

ELENA L. COHEN

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EDUCATION

GRADUATE CENTER, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

New York, NY

Doctor of Philosophy, *magna cum laude*, June 2020

Academic: GPA: 3.88; Major in Political Theory; Minor in American Politics; Women's Studies Certificate Program

Appointments: Research Fellow, Mellon Sawyer Seminar on "Democratic Citizenship and the Recognition of Cultural Differences" (Fall 2012- Spring 2013)
Editorial Assistant, *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly at The Feminist Press* (Fall 2011-June 2020)

Dissertation: *Dangerous Exhibitions: Erotic Justice & Comparative Constitutional Law*

BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW

New York, NY

Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, June 2010

Academic: GPA: 3.89 (Top 5%)

Honors: Order of the Coif; Articles Editor, Cardozo Law Review; Public Service Scholar

Activities: Executive Board Member, National Lawyers Guild; Student Animal Legal Defense Fund

Study Abroad: *University of Amsterdam Law School*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (Fall 2009)

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

New Haven, CT

Bachelor of Arts (Art History & Italian), *summa cum laude*, May 2007

Academic: GPA: 3.93

Honors: Honors College Scholarship; L. Robbins Art Scholarship; Mastrianni Memorial Scholarship

Thesis: *Quo Malo Convulso Fetet Pro Minime Grato: Sexual Violence in Renaissance Art*

Activities: President, Amnesty International; Zeta Delta Epsilon Honors Service Society

Study Abroad: *Università degli Studi di Urbino*, Urbino, Italy (Summer 2004; Fall 2005)
Kingston University, London, England (Fall 2002)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW, DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Visiting Assistant Professor, Winter 2022-Present

Philadelphia, PA

Instructs courses in new program at Kline School of Law where undergraduate students take courses at a law school and earn a bachelor's degree in Law. Courses taught include Introduction to American Legal Systems; Religion and the Law in the U.S. Today; Sex, Gender and Sexuality in the Law; Law and Protest; and Legal Reasoning.

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK- SENIOR COLLEGES

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Spring 2016-Fall 2021

New York City, NY

Instructed upper-level and introductory courses at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Bernard M. Baruch College, and College of Staten Island in the areas of Civil Rights, Constitutional Law, U.S. Political Thought, and Gender and the Law. Appointed in the Political Science, Women's Studies, and Law Departments.

Pre-Law Advisor, Fall 2018-Fall 2021

Worked one-on-one with students at College of Staten who are interested in attending law school. Provided guidance regarding legal careers, LSAT test prep, personal statements and selection of law schools.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

COHEN & GREEN, PLLC

Partner, August 2018- Present

Ridgewood, NY

Founding partner at small firm focusing on serving the LGBTQ, sex worker and activist communities in New York City. Matters include federal and state civil rights litigation, criminal defense, defamation defense for survivors of sexual assault and for activists, election law and Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. In addition to representing hundreds of protesters in criminal and civil cases, matters litigated include: *Jones v. United States Postal Service* (nationwide voting rights class action); *Edrei v. Bratton*, aff'd sub. nom. *Edrei v. Maguire*, (landmark, precedential decision in challenge to NYPD's use of Long Range Acoustic Device ("LRAD") against Black Lives Matter protesters), cert. denied *Maguire v. Edrei*; *Gallagher v. N.Y. State Bd. of Elections* (New York State voting rights class action); and *Yang v. N.Y. State Bd. of Elections*, aff'd sub. nom. *Yang v. Kosinski* (litigation that led to the re-instatement of the New York Democratic presidential primary election in 2020); *Hernandez et al v. City of New York et al* (action by 12 Legal Observers falsely arrested at the Mott Haven protest in June 2020, resulting in judgment against NYC). Current co-counsel on *Sow et al v. City of New York et al*, a putative class action challenging the NYPD's policing of the Summer 2020 protests in support of Black lives.

LAW OFFICE OF ELENA L. COHEN

Criminal Defense & Civil Practice, May 2012- August 2018

Brooklyn and New York, NY

Solo practitioner focusing on criminal defense and civil rights litigation, especially for activists in New York City.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

NATIONAL LAWYER'S GUILD

New York, NY

President, November 2018- November 2021; Executive Vice President, January 2016- August 2017

Responsible for daily operations and emergency decisions for the United States' oldest progressive bar association. Manage employees. Resolve issues within staff, membership, or on executive board as needed. Responsible for fundraising. Select and lead major initiatives of the National Lawyers Guild.

NATIONAL LAWYER'S GUILD, NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER

New York, NY

President (2014 & 2015); Vice-President (2016); Mass Defense Coordinator (2011- 2013)

As President, led the largest chapter of the National Lawyers Guild in financial and administrative tasks, including securing a bequest of over \$4 million to the Chapter. As Mass Defense Coordinator, directed the legal representation of over 2,000 people arrested in connection with *Occupy Wall Street* and other NYC protests.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

DR. MICHEL ROSENFELD, BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW New York, NY
Research Assistant, August 2008 - Present

Edited, researched, and organized the overall production of dozens of textbooks, casebooks and other legal volumes in the area of comparative constitutional law. Titles include: *The Oxford Handbook of Law and Religion* (eds. Michel Rosenfeld & Susanna Mancini, 2013); *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Constitutional Law* (eds. Michel Rosenfeld & Andras Sajó, 2012); *The Identity of the Constitutional Subject: Selfhood, Citizenship, Culture, and Community* (2010); *Law, Justice, Democracy and the Clash of Cultures: A Pluralist Account, Comparative Constitutionalism: Cases and Materials* (eds. Michel Rosenfeld, Andras Sajó, Susanne Baer & Norman Dorsen, 2nd ed. 2010, 3rd ed. 2016 and 4th ed. 2022); and *A Pluralist Theory of Constitutional Justice* (forthcoming 2022).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Elena L. Cohen & Susanna Mancini, “Gender Justice and Religious Freedom in the Post-Secular Age,” in Susanna Mancini (ed.), *THE HANDBOOK ON CONSTITUTIONS AND RELIGION* (2020).
- Elena L. Cohen, “‘All Day, All Week, Occupy Wall Street!’: Space, Biopower and Resistance,” in Patricia Stapleton & Andrew Byers (eds.), *BIOPOLITICS AND UTOPIA* (2015).
- Elena L. Cohen, Melissa M. Forbis, and Deepti Misri (editors), *Protest Special Issue*, 46 *WSQ: Women’s Studies Quarterly* (2018).
- Elena L. Cohen, “I’d Rather Go Naked: Sexual Dissent and Queer Resistance in PETA Campaigns,” 9 *Green Theory & Praxis Special Issue: Queer Eco-Feminist Perspectives* 14 (2016).
- Elena L. Cohen, “Divided in Theory, United in Practice: The American Perspective on the Interface between Politics and the Courts,” 3 *Pervorsi Costituzionali: Quadrimestrale di Diritti e Libertà* 163 (2010).
- Elena L. Cohen & Michel Rosenfeld, “Jurisprudence de la Cour Suprême Américaine (2007-2008),” 125 *Revue Du Droit Public et de la Science Politique en France et à l’Étranger* 925 (2009).

SELECTED RECENT PRESENTATIONS

- Policing Protests. Address at Drexel University (May 24, 2022) (*invited speaker*).
- Know Your Rights as a Sex Worker. Panelist at SW Survival Guide Summit (May 1, 2022) (*invited speaker*).
- Activist Representation Post-2020 Uprisings. Panelist at CUNY School of Law (March 3, 2022) (*invited speaker*).
- Using Sound as Punishment and to Repress Protest. Panelist at Shock Wave/Sonic Acts event (November 5, 2021) (*invited speaker*).
- Legal Representation of Activists. Address at Kline School of Law (October 12, 2021) (*invited speaker*).
- Movement Lawyering. Panelist for Pace University School of Law “Disorientation” event (September 23, 2021) (*invited speaker*).
- Why Defend Protesters. Panelist at Cardozo School of Law (October 9, 2020) (*invited speaker*).
- On the Legitimacy of Protest: Kashmir, Palestine, Black Lives Matter. Roundtable speaker at National Women’s Studies Association annual conference (November 16, 2019).
- Erotic Justice and the Law: Resisting Sexual Oppression under the U.S. Constitution. Panelist at Law & Society Association annual Conference (May 31, 2019).
- Representing Activists. Address at Fordham University School of Law. (April 22, 2019) (*invited speaker*).
- Representing Protesters in NYC Criminal Courts - Advanced Topics. CLE Panelist (October 4, 2018) (*invited speaker*).