

Sara Mayeux

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Vanderbilt University , Nashville, Tenn.	
Associate Professor of Law	2019-present
Assistant Professor of Law	2016-19
Assistant Professor of History (by courtesy)	2017-present
University of Pennsylvania Law School , Philadelphia, Pa.	
Sharswood Fellow and Lecturer in Law	2014-16
Harvard Law School , Cambridge, Mass.	
Berger-Howe Legal History Fellow	2013-14

CLERKSHIP

Hon. Marsha S. Berzon, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals , San Francisco, Calif.	2012-13
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EDUCATION

Stanford University , PhD, History (2016)
Stanford Law School , JD (2011)
Princeton University , AB, History, <i>summa cum laude</i> (2005)

PUBLICATIONS

Book

FREE JUSTICE: A HISTORY OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICA
(University of North Carolina Press, 2020)

Prizes: [David J. Langum, Sr. Prize in American Legal History](#)
[Vanderbilt University Chancellor's Award for Research](#)

Reviewed in (selected): [New York Review of Books](#), [The Nation](#), [Washington Monthly](#),
Journal of American History, *American Journal of Legal History*,
Michigan Law Review, *Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Books*

Other mentions (selected): [The Atlantic](#) (discussed in "Ideas" essay)

Podcasts/appearances: [New Books Network](#), [Ipse Dixit](#), [Bayard Rustin Center Power Hour](#),
[Q&A with Chapter 16](#), a project of Humanities Tennessee

Articles, Essays, and Book Chapters

The Federal Courts and Criminal Justice, in [APPROACHES TO FEDERAL JUDICIAL HISTORY](#),
ed. Gautham Rao, Winston Bowman, & Clara Altman (Federal Judicial Center, 2020)

Youth and Punishment at the Roberts Court, 21 U. PA. J. CONST. L. 543 (2018)

“An Honest But Fearless Fighter”: *The Adversarial Ideal of Public Defenders in 1930s and ’40s Los Angeles*, 36 *LAW & HIST. REV.* 619 (2018) * **peer-reviewed**

The Idea of “the Criminal Justice System,” 45 *AM. J. CRIM. L.* 55 (2018)

Reviewed at JOTWELL by Jonathan Simon, “[Time to Rethink the Idea of System](#)”

What Gideon Did, 116 *COLUM. L. REV.* 15 (2016)

Cromwell Article Prize (for best legal history article of the year by an early career scholar)

Federalism Anew, 56 *AM. J. LEGAL HIST.* 128 (2016) (with Karen Tani) (symposium essay)

Ineffective Assistance of Counsel Before Powell v. Alabama: Lessons from History for the Future of the Right to Counsel, 99 *IOWA L. REV.* 2161 (2014) (symposium essay)

Cited by the Iowa Supreme Court in *State v. Young*, 863 N.W.2d 249 (Iowa 2015)

The Origins of Back-end Sentencing in California, 22 *STAN. L. & POL’Y REV.* 529 (2011)

The Case of the Black-Gloved Rapist: Defining the Public Defender’s Role in the California Courts, 1913-1948, 5 *CAL. LEGAL HIST.* 217 (2010)

First prize, California Supreme Court Historical Society Student Writing Competition

Scholarly Book Reviews, Invited Responses, etc.

Review of Madeira and Schaffer, *The Defender: The Battle to Protect the Rights of the Accused in Philadelphia*, *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies*, forthcoming

Review of Wendell Bird, *Criminal Dissent: Prosecution under the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798*, [Journal of the Early Republic](#), Spring 2021

Debating the Past’s Authority in Alabama, [Stanford Law Review](#), May 2018 (invited short response for forum on Robert W. Gordon, *Taming the Past: Essays on Law in History and History in Law*)

Review of Rosen and Mosnier, *Julius Chambers: A Life in the Legal Struggle for Civil Rights*, [Journal of Southern History](#), August 2018

Review of Carolyn Strange, *Discretionary Justice: Pardon and Parole in New York from the Revolution to the Depression*, [Law and History Review](#), November 2017

Review of Felice Batlan, *Women and Justice for the Poor: A History of Legal Aid, 1863-1945*, [H-Law](#), March 2016

Review of Susannah Sheffer, *Fighting for Their Lives: Inside the Experience of Capital Defense Attorneys*, [H-Law](#), November 2013

Popular Press Book Reviews, Op-eds, and Public Writing (selected)

“And a Public Defender for All,” commentary on the confirmation of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, [Inquest](#), April 2022

“Lives Ruined for Petty Crimes,” review of Alexandra Natapoff, *Punishment Without Crime*, [Reason](#), July 2019

“How We Learned to Love the Bill of Rights,” review of Gerard Magliocca, *The Heart of the Constitution*, [Bunk](#), February 2018

“Why Felon Disenfranchisement Doesn’t Violate the Constitution,” [Bunk](#), December 2017

“Law and Order, Philadelphia Style,” interview with Tim Lombardo, [Bunk](#), November 2017

“Litigating the Line between Past and Present,” [Bunk](#), September 2017

“*Gideon v. Wainwright* in the Age of a Public Defense Crisis,” [Talk Poverty](#), May 2016; reprinted by [The Nation](#)

“Harlem’s Drug Warriors,” review essay on new histories of the war on drugs, [Reason](#), January 2016

“The Dark Side of Police Reform,” review essay on new histories of policing, [Reason](#), June 2015

“Cruel, Unusual, and Crowded,” review essay on California’s prison crisis, [Reason](#), March 2015

Review of Marie Gottschalk, *Caught: The Prison State and the Lockdown of American Politics*, [The Chronicle Review](#), December 2014

“The Case for Abolishing Juvenile Prisons,” interview with Nell Bernstein, [The Awl](#), Sept. 2014

“Progress and Execution,” review essay on the history of punishment, [Public Books](#), May 2014

“Redefining Rape,” interview with Estelle Freedman, [The Hairpin](#), October 2013

“Newt and the Ninth Circuit” (short item on Newt Gingrich), [The Nation](#), Jan. 9/16, 2012

“Obstructing Justice” (short item on Obama’s judicial appointments), [The Nation](#), June 13, 2011

“We Can’t Afford Whitman’s Prison Plan” (op-ed), [Sacramento Bee](#), July 9, 2010

[Prison Law Blog](#), 2009-12, and guest blog posts for *The Atlantic*, *The American Prospect*, NPR affiliate KALW, and others; links at <http://www.saramayeux.org>

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Federal Public Defender, Northern District of California , San Francisco, Calif. Summer Law Clerk	2009
Public Defender, City and County of San Francisco , San Francisco, Calif. Summer Intern	2008
The Metropolitan Museum of Art , New York, N.Y. Editorial Coordinator for Internal Communications	2006-7

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, HONORS

2020-21 Vanderbilt Strong Grant, Vanderbilt University

- 2019-20 Provost Research Studio Grant, Vanderbilt University
 2017-18 Junior Faculty Teaching Fellowship, Vanderbilt University (one of nine university-wide)
 2015 J. Willard Hurst Institute in Legal History, University of Wisconsin-Madison
 2014 Miller Center National Fellowship, University of Virginia (declined)
 G.J. Lieberman Fellowship in the Humanities, Stanford University (declined)
 Littleton-Griswold Legal History Grant, American Historical Association
 Graduate Research Opportunity Grant, Stanford University
 2009-10 Public Interest Fellowship, Stanford Law School
 2009 Morris L. Cohen Fellowship, Harvard Law School (research grant)
 2005 Joline Prize, Princeton University (best senior thesis in U.S. history)
 2004 Combe Prize, Princeton University (best junior year history research paper)
 Koren Prize, Princeton University (best performance in junior year history coursework)
 Stone-Davis Prize, Princeton University (senior thesis research grant)
 2003-04 Shapiro Award for Academic Excellence, Princeton University (2003 and 2004)

SCHOLARLY CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS *

Paper Presentations

- “The Mob Lawyer’s Constitution”
 Columbia Law School Criminal Legal History Roundtable, July 2022
- “‘Make All the Laws You Want’: The Catholic Left against Legal Liberalism, 1968”
 University of Florida Faculty Workshop, April 2022 [Zoom]
 Loyola University of Chicago Law School Faculty Speaker Series, April 2022
 College of William & Mary Law School Faculty Workshop, February 2022 [Zoom]
 Vanderbilt University Legal History Colloquium, April 2021 [Zoom]
- Book talk on *Free Justice: A History of the Public Defender in Twentieth-Century America*
 Indigent Defense Research Association, hosted by the Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center,
 Southern Methodist University, January 2021 [Zoom]
- “‘To Struggle in the World of Violence’: Anti-War Catholics and the Law, 1968”
 University of Virginia Law School Faculty Workshop, November 2020 [Zoom]
- “The Catholic Left and the Constitutional Tradition,” proposal for new project
 University of Illinois Constitutional Workshop, April 2020 [Zoom]
 American Society for Legal History Pre-conference Workshop, Boston, Mass., November 2019
- Free Justice* introduction and draft chapters
 American Bar Foundation Legal History Roundtable, May 2019
 University of Chicago Constitutional Law Workshop, November 2018
- “Debating the Past’s Authority in Alabama”
 Conference Celebrating Bob Gordon’s *Taming the Past*, Stanford University, January 2018
- “The Cold War Right to Counsel”
 American Society for Legal History, Las Vegas, Nev., October 2017

* Presentations marked [Zoom] were given by videoconference because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- “Age, ‘Adolescence,’ and the Limits of Punishment”
Criminal Justice Roundtable, Vanderbilt Law School, November 2017
Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Boca Raton, Fla., August 2017
Junior Scholars Roundtable on Criminal Procedure, Brooklyn Law School, July 2017
- “Ethnicity and Identity at the Los Angeles Public Defender’s Office, 1914-1946”
Association for Law, Culture, and the Humanities, Stanford University, March 2017
- “*Gideon* on the Ground in the Deep South, 1963-1973”
Tulane Law School Faculty Workshop, April 2017
Indiana University Law School Faculty Workshop, February 2017
Emory University Law School Faculty Workshop, February 2017
- “The Cold War Public Defender Idea”
Vanderbilt University History Department Americanist Seminar, November 2016
Stanford University History Department U.S. History Workshop, March 2016
- “Why Criminal Justice Reform Stalled in the Deep South: The Case of the Public Defender”
Southern Historical Association, Little Rock, Ark., November 2015
- “Public Defenders in the Tough-on-Crime Era”
American Society for Legal History, Washington, D.C., October 2015 (also organized panel)
- “The ‘Progressive’ Public Defender in Los Angeles, 1914-1949”
University of Michigan Legal History Workshop, September 2015
- “Notes toward a History of Indigent Defense Crisis in the Deep South”
CrimFest!, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, July 2015
- “The Progressive Era Public Defender Idea”
Stanford University History Department U.S. History Workshop, March 2015
Harvard Law School Legal History Workshop, February 2014
- “Getting *Gideon* Wrong”
University of Pennsylvania Law School Faculty Workshop, February 2015
- “Administrative Constitutionalism in the Criminal Courts: Implementing *Gideon*”
Policy History Conference, Columbus, Ohio, June 2014 (also organized panel)
- “Car Trouble: Adolescence, Automobility, and the Law, 1890-1930”
Law and the Child Symposium, University of Minnesota Law School, June 2014
- “Protecting the Poor from ‘Shysters’ and ‘Legal Vermin’: Remaking the Right to Counsel, 1882-1932”
American Society for Legal History, Miami, Fla., November 2013
- “Ineffective Assistance of Counsel before *Powell v. Alabama*”
Iowa Law Review Symposium, University of Iowa Law School, October 2013
- “The Case of Isabella Nitti and the Transformation of the Right to Counsel”
Western Association of Women Historians, Berkeley, Calif., May 2012

Scholarly Panels—Invited Comments

- 2022 “Status, Discrimination, and the Market in American Law, 1960-1990,” panel chair/commenter, Society for U.S. Intellectual History Conference, February 2022 [Zoom]
- 2019 American Society for Legal History, Boston, Mass., November 2019. Invited commentator for author-meets-readers book panel celebrating Sarah Seo, *Policing the Open Road*
- 2016 History of the Federal Judiciary Conference, Federal Judiciary Center, Washington, D.C., April 2016. Panelist on federal courts and individual rights
- American Historical Association, Atlanta, Ga., January 2016. Panelist for roundtable on the fortieth anniversary of *Gregg v. Georgia* and the future of the death penalty

INVITED TALKS AND PANELS

- 2023 [upcoming] National Humanities Center, February 2023. Invited webinar for K-12 teachers nationwide on the Bill of Rights
- 2022 [upcoming] Tennessee Department of Human Services, October 2022. Supreme Court review
- Nashville Bar Association, March 2022. CLE presentation the cultural life of the Constitution, in conjunction with the touring Broadway play, *What the Constitution Means to Me*
- Vanderbilt Law School Dean’s Office, American Constitution Society, and Federalist Society panel on the retirement of Justice Stephen Breyer, March 2022
- Defender Association of Philadelphia Black History Month CLE Panel [Zoom], February 2022. CLE panel on race and public defenders in conversation with Judge Ted McKee (3d Cir.)
- “Last Negroes at Harvard” podcast/Zoom session with members of the Harvard class of 1963 [Zoom], January 2022. Informal book talk/Q&A on *Free Justice* and public defenders
- 2021 National Legal Aid and Defender Association Annual Conference [Zoom], November 2021. Invited panelist on “Federal Support of Public Defense: Existing and Future Opportunities”
- Tennessee Public Defender Conference, October 2021. Presentation for CLE credit on *Free Justice: A History of the Public Defender in Twentieth-Century America*
- Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice Power Hour [Facebook Live], February 2021. Discussed indigent defense and public defenders with 250 live viewers
- 2020 Tennessee’s Anti-Protest Law: A Panel Discussion [Zoom], Vanderbilt Law School, October 2020. Moderated panel on recent Tennessee legislation and the First Amendment
- Alumni/Faculty Panel on the Supreme Court, Princeton University Reunions [Zoom], May 2020. In conversation with co-panelists Judges Denny Chin (2d Cir.), Henry Kennedy (D.D.C.), et al.
- 2018 Practicing Public Interest Law in the South Conference, Vanderbilt Law School, October 2018. Moderated panel on bail reform

- Supreme Court Preview Panel, Vanderbilt Law School Board of Advisors Meeting, April 2018
- 2017 Federal Public Defender/CJA Panel Attorneys Lunch & Learn, Nashville, Tenn., November 2017. CLE presentation on the history of indigent defense
- Supreme Court (P)review Panel, Vanderbilt Law School, October 2017
- Federal Public Defender, Nashville, Tenn., June 2017. Invited talk on the history of indigent defense for law student and undergraduate summer interns
- 2016 Supreme Court (P)review Panel, Vanderbilt Law School, November 2016
- Practicing Public Interest Law in the South Conference, Vanderbilt Law School, September 2016. Moderated panel on privatized probation and debtors' prisons
- Earlier Penn Law Advanced Training Program for the Thai Judiciary, May 2015. Taught sessions on the right to counsel and the Fourth Amendment exclusionary rule
- Tooling Up for Digital Humanities Workshop, Stanford University, April 2011. Invited panelist on managing a digital scholarly identity
- Princeton Club of Northern California, October 2010. Invited talk on California's prison crisis

SERVICE

To the Field:

- American Society for Legal History, Projects and Proposals Committee
Committee chair, 2022-
Committee member, 2020-22
- California Supreme Court Historical Society, Student Writing Competition Judging Panel, 2020

At Vanderbilt:

- Ad Hoc Stanton First Amendment Clinic Visitor Hiring Committee, 2022
- Law School Faculty Appointments Committee, 2020-21, 2017-18, 2016-17
- VLS Community Racial Justice Book Club co-facilitator, 2020-21
- Social Justice Reading Group co-facilitator, Spring 2018, Spring 2017
- Legal History Colloquium, 2016-

Public Outreach:

- "Justice" Section Editor, *Bunk* (history web portal based at University of Richmond), 2017-18
- Editorial Board, *Western Legal History* (published by Ninth Circuit Historical Society), 2016-

PEDAGOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

Through the Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching:

- Online Course Development Institute, July 2020
- Junior Faculty Teaching Fellowship Program, 2017-18

This CV last updated: August 2022