

# **DEBORAH S. GORDON**

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ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW  
DREXEL UNIVERSITY THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW  
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## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT**

### **DREXEL UNIVERSITY THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW, PHILADELPHIA, PA**

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*Associate Professor of Law, September 2015-; Assistant Professor of Law, August 2011-August 2014; Visiting Assistant Professor, August 2009-July 2011; Adjunct, August 2008-July 2009*

*Courses:*

Legal Methods I & II; Trusts & Estates; Law & Literature; Gift & Estate Tax

*Law School Committees and Service:*

Appointments Committee (2017-18); Tenure Committee (2017-19); Honor Code Committee (2018); Professional Identity Committee (2018); Admissions Committee (2016-17); Teaching Committee (2014-18); Social Justice Cross Curricular Collaborations Committee (2014-17); Student Code of Conduct Hearing Committee (2013-15); Law Review Faculty Advisor (2011-13); Dean's Summer Study Committee (2012-13); Drexel University STAR Fellow Mentor (2012); Career Development and Judicial Clerkships Committee (2009-11).

*Service Outside the Law School:*

Section Chair, AALS Trusts & Estates Section (2018-19); Peer Reviewer, International Institute for the Sociology of Law (2018); PDLG Presenter (2016, 2017); Program Chair, AALS Trusts & Estates Section (2016-17); Secretary, AALS Trusts & Estates Section (2015-16); Board Member and Workshop Coordinator, Legal Writing Institute Writer's Workshop Governing Board (2014-18); Facilitator, LWI Writer's Workshop (2014, 2015, 2017); Peer Reviewer, Sage Open (2015); Member, Scholarship Outreach and Development Committee, Legal Writing Institute (2012-14); Assistant Editor, Legal Writing Institute Journal (2012); Peer Reviewer for Legal Communication & Rhetoric: JALWD (2012); Judge, Philadelphia Bar Association Ruth Bader Ginsburg Pursuit of Justice Award (2011-14).

## **EDUCATION**

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### **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, J.D. 1992**

*Magna cum laude, Order of the Coif*

*Editor-in-Chief of the N.Y.U. Law Review*

*Recipient of numerous awards, including:*

Benjamin F. Butler Memorial Award for scholarship, character and professional activities;  
N.Y.U. Alumnae Key Pin for Outstanding Female Graduate;  
Judge Rose L. & Herbert Rubin Law Review Prize;  
American Jurisprudence awards in Contracts and Family Law.

*Volunteer, Brooklyn Legal Services*

Helped abused women obtain orders of protection.

### **WILLIAMS COLLEGE, B.A. 1987**

*Phi Beta Kappa, Magna cum laude*

*Graduated with Honors in English (major) and Women's Studies (minor)*

Honors Thesis: *Women in the Fiction of Phillip Roth*

*Other honors and accomplishments:*

Class of 1960 Scholar (academic achievement);  
Class of 1957 Scholar (academic achievement and contributions to the College);  
Junior Advisor;  
Teaching Assistant for Biology, Winter Study (interdisciplinary course), and Women's Studies;  
Research Assistant for Psychology.

## **JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP**

**HONORABLE I. LEO GLASSER, U.S. DISTRICT COURT, E.D.N.Y., BROOKLYN, NY**  
*Law Clerk, 1992-93*

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**DAY BERRY & HOWARD, LLP (NOW DAY PITNEY, LLP), STAMFORD & GREENWICH, CT**  
*Counsel, 2005-06; Associate, 1996-2004*

**SULLIVAN & CROMWELL, NEW YORK, NY**  
*Associate Attorney, 1994-95; Pro-Bono Fellow, 1993-94*

**ENGLISH TEACHER, THE SPENCE SCHOOL, NEW YORK, NY, 1987-89**

**ENGLISH TEACHER, PREP-FOR-PREP, NEW YORK, NY, SUMMER 1989**

## **PUBLICATIONS**

EXPERIENCING TRUSTS & ESTATES (West Academic 2017) (with Alfred L. Brophy, Norman P. Stein & Caryl Yzenbaard)

*Mor(t)ality & Identity: Wills, Narratives, and Personal Possessions*, 28 YALE J. L. & HUMAN. 265 (2016)

*Forfeiting Trust*, 57 WM. & MARY L. REV. 455 (2015)  
*Reviewed by Sara Waldeck, Apples and Oranges, Or Trusts and Wills (at Jotwell)*

*Commentary: Johnson v. Transportation Agency as Reimagined by Deborah L. Rhode*, U.S. FEMINIST JUDGMENTS PROJECT (Cambridge University Press 2016)

*Trusting Trust*, 63 U. KAN. L. REV. 497 (2015)

*Letters Non-Testamentary*, 62 U. KAN. L. REV. 585 (2014)  
*Reviewed by Paula Monopoli, Exploring the Expressive Dimensions of Inheritance Law (at Jotwell)*  
*Reprinted in Legal Writing Institute Monograph Series, Volume 5 (Law & Rhetoric)*

*Reflecting on the Language of Death*, 34 SEATTLE U. L. REV. 379 (2011)  
*Reprinted in part in FUNDAMENTALS OF TRUSTS AND ESTATES (ROGER W. ANDERSEN & IRA MARK BLOOM, 4th ed. 2012)*

*The Carnegie Report: Does It Go Far Enough?*, JOURNAL OF THE LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE (2011) (with Lisa McElroy & Christine Coughlin)

*HEET Wave*, Trusts & Estates (March 2005) (with Michael N. Delgass)

“*Jug Jug to Dirty Ears*”: *Maryland v. Craig through a Literary Lens*, 66 N.Y.U. L. REV. 1404 (1991)

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

*The Myths of Trustee Identity*

*Engendering Trust*

FEMINIST JUDGMENTS SERIES: REWRITTEN TRUSTS & ESTATES (Cambridge University Press, May 2019) (with Carla Spivack & Browne C. Lewis)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**2018 AALS ANNUAL MEETING, TRUSTS & ESTATES SECTION**, San Diego, California, January 2018

*What Really Happened: Empirical & Historical Evidence in the Law of Trusts & Estates* (Program Chair and moderator)

**SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAW SCHOOLS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, Boca Raton, Florida, August 2017

*Research Inside and Outside the Trusts & Estates Paradigm* (discussant)

**TEACHING INNOVATION IN LAW SCHOOLS: TRANSATLANTIC PERSPECTIVES**, DURHAM UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, June 2017

*Teaching Innovations: From the Large Classroom to the Small* (invited speaker)

**SIXTH NATIONAL BIENNIAL APPLIED LEGAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE**, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, July 2017

*Shifting Perspectives: Building Litigation Avoidance into a Traditional Litigation-Focused Legal Writing Course* (co-presenter)

**2017 HELEN I. MOOREHEAD-LAURENCIN, MD SEX AND GENDER RESEARCH FORUM**, DREXEL UNIVERSITY, March 2016

*Feminist Judgments: Rewritten Trusts & Estates Opinions* (flash talk)

**2017 AALS ANNUAL MEETING, TRUSTS & ESTATES SECTION**, San Francisco, California, January 2017

*Sex, Death, and Taxes: The Unruly Nature of the Laws of Trusts and Estates* (moderator)

**SECOND WILLS, TRUSTS, AND ESTATES MEET GENDER, RACE, AND CLASS CONFERENCE**, OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, September 2016

*Mor(t)ality and Identity* (invited speaker)

**SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAW SCHOOLS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, Amelia Island, Florida, August 2016

*Trusts & Estates: Latest Scholarship* (panelist); *Teaching the Knowledge, Skills, and Values of Trusts & Estates in the Age of Assessment* (discussant)

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LAW, CULTURE, & THE HUMANITIES, UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL OF LAW**, April 2016

*Immor(t)ality: Wills, Narratives, and Personal Possessions* (panelist)

**JOINT SCHOLARS & SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP ON FEMINIST JURISPRUDENCE, FORDHAM LAW SCHOOL**, January 2016

*U.S. Feminist Judgments Project: Collaboration as a Feminist Model for Creative Scholarship* (panelist)

**NATIONAL BIENNIAL APPLIED LEGAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF SEATTLE SCHOOL OF LAW**, July 2015

*Counter-narratives and Legal Pedagogy: Transforming Challenge into Confidence* (co-presenter); *Feminist Judgments Project* (panelist)

**DELAWARE VALLEY WOMEN LAW PROFESSORS CONFERENCE**, March 2015

*Feminist Judgments Project* (panelist)

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL LWI ONE-DAY CONFERENCE**, December 2014

*Confidence, Challenge, and Legal Writing Pedagogy* (co-presenter)

**SIXTEENTH NATIONAL BIENNIAL LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE CONFERENCE**, July 2014

*Genre Scholarship* (moderator); *Scholarship Incubation Workshop* (co-facilitator)

**WILLS, TRUSTS, AND ESTATES MEET GENDER, RACE, AND CLASS, OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**, September 2013

*Letters Non-Testamentary* (invited speaker)

**SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAW SCHOOLS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, August 2013

*Trusts and Estates Scholarship and Pedagogy* (panelist)

**SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL LEGAL WRITING CONFERENCE**, April 2013

*Academic Circles* (co-presenter)

**THIRTEENTH ANNUAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN LEGAL WRITING CONFERENCE**, March 2013

*Scholarship -> Teaching -> Scholarship: How Teaching and Scholarship Inform*

*and Improve Each Other (co-presenter)*

**SHARING SCHOLARSHIP, BUILDING TEACHERS: 2013 SCHOLARSHIP AND TEACHING DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP, ALBANY LAW SCHOOL, February 2013**  
*Scholarship Roundtable*

**DREXEL UNIVERSITY EARLE MACK SCHOOL OF LAW, August 2012**  
*Professor's Lives Beyond the Classroom*

**FIFTEENTH NATIONAL BIENNIAL LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE CONFERENCE, June 2012**  
*The Carnegie Report: Does It Go Far Enough? (co-presenter)*

**SECOND ANNUAL CAPITAL AREA LEGAL WRITING CONFERENCE, March 2012**  
*A Teachable Moment: Some Unanticipated Benefits from Integrating an Experiential Component into the Law School Classroom*

**THIRD NATIONAL BIENNIAL APPLIED LEGAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF DENVER STURM COLLEGE OF LAW, July 2011**  
*Tales of Life and Death*

**ELEVENTH ANNUAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN LEGAL WRITING CONFERENCE, March 2011**  
*Using the Mind/Body Connection in the Legal Writing Classroom*

**WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE WORKSHOP FOR NEW PROFESSORS, October 2010**  
*Pursuing Scholarship (invited speaker)*

**TENTH ANNUAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN LEGAL WRITING CONFERENCE, March 2010**  
*Exploring and Celebrating Legal Research*