

# YVETTE BUTLER

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

**University of Mississippi School of Law, Oxford, MS**

Assistant Professor of Law, July 1, 2020 – Present

Courses: Civil and Political Rights, Critical Race Theory, Constitutional Law, Gender and the Law

Committees: Speakers and Faculty Scholarship, Diversity

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

*Primary Interests:* Race and the Law; Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure; Civil Rights; Civil Liberties; Technology and the Law; Gender, Sexuality, and the Law; Human Trafficking; Domestic Violence; Legislation and Regulation; Employment and Labor Law

*Additional Interests:* International Human Rights Law; Contracts, Torts; Constitutional Law; National Security Law

## PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

- 2021 Aligned: Sex Workers' Lessons for the Gig Economy (forthcoming in *Michigan Journal of Race and Law*).
- 2020 (Book Chapter) The Handbook of Social Work and Sexualities, "From Fallen Women to the Tumblr Ban: Representing the Landscape of Sex Work From a Historical and Legal Perspective," Panichelli, M., Capous-Desyllas, M., Butler, Y (forthcoming New York, NY: Routledge).
- 2020 (Book Chapter) The Handbook of Social Work and Sexualities, "Contemporary Social Work Education, Practice, Policy, and Research With the Sex Trades," Panichelli, M., Capous-Desyllas, M., Butler, Y (forthcoming New York, NY: Routledge).
- 2020 [Not Built for Us](#) American Bar Association Journal (legal short fiction about a black advocate charged with domestic terrorism resulting from a peaceful protest)
- 2019 Op-Ed: Lessons Learned from the Domestic Violence Movement to Inform The Anti-Trafficking Movement (submitted)
- 2018 Amara Legal Center, **Protection from Sexual Extortion Act** (July 11, 2018) <https://www.amaralegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/sextortion-written-testimony.pdf>
- 2018 Amara Legal Center, **Metropolitan Police Department Performance Oversight Hearing** (March 2, 2018) <https://www.amaralegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/2018-amara-mpd-performance-oversight-testimony.pdf>

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- 2018 Amara Legal Center, **Amara's Stance on FOSTA/SESTA** (Feb 23, 2018) <https://www.amaralegal.org/amaras-stance-on-fosta-sesta/>
- 2018 Amara Legal Center, **Senate Bill 869. An Act concerning Criminal Procedure -- Motion to Vacate Judgment -- Human Trafficking** (Feb 20, 2018), <https://www.amaralegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/amara.-md.-sb-869-vacatur-2-2018.pdf>
- 2018 Amara Legal Center, **House Bill 1267. An Act concerning Criminal Procedure -- Motion to Vacate Judgment -- Human Trafficking** (Feb 20, 2018), <https://www.amaralegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/md-hb-1267-vacatur.pdf>
- 2017 Amara Legal Center, **Record Sealing Modernization Act of 2017, Criminal Record Accuracy Assurance Act of 2017** (Dec 14, 2017) <https://www.amaralegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/amara.-written-testimony.-criminal-record-sealing.-1.pdf>
- 2017 Amara Legal Center, **Written Testimony on the Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act; Child Neglect and Sex Trafficking Amendment Act; Victim Services Omnibus Amendment Act** (June 22, 2017), [https://www.amaralegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/amara-written-testimony-bills-22-022\\_0255\\_0266.pdf](https://www.amaralegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/amara-written-testimony-bills-22-022_0255_0266.pdf)
- 2017 Amara Legal Center, **Written Testimony on the Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act; Child Neglect and Sex Trafficking Amendment Act; Victim Services Omnibus Amendment Act** (June 22, 2017), [https://www.amaralegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/amara-written-testimony-bills-22-022\\_0255\\_0266-1.pdf](https://www.amaralegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/amara-written-testimony-bills-22-022_0255_0266-1.pdf)
- 2017 Amara Legal Center, **Issue Brief: Reducing Criminalization to Improve Community Health & Safety Amendment Act of 2017** (Oct. 28, 2017) <https://www.amaralegal.org/issue-brief-reducing-criminalization-to-improve-community-health-safety-amendment-act-of-2017/>
- 2016 Amara Legal Center, **Harmful Investigation Tactics: How Law Enforcement Uses Criminalization to Control and Retraumatize Survivors of Sex Trafficking** (December 2016) <https://www.amaralegal.org/harmful-investigation-tactics-how-law-enforcement-uses-criminalization-to-control-and-retraumatize-survivors-of-sex-trafficking/>
- 2014 Amara Legal Center, **Proceed With Caution: Consequences of Sex Trafficking Raids at the Border** <http://www.amaralegal.org/index.php/amara-legal-center-blog/42-proceed-with-caution-little-known-consequences-of-sex-trafficking-raids-at-the-border>
- 2013 Johnathan Turley, Vincent Cirilli, & Yvette Butler, **Was Michigan Ruling a Case of Color Blindness or Willful Blindness?** CNN, (April 24, 2013)

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<http://www.cnn.com/2014/04/24/opinion/turley-michigan-affirmative-action-case/index.html?iref=allsearch>

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

**16th Annual Symposium of the Journal of Law, Economics & Policy: The Changing Nature of Work and the Economics of Employment in the 21st Century.** George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School. November 2019.

### **Texas Shelter Conference • San Antonio, TX • June 6, 2019**

Invited to speak at a conference for Texas domestic violence shelter advocates (approx. 200 attendees) about the need for Survivor Centered Economic Advocacy and Consumer legal advocacy for domestic violence survivors.

### **Race Equity for Sexual Assault Survivors Workshop • Monument Quilt on the National Mall • May 31, 2019**

This workshop engaged attendees in addressing the questions: How does racial bias show up for survivors within our programs and in navigating safety? And how do we develop strategies that center the voices and experiences of marginalized survivors and work towards systems change?

### **Access Project Launch Webinar • April 24, 2019**

Presented a webinar to introduce participants the Access to Justice for Survivors Project (Access Project). The Access Project will fill gaps in low-income survivors' ability to access systems by working with non-lawyer legal advocates to address the costs of domestic violence and sexual assault and remove the systemic economic barriers and inequities that impede survivors' access to economic justice and physical safety.

### **The Effect of SESTA/FOSTA • February 2019**

Invited to speak at a hill briefing hosted by the LGBT Caucus on the effect on sex workers and survivors of trafficking after SESTA/FOSTA was signed into law.

### **ANC Training • HIPS • January 11, 2018**

Presented an overview of the issue of sex trafficking and sex work in the DC metro area to prepare volunteers (15) to give presentations at local ANC's around the issue of whether to decriminalize sex work in the District.

### **Fair Budget Coalition Constituent Education • January 13, 2018**

Engaged with DC Community members (16) about the coalition's community safety issue group priorities. We sought feedback from people who would be personally impacted and/or live in the district, to inform selection of policy priorities.

### **University of Maryland, Alternative Spring Break • March 23, 2018**

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Presented to UMD undergraduate students (16) an overview of the issue of sex trafficking and sex work in the United States and discussed the finer points of sex trafficking prosecutions.

## **Virginia Rights and Remedies for Survivors Training • Ayuda • June 27, 2018**

Trained Ayuda's Fairfax, Virginia attorneys and advocates on expungement, vacatur, pardons, civil protection orders, and name changes in Virginia for victims of sex trafficking.

## **FOSTA/SESTA Overview • DC National Lawyers' Guild • June 28, 2018**

Provided an overview (20 participants + streaming) of recently passed legislation impacting individuals engaged in commercial sex and the consequences of the legislation (pro and con).

## **Sex Worker and Advocate Surveillance Panel • American University • September 8, 2018**

Invited to speak on a panel regarding issues of advocate surveillance by the government and how expanded surveillance affects sex worker advocacy.

## **NOVAHTI Social Worker Training                      November 1, 2018**

Invited to design a training for social workers working with survivors of trafficking to highlight the differences in professional responsibility between attorneys and social workers and the many ways that social workers can help guide and support clients through the legal process.

## **Drinker Biddle Panel    November 14, 2017**

Invited to speak on a panel with other anti-trafficking experts to provide approximately 30 participants with information about identifying victims of sex trafficking and providing trauma informed care.

## **First Baptist Church (Manassas, VA)                      July 29, 2017**

Spoke to a church with about 70 attendees about 70 participants, topics included how to identify sex trafficking victims and provide trauma-informed care

## **Together We Bake    June 14, 2017**

Invited to give a training on identifying victims of sex trafficking and providing trauma informed care to the leaders of a job training program for women moving toward self sufficiency, many of whom were previously incarcerated.

## **D.C. Judicial Bar Conference                                      April 7, 2017**

Selected to participate on a panel at the DC Judicial Bar Conference during a session with approximately 20 participants on identifying survivors of trafficking and advocating or deciding cases in a trauma-informed way.

## **Crowell & Moring LLP    January 7, 2019**

Training on legal remedies and trauma informed care for pro-bono attorneys interested in assisting survivors of trafficking.

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## **SELECTED MEDIA**

Baskin, Morgan, Proposed Legislation Would Decriminalize Selling and Buying Sex in D.C. (Nov. 30, 2017) <https://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/news/article/20984273/proposed-legislation-would-decriminalize-selling-and-buying-sex-in-dc> (interview)

Kurzius, Rachel, New Bill Would Decriminalize Sex Work in DC (Oct. 5, 2017) <https://dcist.com/story/17/10/05/new-bill-would-decriminalize-sex-wo/> (interview)

Chen, Michelle, DC May Soon Be the First US City to Decriminalize Sex Work (Oct. 31, 2017) <https://www.thenation.com/article/dc-may-soon-be-the-first-us-city-to-decriminalize-sex-work/> (interview)

## **EDUCATION**

**The George Washington University Law School**, Washington, DC

*Juris Doctor*, May 2014

- First Place and Best Brief Award, American Bar Association, First Amendment and Media Law Moot Court, Spring 2014
- American Bar Association, Bureau of National Affairs Award for Excellence in Health Law, Spring 2014
- Participant, Van Vleck Constitutional Law Moot Court, Fall 2013
- Member, Moot Court Board
- Business Ethics Teaching Assistant for Professor Keith Diener in The George Washington University School of Business (August 2012 – February 2013)

**University of Minnesota, Morris**, Morris, MN

*Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy*, May 2011

- Recipient of Ted Uehling Donor Funded Scholarship in Philosophy

## **PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

**Center for Survivor Agency and Justice**, Washington, DC

*Director of Capacity Building and Systems Change* (January 2019 – June 2020)

Lead the development of CSAJ's systems change work by creating new projects related to commercial sexual exchange and strategies to address broader issues of economic security for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Collaborated with issue area experts in Consumer Rights Law, Domestic Violence Law, Family Law, Civil Rights, and more to create webinars, resources, and other materials for use by attorneys and advocates in the field. Managed a budget as the lead on a brand-new project that developed the skills of legal advocates to address the economic costs of domestic and sexual violence.

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## **Amara Legal Center, Washington, DC**

*Director of Policy and Strategic Partnerships* (July 2017 – January 2019)

*Staff Attorney* (May 2016 – July 2017)

*Volunteer* (January 2014 – May 2016)

Established and led Amara's policy department by developing policy priorities, presenting oral and written testimony in support of or in opposition to legislation, forming and participating in coalitions with non-profit and government entities to work toward legislative and policy change in the areas of civil rights, criminal justice reform, and victim services that benefitted intersecting communities. Provided direct legal representation to sex workers and survivors of human trafficking by independently litigating cases in federal and state court from intake to resolution. Developed and managed the intern program.

## **U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota, Rapid City, SD**

*Law Clerk to United States Magistrate Judge Wollmann* (June 2015 – May 2016)

Sole staff member to newly appointed magistrate judge in an area with a large Native American community to further her mission of ensuring equitable treatment of all who appeared in her courtroom. Conducted legal research, drafted and edited orders, reports and recommendations, and internal memoranda on a variety of issues, including unreasonable searches and seizures, excessive force, and employment discrimination.

## **Victor M. Glasberg & Associates, Alexandria, VA**

*Post-Graduate Fellow* (August 2014 – May 2015)

Conducted legal research to develop civil rights cases and drafted pleadings, memoranda, briefs, correspondence, and other documents on a variety of issues including unlawful search and seizure, false arrest, and malicious prosecution. Interacted with clients and witnesses by conducting interviews, participating in depositions, and explaining matters to clients. Participated in meetings with members of the firm, discussed case strategy, and helped prepare for hearings and appellate argument.

## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

2014, Virginia State Bar

2015, District of Columbia Bar

2015, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia