

SEEMA T. SAIFEE

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Rutgers Law School <i>Assistant Professor of Law</i> Courses: Criminal Procedure (Investigations); Criminal Law; Decarceration Honor: 2024-2025 Early Career Faculty Fellowship, Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice, given to the “most promising early career scholars working in the areas of social justice and racial inequality”	2023–present
University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School <i>Quattrone Center Research Fellow</i>	2020–2023
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law <i>Adjunct Professor of Law</i> , in conjunction with position in Innocence Project	2012-2020

PUBLICATIONS

Articles & Essays

Expertise or Struggle? (in progress)

Aggregation at the Bottom, 97 U. COLO. L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2025)

- Selected for 2024 Michigan Law School’s Junior Scholars Conference

[*Decarceration’s Inside Partners*](#), 91 FORDHAM L. REV. 53 (2022)

[*Sustaining Lawyers*](#), 56 WAKE FOREST L. REV. 907 (2021) (invited)

Note, *Penumbras, Privacy, and the Death of Morals-Based Legislation: Comparing U.S. Constitutional Law with the Inherent Right of Privacy in Islamic Jurisprudence*, 27 FORDHAM INT’L L.J. 370 (2003)

- Awarded Washington Foreign Law Society’s Ibrahim Shihata Prize for outstanding student writing on Islamic law and legal developments in the Muslim world

Popular Writing

[*One of the Best Ideas for Ending Mass Incarceration Was Thought Up in a Prison*](#), SLATE (Apr. 11, 2023)

[*Exchanging One Prison for Another*](#), DER SPIEGEL (Jan. 19, 2012)

[*Obama’s Veto Backdown*](#), LAWFARE (Dec. 20, 2011)

[*Lower Manhattan Islamic Center Faces Irrational Resistance*](#), N.Y. DAILY NEWS (Oct. 28, 2010)

[*Guantanamo’s Uighurs: No Justice in Solitary*](#), JURIST (Mar. 28, 2008)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Moderator, dialogue with Jocelyn Simonson and Dorothy Roberts on Simonson's book *Radical Acts of Justice: How Ordinary People are Dismantling Mass Incarceration*, University of Pennsylvania Law School (Oct. 2023)

Aggregation at the Bottom, presented at:

- ABA/AALS Criminal Justice Section Roundtable (Dec. 2024)
- University of Michigan Law School Junior Scholars Conference (Apr. 2024)
- CrimFest, Brooklyn Law School (July 2023)
- Decarceration Law Professors Work in Progress Workshop (virtual) (July 2023)
- Legal Ethics Schmooze, University of Denver Sturm College of Law (May 2023)
- Markelloquium, Criminal Law Theory Colloquium, Brooklyn Law School (Sept. 2022)
- Quattrone Center Affiliated Faculty, University of Pennsylvania Law School (Sept. 2022)

Panelist, *Decarceration from Inside the Prison Walls*, Symposium on Overcriminalization, Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law (Feb. 2023)

Panelist, *The Practice of Participatory Law Scholarship*, Drexel Law School (Feb. 2023)

Moderator, *The Intersection Between Secondary Trauma & Race*, Wake Forest Law School (virtual) (Feb. 2021)

Speaker, *Justice in the Time of Pandemic: Are the Incarcerated Being Protected from COVID-19?* (with Adnan Sultan), Muslim Public Affairs Council (virtual) (Apr. 2020)

Panelist, *Trump's Muslim Ban* (with Mary Catherine Roper & Afia Yunus), Islamic Society of Greater Valley Forge, Pennsylvania (Feb. 2017)

Panelist, *Wrongful Convictions Across Borders*, American Judges Association, Toronto, Canada (Sept. 2016)

Speaker, NYU Stern Business & Society Program's Eleventh Annual Haitkin Lecture (with exoneree Andre Hatchett) (Apr. 2016)

Panelist, *Uighurs in Guantánamo*, humanitarian resettlement conference hosted by Center for Constitutional Rights, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights, and Reprieve, Berlin, Germany (Nov. 2008)

Panelist, *Uighur Refugee Seeks Asylum*, Amnesty International, Berne, Switzerland (Nov. 2008)

Speaker, *The Future of Uighur Prisoners in Guantánamo*, Annual Conference of Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization and World Uyghur Congress, Berlin, Germany (Apr. 2008)

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP

Hon. Dan Aaron Polster, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio 2004–2006

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Innocence Project, New York, NY 2012–2020
Staff Attorney (2012–2017) / *Senior Staff Attorney and Director of Innocence Project Clinic* (2017–2020)

American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Legal Fellow

2011-2012

Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP, New York, NY
Litigation Associate

2006-2010

SELECTED CASES

Innocence Project (lead counsel on exonerations of eight people who spent a total of over 175 years in prison):

Commonwealth v. Garr Keith Hardin & Jeffrey Clark, 528 S.W.3d 342 (Ky. 2017). Obtained reversal of 1995 murder convictions based on newly discovered evidence, affirmed by Kentucky Supreme Court (argued June 2017), and obtained dismissal of new indictments with prejudice for vindictive prosecution. Detective from Louisville Metro Police Department was subsequently criminally indicted.

State v. Darryl Howard (N.C. 2016). Obtained reversal of 1995 double murder and arson convictions resulting from fabrication of evidence by Durham police and misconduct by Assistant District Attorney Mike Nifong.

Kramer Levin:

In re Guantánamo Bay Detainee Litigation, 581 F. Supp. 2d 33 (D.D.C. 2008) (ordering the federal government to release into the U.S. seventeen Uighur men held in Guantánamo), *rev'd and remanded sub nom. Kiyemba v. Obama*, 555 F.3d 1022 (D.C. Cir. 2009), *vacated*, 559 U.S. 131 (2010), and *judgment reinstated as amended*, 605 F.3d 1046 (D.C. Cir. 2010). Represented four Uighur men held in indefinite detention in Guantánamo; litigated habeas cases in district, appellate, and U.S. Supreme Court; and co-led resettlement efforts before foreign ministries, overseas courts, asylum sponsor programs, and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

SELECTED PRESS & MEDIA APPEARANCES

Newspapers & Online Media:

- [*A Rape Kit that Sat Untested for Decades Just Exonerated a Wrongfully Convicted Man*](#), WASH. POST (Jan. 29, 2020) (interviewed & quoted)
- [*26 Years Later, Justice for Men Imprisoned for a Bogus Rape*](#), N.Y. TIMES (May 7, 2018) (interviewed & quoted)
- [*After 26 Years, Murder Case Wrongly Linked to Satanism is Finally Dropped*](#), COURIER-JOURNAL (Feb. 26, 2018) (quoted)
- [*Brooklyn Man is Exonerated After 25 Years in Prison for Murder*](#), N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 10, 2016) (interviewed & quoted)
- [*Gitmo's Fallen Czar*](#), FOREIGN POLICY (May 23, 2013) (quoted)
- [*Guantánamo Cannot Be Closed Without Europe's Help*](#), DER SPIEGEL (Oct. 6, 2009) (interviewed & quoted)

Radio & Podcasts:

- Wrongful Conviction Podcast with Jason Flom (May 14, 2018) (interview) (with Andre and Jerry Hatchett)
- *Paradise Prison for Gitmo Uighurs*, Dispatches, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (Feb. 2, 2012) (interview)
- *Understanding Uighurs*, Radio Times with Marty Moss-Coane, WHYY-NPR (July 14, 2009) (interview)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member of Advisory Council to develop the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering (invitation from Juan Méndez, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and Mark Thomson, former Secretary General of the Association for the Prevention of Torture) (2019-2021)

EDUCATION

Fordham University School of Law, J.D., 2004

Fordham Urban Law Journal

Crowley Scholar in International Human Rights

Stein Scholar in Public Interest Law and Ethics

Muslim Law Students Association, Founder/Co-Chair

Cornell University, A.B. in English, *cum laude*, A.B. in Psychology, with distinction in all subjects, 2001

Thesis: *Empowering the Stage: Demonizing the Islamic World in Elizabethan Drama*

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York, 2005; Southern and Eastern Districts of New York; Third Circuit Court of Appeals; Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals; D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals; U.S. Supreme Court

LANGUAGES

French (intermediate); Urdu (intermediate conversation); Arabic (intermediate conversation)