

THEA JOHNSON
Rutgers Law School
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Rutgers Law School, Camden, NJ

Associate Professor of Law, July 2020 – Present

- Teaching courses in Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and Plea Bargaining

University of Maine School of Law, Portland, ME

Associate Professor of Law, January 2017 – July 2020

- Courses taught: Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Trial Advocacy and Evidence, Criminal Law Seminar: Plea Bargaining
- Voted Law Professor of the Year in 2019 and 2020

Stanford Law School, Stanford, CA

Thomas C. Grey Fellow and Lecturer in Law, July 2012-December 2015

- Researched and wrote in the areas of criminal law and procedure
- Designed and taught courses in legal writing and federal litigation
- Faculty Advisor and Coordinator for Stanford Clemency Project and the Prison University Project

PUBLICATIONS

Scholarly Articles:

- *Lying at Plea Bargaining* (work-in-progress)
- *Crisis and Coercive Pleas* (forthcoming Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology Online, Fall 2020)
- *Making Space in the Criminal Law Classroom*, Book Chapter in *Integrating Doctrine and Diversity: Inclusion & Equity in the Law School Classroom* (forthcoming Spring 2021)
- *Fictional Pleas*, 94 IND. L. J. 855 (2019) (selected for the 2018 Yale/Stanford/Harvard Junior Faculty Forum; selected as the runner-up for the 2019 American Association of Law Schools' Criminal Justice Section Junior Scholars' Paper Competition)
- *Public Perceptions of Plea Bargaining*, 46 AM. J. CRIM. L. 133 (2019)
- *Measuring the Creative Plea Bargain*, 92 IND. L. J. 901 (2017)
- *What You Should Have Known Can Hurt You: Knowledge, Access and Brady in the Balance*, 28 GEO. J. LEGAL ETHICS 1 (2015)

- *Why Not Treat Drug Crimes As White-Collar Crimes*, 60 WAYNE L. REV. 1 (2015) (co-authored with Mark Osler)
- *Common Sense and the Cannibal Cop*, 11 STAN. J. CIV. RTS. & CIV. LIBERTIES 313 (2015) (co-authored with Andrew Gilden)
- *Guaranteed Access to Safe and Legal Abortions: The True Revolution of Mexico City's Legal Reforms Regarding Abortions*, 44 COLUM. HUM. RTS. L. REV. 437 (2013), (an earlier version of the article won the 2009 Alice Paul Feminist Jurisprudence Essay Contest, Washington School of Law, American University)

Selected Journalism and Other Written Work:

- *Is Lying Permitted in a Broken System*, Maine Law Blog (March 4, 2020)
- *Leniency Toward a Defendant's Child: An Acceptable Bargaining Chip*, Daily Journal (California's largest legal journal) (June 26, 2019)
- *A Primetime Plea That Rings True*, Maine Law Blog (March 7, 2019)
- *Plea Bargaining's Guilt Problem*, Slate (June 7, 2018)
- *Creative Plea Bargaining to Avoid Collateral Consequences*, Guest Blog for International Society for Therapeutic Jurisprudence (July 22, 2017)
- *Creative Plea Bargaining and Ineffective Assistance of Counsel in Lee v. United States*, Maine Law Blog (June 16, 2017)
- *Josh Duggar and the Myth of Juvenile Justice*, Huffington Post: The Blog (June 11, 2015)
- *Should Criminal Lawyers Engage in Crowdsourcing Criminal Investigations?*, Stanford Lawyer Magazine: The Blog (February 27, 2015)
- *College Rape and Radical Feminism: The Forgotten Feminist Roots of Today's Anti-Rape Activism*, Huffington Post: The Blog (November 25, 2014)
- Deputy Editor, *International Legal Developments Year in Review: 2014*, A Publication of the ABA/Section of International Law (2014)
- *The Central Park \$40 Million*, Huffington Post: The Blog (June 27, 2014)
- *Philip Seymour Hoffman and the Victims and Villains of the Drug Trade*, Huffington Post: The Blog (April 21, 2014)
- *Latin Justice: A New Look*, 30 World Policy Journal 57 (Fall 2013)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

- Lecturer, *Testifying in Court*, Maine Medical Center Psychiatry Residency Training, Forensic Psychiatry Seminar Series, Portland, ME (February 2020)
- Presenter, *Inside the Plea Bargain Room and Sex without Conviction*, Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association Meeting, Washington, D.C. (June 2019)
- *Lying at Plea Bargaining*, presented at the ABA/AALS Criminal Law Roundtable (October 2018); University of Richmond Law School Junior Faculty Forum, Richmond, VA (May 2019); Buffalo Criminal Law Center Colloquium (December 2019)
- Lecturer, Riverview Psychiatric Center Continuing Education Program and Continuing Legal Education program: *Criminal Responsibility, Mental States and Issues with Abnormal Condition of Mind Under Maine Law*, Maine State Forensic Service, Augusta, ME (May 2019)
- Presenter, *Criminal Justice in Maine's Rural Communities*, Maine Law Review Symposium: Ensuring Equal Access to Justice in Maine's Rural Communities, Colby College, Waterville, ME (April 2019)
- Presenter, *Lighting Talk: Plea Bargaining's Lies*, University of Southern Maine Research and Scholarship Symposium, Portland, ME (March 2019)
- Presenter, *New Voices in Criminal Justice*, American Association of Law Schools' Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA (January 2019)
- *Non-Citizen Defendant Attitudes Towards Plea Bargaining*, presented at the Annual Meeting of Criminal Law Professors (CrimFest), Cardozo Law School, New York, NY (July 2018)
- *Fictional Pleas* presented at the Yale/Stanford/Harvard Junior Faculty Forum (June 2018), Vanderbilt Criminal Justice Roundtable (November 2017); ABA/AALS Criminal Law Roundtable (October 2017); Junior Scholars Roundtable, Brooklyn Law School and St. John's Law School (July 2017); Grey Fellows Forum, Stanford Law School (May 2017)
- Moderator, Debate among the candidates for District Attorney of Cumberland County, ME, hosted by the ACLU and Portland Press Herald, Portland, ME (April 2018)
- Panelist, Panel on Wrongful Convictions and the documentary, *Killing for Love*, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME (March 2018)
- Presenter, Continuing Legal Education program: *Fighting Sentencing Enhancements in a Post-Johnson World*, New York, NY (April 2016).
- *Creative Plea Bargaining*, Annual Meeting of Criminal Law Professors (CrimFest), Cardozo Law School (July 2015)
- *Common Sense and the Cannibal Cop*, Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Speaker Series, Stanford Law School (May 2015); *Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n Roll: Subversive Sites in the Law*, Osgoode Hall Law School (May 2015)
- Invited Workshop Participant, *Latin American Criminal Justice in Action*, UCLA Law School (February 2015)

- Invited Speaker, *Serial and the Criminal Justice System*, Facebook, Menlo Park, CA (November 2014)
- *What You Should Have Known Can Hurt You: Knowledge, Access and Brady in the Balance*, Fifth Annual CrimProf Conference, Rutgers Law School (July 2014); Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, Minneapolis, MN (June 2014)
- Panelist, *Prosecutors as Problem Solvers: Discretion in the War on Drugs*, Symposium: Prosecutorial Discretion: Ethics, Practice and Study, Stanford Law School (May 2014)
- Invited Speaker, *Redesigning Criminal Justice*, Hasso Plattner Institute of Design at Stanford University (April 2014)

SERVICE

- Reporter, American Bar Association's Plea Bargain Task Force (2019 – present)
- Consultant, Maine Criminal Rules Committee (2017 – present)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Federal Defenders of New York, New York, NY
Staff Attorney, January 2016 – December 2016

- Litigated habeas corpus petitions under *Johnson v. United States*, 135 S. Ct. 2551 (2015), and appeals before the Second Circuit

The Legal Aid Society, New York, NY
Faculty, Trial Advocacy Program (TAP), Summer 2013, 2014, 2015

- Instructed first-year New York City public defenders during a week-long intensive workshop on the fundamentals of trial advocacy

Staff Attorney, Criminal Defense Division, 2009 - 2012

- Handled an active case load of misdemeanors and felonies from arraignment to trial; conducted trials, including voir dire, opening statements, direct and cross-examination and closing arguments; wrote and argued motions; investigated cases

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, New York, NY
 Summer Associate, Summer 2008

United Nations International Criminal Tribunal For Rwanda, Arusha, Tanzania
 Judicial Intern, Trial Chamber III, Spring 2008

The New York City Law Department, New York, NY
 Summer Intern, Summer 2007

Colegio Americano de Quito (The American School of Quito), Quito, Ecuador
 Social Studies and English Teacher, 2004 – 2006

EDUCATION

The George Washington University Law School

J.D. with honors, May 2009

- Guide Staff, *The George Washington International Law Review: The Guide to International Legal Research*
- Dean's Fellow; Aston Fellow

Harvard University

A.B. *magna cum laude*, June 2003

- Senior Honors Thesis: *Rape and Radicalism: Rape Laws in New York, 1970 – 1975*