

Michelle Engert, Juris Doctor
Senior Scholar-in-Residence
School of Public Affairs - Justice, Law and Criminology
American University, Washington, DC

Academic Work

Senior Scholar-in-Residence, Department of Justice, Law and Criminology, School of Public Affairs, (2015-present, promoted to senior 2019) **Affiliated faculty** in the Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences, American University, Washington, DC

Assistant Professor of American Studies (*Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin*), School of American History, Culture and Society, Amerika-Institut, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany (2011-2013) **Lecturer** (2014-present, annually teaching 12-week summer semesters)

Adjunct Scholar-in-Residence (part-time), Department of History and **Adjunct Practitioner-in-Residence** (part-time), Department of Justice, Law and Criminology, American University, Washington, DC (2013-2015)

Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, American Studies Program, American University, Washington, DC (Spring 2011)

Volunteer Teacher, El Buen Samaritano, Austin, TX (2000-2001)

Taught Spanish speakers preparing for US citizenship exam and “Know Your Rights” seminars in the Latinx immigrant community.

Legal and Policy Work

Senior Counsel, Access to Justice Office, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC (2014-2015)

Advised on policy initiatives within the Department of Justice, across federal agencies, and with state and local criminal justice system stakeholders on Sixth Amendment requirements, due process, and fundamental fairness regarding access to counsel in federal, state and local courts for people unable to afford private lawyers. Detailed as part of an inclusion effort to incorporate public defense perspective into Access to Justice initiatives within the executive branch in the Obama administration.

Attorney Advisor, Program Operations and Budget Division, Defender Services Office, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Washington, DC (2013-2015)

Working on a team responsible for developing, executing, and monitoring the Defender Services appropriation that funds the operation of federal defender organizations (FDOs), payments to private panel attorneys appointed to represent clients under the Criminal Justice Act, and program administration costs. Provided operational support to FDOs for space and facilities, travel, hiring and human resources, performed and led teams of experts for on-site cyclical assessments of FDOs and CJA panel attorney programs, interviewed and advised appointed federal public defenders and their assistants, authored written reports to the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and the chief judges of the United States Circuit Courts of Appeals.

Assistant Federal Public Defender, Trial Attorney, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland (2008-2011) **Assistant Federal Public Defender**, Trial Attorney, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of New Mexico, Las Cruces, New Mexico (2005-2008)

Advocated for the constitutional rights of indigent clients assigned by the federal courts charged with criminal offenses; served as lead counsel throughout all stages in federal criminal cases from pre-indictment investigation through jury trial, sentencing and appeals in the United States courts of appeals (primarily immigration, drug, gang, firearm, and internet related offenses). Researched, wrote and argued motions; reviewed and analyzed documents and evidence for trials and in sentencing mitigation; conducted fact investigation and witness interviews; worked with interpreters, experts, social workers and investigators; served on the Federal Public Defender Training Committee teaching and organizing continuing legal education seminars for attorneys on best practices for wholistic, client-centered sentencing advocacy for continuing legal education credits.

Attorney Advisor, Legal and Policy Branch (detailed from defender appointment), Office of Defender Services, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Washington, DC (2007-2008)

Detailed as an inclusion effort for federal defender practitioners from the US-Mexico border region, created a working group to diversify FDOs, assisted with development of policy agenda for the federal defense program, drafted briefing papers, and recommendations on the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act under the Sixth Amendment.

Assistant State Public Defender, Trial Attorney, Santa Fe, New Mexico (2004-2005)

Served as lead counsel in all stages of criminal cases including bench and jury trials; researching, writing and litigating motions and appeals; assisted the chief public defender on a full-time basis during the 2005 legislative session by evaluating the statewide fiscal and workload impact of all proposed crime bills on the defender program statewide, attending and commenting in committee meetings, writing policy memorandums advocating for public defender resources and sound criminal justice policy, successfully advocated for a state law for student loan repayment assistance for qualifying attorneys in state public service.

Law Clerk, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico (2003-2004)

Law Clerk Freedman, Boyd, Hollander, et al., Albuquerque, NM (2001-2002)

Researcher, Human Rights Documentation Exchange, Austin, TX (1999-2001)

Provided research on country conditions used by attorneys and *pro se* litigants to support asylum applications in the US.

Education

Juris Doctor, University of New Mexico School of Law
Judge Oliver Seth Award in Legal Ethics
Certified in mediation and dispute resolution

Bachelor of Arts, University of Texas at Austin
Phi Beta Kappa
Departmental and University Honors
Major in humanities, minors in sociology and philosophy

Academic Courses Developed and Taught

American University

Cities and Crime
Criminal Procedure and the Constitution
Death Penalty and American Culture
Defending and Prosecuting a Federal Crime
Drugs, Crime and Public Policy
Ethics, Morals and Criminal Law
Introduction to Justice Systems
Law and Social Science: Plea Agreements
The Public Defender, 6th Amendment
The Wire: Urban Life in America
Bob Dylan's Justice
Critical Issues in Justice

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

American Jury Trial
Bob Dylan and America
Bob Dylan, Justice and the Law
Cops, Crime, Courts & Corrections: Criminal Justice & Film
Criminal Law and Justice
Death Penalty in the United States
Ferguson: What Happened, What Now?
Introduction to American Common Law
Race and Justice in the United States
United States Government: President, Congress, & Courts
The Wire: Urban Life in America
Critical Issues in American Justice

Selected List of Invited Presentations and Papers

Maintaining Momentum: Redefining the Purpose of Incarceration in the Ongoing Conversations on Criminal Justice Reform, panel on defense and prosecution, Justice Programs Office, School of Public Affairs, American University, Washington, DC, March 2017.

A Great Divide? America Between Exceptionalism and Transnationalism, international conference, Center for Advanced Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany, 2015.

"Roadmaps for the Soul." *Einstein Disguised as Robin Hood. Bob Dylan and the Nobel Prize*, Einstein Forum, Potsdam, Germany, 2013.

"Gideon's Army." Human Rights Film Series. Panel Discussion with Professor Angela Davis and film director Dawn Porter, Center for Media and Social Impact, Washington, DC, 2013.

"Bob Dylan and the Cold War." *The Cold War and American Music, 1945-2000*, Center for Advanced Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany, 2012.

"The Evolution of Fan Culture Throughout the Never Ending Tour." Keynote Lecture. *Refractions of Bob Dylan - Cultural Appropriations of an American Icon*, international conference, University of Vienna, Austria, 2011.

"Bob Dylan and Religion." *Is America the Golden Medina?* International conference, Tarbut, Schloss Elmau, Germany, 2010.

"Telling Client Stories on Paper and in the Courtroom." *Sentencing Advocacy Workshop*, (three-day continuing legal education conference for private federal defense practitioners) Training Branch of the Defender Services Office, Long Beach, CA (2014), Redondo Beach, CA (2012), San Juan, Puerto Rico (2011), San Francisco, CA (2010), New Orleans, LA (2010), Santa Fe, NM (2009), Chicago, IL (2008).

Selected List of Invited Academic Lectures

“Bob Dylan’s Complex Journey” Posen Society of Summer Fellows, Berkeley, CA, August 2019.

“Bob Dylan, Saved!” Invitational public lecture, Indiana University, Jewish Studies, Bloomington, IN, April 2017.

“Bob Dylan’s Road to Salvation.” Invitational lecture, The College of William and Mary, Interdisciplinary Studies Program, Williamsburg, VA, October, 2015.

“Einstein Disguised as Robin Hood, Bob Dylan and the Nobel Prize” Einstein Forum, Berlin, Germany, 2013. Conference co-organizer and opening paper.

“*People of New York v. Dominique Strauss-Kahn: Prosecutorial Ethics and Criminal Procedure in America.*” Invitational public lecture, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, School of Law, Munich, Germany, 2012.

Academic Publication

“The Evolution of Fan Culture: The Impact of Technology on the Never Ending Tour,” in: Eugen Banauch, ed., *Refractions of Bob Dylan: Cultural Appropriations of an American Icon*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2015.

Scholarly Works in Progress

Bob Dylan’s Justice. Examining the impact that Bob Dylan’s work on lawyers, judges and politicians over generations and how Dylan’s portrayal of justice has impacted legal, judicial and political practices. Legal and archival research and interviews for a forthcoming book. Supported by a research stipend from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität and the AU Summer Scholars Program.

Selected Recent Media

IA, National Public Radio (February 18, 2020), [Law and Disorder at the Department of Justice](#)

Washington Jewish Week (November 15, 2019), [40 Years Since Bob Dylan Picked up the Cross](#)

Sueddeutsche Zeitung (Germany’s largest daily newspaper, December 30, 2019, with M. Brenner), [Advertising and Prejudice: Racism in the Espresso Cup](#)

Forward (September 27, 2017, with M. Brenner), [Should Jews Be Afraid Of Germany’s Far Right Party?](#)

Significant University Service

SPA Academic Pre-Law Advisor (2015-present)

- Creating and teaching annual programming for AU and SPA students interested in law school and legal careers
- Advising on the process and cost of application from LSAT, personal statements, school selection, funding and debt management
- Finding resources to assist first generation, low-income and BIPOC students to be successful in their law school applications

Faculty Senate Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (elected 2023 to a three year term)

President’s Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, member (2018-2022)

- One of five faculty members invited by President Burwell and Vice President of Campus Life, to advise and implement action steps for the [AU Plan for Inclusive Excellence](#)
- Chair of PCDI listens (2018-19), organizing, attending, memorializing listening sessions with students and stakeholders
- Engaging with students to learn about their experiences on campus and collecting ideas for institutional improvement

School of Public Affairs Term Faculty Affairs Committee (SPA-TFAC), Chair (2017-2021)

- Elected by my colleagues to advocate for term faculty concerns, including equity and inclusion and compensation
- Creating and implementing trainings, listening sessions, and opportunities for community and discussion among SPA term faculty and SPA leadership

Bias Response Working Group, member (2019-2020)

- Selected by Vice President to Inclusive Excellence work with the Dean of Students to revise university bias reporting process

Faculty Development Leadership Cohort, member (2018-2019)

- Appointed by the Provost Clark to participate in developing and teaching a curriculum titled “Recognizing and Interrupting Bias” university wide

SPA Merit Review Task Force, member (2017-2018)

- Worked collectively to create with recommendations for improvements in the annual review system for m