 18-19, 2016.

Presenter, *What is Justice? Objectivity and Relativism in the Ugandan Context*

Moderator, *Criminal Law in Comparative Context*

Presenter, *Finding the Global in Global Scholarship*, Law and Society Annual Meeting, May 29, 2015.

Panelist, *Strategies and Pitfalls for Accessing and Engaging Justice Systems*, Symposium on Empowering Women in Mixed Legal Systems, United States Institute of Peace, May 1, 2015.

Presenter, *An Interdisciplinary Approach to Rule of Law Studies as a Model for Law & Development Studies*, Law and Development Conference, hosted by Tulane University Law School, Apr. 17, 2015.

Panelist, *Teaching the Skilled International Lawyer*, American Society of International Law Annual Meeting, Apr. 11, 2015.

Presenter, *Women and Technology in Africa*, Symposium on Africa and the Information Society, University of South Carolina, Apr. 8, 2015.

Moderator, *Transnational Private Regulatory Responses to the Agency Cost Problem*, Symposium on Corporate Social Responsibility in Emerging Markets, University of South Carolina, Feb. 6, 2015.

Presenter, *Comparative Systems and Legal Pluralism: Customary Law*, USAID, Rule of Law and Security Sector Reform Course, Feb. 2, 2015.

Presenter, *Breathing Life into New Constitutions*, New Scholars Panel, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, Aug. 4, 2014.

Moderator, *Domestic and International Legal Initiatives to Combat Corruption*, Symposium on Institutional Capacity, Corruption, and Development, Rule of Law Collaborative, Apr. 11, 2014.

Presenter, *Comparative Law – Mixed Legal Systems*, U.S. Department of State/ROLC JUSTRAC, Dec. 8, 2014.

American Society of Comparative Law New Perspectives in Comparative Law Conference, hosted by Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, Apr. 18-19, 2013.

Presenter, *Breathing Life into New Constitutions: Third-Party Public Interest Standing as a Tool to Advocate for Constitutional Rights in Kenya and Uganda*.

Moderator, *Transnational Crime Law Panel*.

Panelist, *Addressing the Problem of Scarcity in the Future*, Symposium on International Law in a Time of Scarcity, University of Georgia Law School, Feb. 5, 2013.

Presenter, Rule of Law Collaborative Inter-Agency Short Courses:

Vulnerable Populations and Transitional Justice, Institute of International Education, Jul. 18, 2013.

Customary Law and Women, Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, May 17, 2013.

Customary Law and Women, U.S. Department of Defense/The Pentagon, Feb. 1, 2013.

Customary Law and Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Sep. 14, 2012.

Gender and the Rule of Law, University of South Carolina, May 11, 2012.

Invited Discussant/Panelist, *Assessing the Impact of Improved Land Tenure Arrangements*, World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty, Apr. 25, 2012.

SELECT HONORS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Liberty Fellow/Aspen Global Leadership Network (Class of 2023).
- University of South Carolina Martin Luther King, Jr. Social Justice Award (2021).
- Multiple grants to support the South Carolina Restorative Justice Initiative (2020-present).
- University of South Carolina School of Law G.G. Dowling Faculty Award (2020).
- University of South Carolina School of Law G.G. Dowling Faculty Award (2018).
- University of South Carolina School of Law Outstanding Faculty Service Award (2016).
- U.S. Department of State Justice Sector Reform Research Grant (2015).
- United States Institute of Peace (USIP) Public Education for Peacebuilding Grant (2013).
- Georgetown Law Center Women in Law and Public Policy Fellowship (2010-2011).
- Graduate Consortium of Women's Studies at MIT Mother Board Writing Prize (2010).
- Fletcher Board of Overseers Scholar (2008-2010).
- Harvard Law School Program on Negotiation Fellowship (2009) (research grant).
- Institute for Global Leadership, EMPOWER Program Fellowship (2009) (research grant).
- The Asia Foundation Diplomatic Study Tour Fellowship (2009).
- Stakeholder 100 Award (2007).
- The Partnership, Inc. Fellowship (2007).

SELECT PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Guest Editor, AALS Journal of Legal Education volume 73 (2025).
- Member, National AANHPI Elder Safety & Wellness Think Tank (2023-2024).
- Commissioner, South Carolina Access to Justice Commission (2021-present).
- Facilitator, University of South Carolina Collaborative on Race (2021-2022).
- Advisory Committee, Columbia Museum of Art Visions from India Exhibition (2020).
- Member, World Justice Project Rule of Law Research Consortium (2014-present).
- University of South Carolina Rule of Law Collaborative Core Faculty (2012-present).
- Afghan Women Lawyers Mentor, Alliance for International Women's Rights (2015-2020).
- Co-Vice-Chair, ASIL Teaching International Law Interest Group (2015-2016).
- Member, ASCL Younger Comparativists Committee Scholarship Working Group (2014-2016).
- Member, Fletcher Women's Network Steering Committee (2013-2016).
- Red Thread Foundation for Women, Inc.: Board Member (2011-2015); President (2011-2013).

OTHER EXPERIENCE

TUFTS UNIVERSITY , Medford, MA Coordinating Instructor and Lecturer – International Law	Spring 2010
SEVOTA (Rwanda-based NGO), Kigali, Rwanda Independent Legal Consultant	Summer 2009
EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE LLP , Boston, MA (CURRENTLY LOCKE LORDE LLP) Corporate Associate	2005 – 2008

OTHER

Languages: English (native); Written and Spoken French (advanced); Spoken Telugu (proficient).
Bar Memberships: Commonwealth of Massachusetts (inactive status); District of Columbia (inactive status).