

**ELIZABETH R. KUKURA**

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**ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

**Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law**, Philadelphia, PA

Assistant Professor of Law, September 2020-present

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, Fall 2016, 2017-2020

*Courses taught:* Legal Methods I & II  
Health Care Quality Regulation  
Professional Responsibility  
Life & Law of RBG

**Temple University Lewis Katz School of Medicine**, Philadelphia, PA

Center for Urban Bioethics

Affiliated Adjunct Professor, 2019-2020

*Course taught:* Reproductive Ethics (Summer 2019)

**Temple University Beasley School of Law**, Philadelphia, PA

Adjunct Professor, Spring 2017

*Course taught:* Health Care Law & Reform

Abraham L. Freedman Teaching Fellow, 2013-2016

*Courses taught:* Introduction to Legal Research & Writing  
Reproductive Health, Rights & Justice  
Introduction to Transactional Skills (mini-course)

**EDUCATION**

**Temple University Beasley School of Law**, Philadelphia, PA

LLM, May 2016

**New York University School of Law**, New York, NY

J.D., May 2009

*Review of Law & Social Change*, Editor-in-Chief

**London School of Economics and Political Science**, London, England

MSc in Human Rights, December 2004

Dissertation: *Finding Family: Considering the Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Partnerships Under the European Convention on Human Rights* (awarded distinction)

**Yale University**, New Haven, CT

B.A., May 2001, *cum laude* with distinction in Russian and East European Studies

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### ***Articles***

*Pregnancy Risk After Dobbs*, 76 SMU L. REV. \_\_ (forthcoming 2023) (symposium issue) (invited).

*Rethinking the Infrastructure of Childbirth*, 91 UMKC L. REV. \_\_ (forthcoming 2023) (symposium issue) (invited).

*Birthing Alone*, 79 WASH. & LEE L. REV. \_\_ (forthcoming 2022).

*Reconceiving Reproductive Health Systems: Caring for Trans, Nonbinary, and Gender-Expansive People During Pregnancy and Childbirth*, J. L. MED & ETHICS 50 (2022): 471-488 (peer reviewed) (forthcoming 2022).

[\*Better Birth\*](#), 93 TEMPLE L. REV. 243 (2021) (lead article of issue 93:2).

[\*Seeking Safety While Giving Birth During the Pandemic\*](#), 14 ST. LOUIS U. J. HEALTH L. & POL'Y 279 (2021) (special issue).

[\*Obstetric Violence\*](#), 106 GEO. L.J. 721 (2018) (reviewed in JOTWELL, Nadia Sawicki, *The Dark Side of Childbirth: A Failure of Law and Medicine* (Oct. 1, 2019), <https://health.jotwell.com/the-dark-side-of-childbirth-a-failure-of-both-law-and-medicine/>).

[\*Birth Conflicts: Leveraging State Power to Coerce Health Care Decision-Making\*](#), 46 U. BALT. L. REV. 247 (2018) (symposium issue).

[\*Giving Birth Under the ACA: Analyzing the Use of Law as a Tool to Improve Health Care\*](#), 94 NEBRASKA L. REV. 799 (2016) (lead article of issue 94:4).

[\*Contested Care: The Limitations of Evidence-Based Maternity Care Reform\*](#), 31 BERKELEY J. GENDER L. & JUST. 241 (2016).

[\*Choice in Birth: Preserving Access to VBAC\*](#), 114 PENN ST. L. REV. 955 (2010) (excerpted in CASES ON REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND JUSTICE (Foundation Press 2014)).

### ***Book Chapters***

*Teaching the Life and Law of RBG, in THE JURISPRUDENTIAL LEGACY OF JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG* (Ryan Vacca and Ann Bartow, eds.) (NYU Press, expected publication 2022) (forthcoming) (co-authored with David S. Cohen).

*Commentary on Doe v. Gillespie, in FEMINIST JUDGMENTS: REWRITTEN HEALTH LAW OPINIONS* (Seema Mohapatra and Lindsay F. Wiley, eds.) (Cambridge University Press, expected publication 2022) (forthcoming).

*Commentary on Broadnax v. Gonzalez, in FEMINIST JUDGMENTS: REWRITTEN TORT LAW OPINIONS* (Martha Chamallas and Lucinda Finley, eds.) (Cambridge University Press 2020).

*Obstetric Violence Through a Fiduciary Lens, in CHILDBIRTH, VULNERABILITY AND LAW: EXPLORING ISSUES OF VIOLENCE AND CONTROL* (Camilla Pickles and Jonathan Herring, eds.) (Routledge 2019).

### ***Shorter Works***

*Dobbs Weakens Pregnant Patients' Right to Medical Self-Determination, J. L. MED & ETHICS* (peer reviewed) (forthcoming 2023) (with Nadia Sawicki).

[\*Punishing Maternal Ambivalence\*](#), 90 *FORDHAM L. REV.* 2909 (2022) (symposium issue) (invited).

[\*Revisiting Roe to Advance Reproductive Justice for Childbearing Women\*](#), 94 *NOTRE DAME L. REV. ONLINE* 20 (2018).

*Finding Family: Considering the Recognition of Same-Sex Families in International Human Rights Law and the European Court of Human Rights*, 13 *HUM. RTS. BR.* 17 (Winter 2006).

*Sexual Orientation and Non-Discrimination*, 17 *PEACE REV.: A JOURNAL OF SOCIAL JUSTICE* 181 (2005).

### ***Other Publications***

["Rethinking Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Legacy, a Year After Her Death,"](#) *Phila. Inquirer* (Sept. 20, 2021) (with David S. Cohen).

["The Future of Reproductive Health Care Under the New Conservative Supreme Court Majority,"](#) *JURIST – Academic Commentary* (Dec. 17, 2020).

### ***Advocacy***

[\*Amicus Brief, Dray v. Staten Island University Hospital, et al., No. 2019-12617 \(N.Y. App. Div. 2d\)\*](#) (filed Nov. 2, 2020) (on behalf of Birth Rights Bar Association and the Birth Place Lab) (with BRBA co-authors).

## **SELECTED PRESS**

Ian Lopez, [\*Abortion Bans Collide With Red States' Liberty, Autonomy Stands\*](#), Bloomberg (Oct. 25, 2022) (interviewed about state court challenges to abortion restrictions).

Ariana Garcia, [\*Texas Republications Aim to Further Restrict Abortions—Here's How They Might Do It\*](#), CHRON (July 8, 2022) (interviewed about future of abortion restrictions in Texas after *Dobbs*).

Bob Fernandez, [\*Hershey School's Law Firm was Arguing Two Cases Before a Federal Judge—and Then Hired His Son\*](#), PHILA. INQUIRER (Feb. 4, 2019) (interviewed about conflicts of interest and judicial recusal).

Olivia Miltner, [\*'It Felt Like I Had Been Violated': How Obstetric Violence Can Traumatize Patients\*](#), REWIRE NEWS GROUP (Jan. 23, 2019) (interviewed about legal issues in obstetric violence).

## **SELECTED EXPERIENCE**

**Women's Medical Fund**, Philadelphia, PA

**Consultant**, 2016

Prepared needs assessment for non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to low-income women seeking reproductive health care in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Updated methodology based on Medicaid data and current research literature.

**Bryan Cave LLP**, New York, NY

**Associate**, 2011-2013

**Summer Associate**, Summer 2008

Litigated securities, employment, and other commercial matters at trial and appellate levels. Assisted in employment counseling for corporate clients and in securities compliance and enforcement matters. Contributed to major federal regulatory policy review for *pro bono* client Family Equality Council.

**Law Students for Reproductive Justice** (currently If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice), Oakland, CA

**Legal Fellow**, 2009-2010

Implemented organization's reproductive rights-related educational programming and curriculum reform initiatives, including co-conceiving and developing early version of casebook on reproductive rights and justice. Served as one of four staff members supporting over 85 law school chapters in reproductive justice advocacy.

**Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy**, Los Angeles, CA

**Public Policy Fellow**, 2004-2006

Performed legal and policy research at academic think tank. Co-authored policy reports on the fiscal impact of legalizing same-sex marriage. Analyzed Census data on same-sex couples.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

“Reconceiving Reproductive Health Care Systems: Caring for Trans, Nonbinary, and Gender-Expansive People During Pregnancy and Childbirth,” Transgender Health Equity & the Law Symposium, Wayne State University, American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics, Harvard Law School LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic (October 2022) (invited)

Impact of *Dobbs* on Reproductive Healthcare and Privacy, Drexel Kline School of Law, American Constitution Society, Moderator (October 2022)

“Punishing Maternal Ambivalence,” Reproductive Psychiatry Women’s Rounds, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York-Presbyterian (virtual) (August 2022) (participated in discussion group on article with members of the Weill Cornell Medical College Reproductive Psychiatry Group).

“Embracing Maternal Ambivalence,” presented at:

- Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal (virtual), July 2022
- Family Law Scholars & Teachers Conference, Temple University, June 2022
- Law of Parents and Parenting Symposium, Fordham Law School, New York (virtual), November 2021 (invited)

“Understanding Obstetric Violence Through a Fiduciary Lens,” Fiduciary Law Workshop, Brooklyn Law School, May 2022

“Maternal-Fetal Conflict and Epistemic Injustice,” Abortion Rights at a Crossroads, University of Pittsburgh School of Law (virtual), February 2022 (invited)

“Childbirth During the Pandemic,” Reproducing Injustice: COVID-19, Reproduction and the Law Symposium, Drexel Kline School of Law (virtual), October 2021

“Birthing Alone,” presented at:

- Villanova Faculty Colloquium (virtual), March 16, 2022
- New Voices in Law, Medicine & Health Care, AALS Annual Meeting (virtual), January 2022
- American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics, 44th Annual Health Law Professors Conference, Northeastern Law, Boston, Massachusetts (virtual), June 2021
- Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (virtual), May 2021

“Oops! Constructing a Lesson on Counseling Clients about Lawyer Mistakes,” presented at:

- Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) Biennial Conference, University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, MI (virtual), June 2021

“Midwifery Discipline,” presented at:

- Birth Rights Bar Association, Childbirth & the Law Conference, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Chicago, Illinois (virtual), April 2021

“The Future of Roe v. Wade,” Arlen Specter Center, Lawrence Katz Memorial Lecture, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (virtual), March 2021 (invited).

“Seeking Safety While Giving Birth During a Pandemic,” presented at:

- Urban Bioethics in a Pandemic Seminar, Temple Medical School, Center for Urban Bioethics, Philadelphia (virtual), March 2021 (invited)
- COVID-19 Health Equity and Law Seminar, St. Louis University School of Law, St. Louis, Missouri (virtual), February 2021 (invited)
- Virtual Health Law Workshop, October 2020

“Birth Stories & Legal Storytelling: Searching for Missing Narratives in Judicial Treatment of Obstetric Violence Claims,” presented at:

- Applied Legal Storytelling Conference, Boulder, Colorado, July 2019
- Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 2018

“Understanding Obstetric Violence Through a Fiduciary Lens,” presented at:

- American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics, 42nd Annual Health Law Professors Conference, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, June 2019
- Birth Rights Bar Association, Childbirth & the Law Conference, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, March 2019

“Better Birth,” presented at:

- Law, Medicine & Bioethics of Reproduction seminar, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, Missouri (virtual), June 2022 (invited)
- Law, Medicine & Bioethics Seminar, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, Kansas City, Missouri (virtual), February 2021 (invited)
- Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, May 2019
- Guest Lecture, Health Law Seminar, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, March 2019 (invited)
- American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics, 41st Annual Health Law Professors Conference, Cleveland, Ohio, June 2018

“Coercion and Conflict: Disclosure of Two-Patient Model in Obstetrics to Improve Decision-Making in Childbirth,” Alden March Bioethics Institute Reproductive Ethics Conference, Albany Medical College, Albany, New York, April 2019.

“Childbirth and Informed Consent,” ICAN of the Quad Cities, Davenport, Iowa, March 2019 (community event) (invited).

“Strategies for Giving Effective Feedback,” Co-op Supervisor Roundtable, Mentoring the Young Professional: A Strengths-Based Approach, Drexel Kline School of Law, September 2018

“Obstetric Violence,” presented at:

- Helen I. Moorehead-Laurencin, MD, Sex and Gender Research Forum, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 2018

- American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics, 40th Annual Health Law Professors Conference, Georgia State University College of Law, Atlanta, Georgia, June 2017
- The U.S. Feminist Judgments Project: Rewriting the Law, Writing the Future, University of Akron School of Law, Akron, Ohio, October 2016
- Law & Society Association Annual Meeting (part of roundtable called *Critical Perspectives on Reproductive Justice: From Activism to the Academy*), New Orleans, Louisiana, June 2016

“Feminist Judgments and the Future of Reproductive Justice,” Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 2017 (invited).

“Birth Conflicts: Leveraging State Power to Coerce Health Care Decision-Making,” presented at:

- Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico, June 2017
- Tenth Annual Feminist Legal Theory Conference, University of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, Maryland, March 2017

“Changing the Culture of Health Care: Applying Lessons from Maternity Care Advocacy to Improve Trans Health Care,” After Marriage Conference, CLAGS: The Center for LGBTQ Studies, CUNY, New York, New York, October 2016.

“The Problems with Obstetric Violence: Applying Vulnerability Theory to Improve Maternity Care,” Vulnerability and the Human Condition Initiative, Workshop on Reproductive and Sexual Justice, Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, Massachusetts, April 2016.

“Giving Birth Under the ACA: Analyzing the Use of Law as a Tool to Improve Health Care,” presented at:

- Delaware Valley Feminist Law Teachers Conference, Drexel Kline School of Law, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 2015
- Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, May 2015

“Contested Care: The Politics of Research, Evidence and Knowledge in U.S. Childbirth Policies,” Law & Society Association Annual Meeting (part of panel called “*Just the Facts*”: *Expertise and Empirical Evidence as Movement Strategies*), Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 2014.

## **SERVICE**

### ***Law School***

Kline School of Law Faculty Committee Service

- Appointments Committee, 2022-present
- Readmission Committee, 2021-22
- Intellectual Life Committee, 2020-21
- Student Code of Conduct Hearing Committee, 2018-21
  - Chair, 2019-20

Drexel Law Review

- Faculty Advisor, Drexel Law Review Symposium, Fall 2021
- Note Advisor, 2018-19, 2021-22, 2022-23

Independent Study Advisor, Fall 2022

Coach, Client Counseling Teams, ABA Client Counseling Competition, 2019

***External Service—Academic & Legal***

Co-Editor, [Women and the Law](#), 2021-2023 (Thomson Reuters)

Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD)

- Scholarship Grants Committee Chair, 2022-present
- Scholars Forum Committee Member, 2018-2022
- New Member Outreach Committee Member, 2017-2018

Legal Writing Institute (LWI)

- Awards Committee, 2022-present
- Diversity & Inclusion Committee, 2020-2021

AALS Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues Section, Individual & Institutional Awards Committee, 2022-present

Feminist Legal Theory Collaborative Research Network

- Co-Chair, LSA Annual Meeting Planning Committee, 2022-23
- Member, LSA Annual Meeting Planning Committee, 2013-14, 2019-20
- Co-Chair, Scholarship Committee, 2019-present

Deputy Editor, ABA Section of International Law, International Law Year in Review, 2017-2021

***External Service—Community***

Midwifery Education Accreditation Council, Accreditation Review Committee Member, 2018-present

Philadelphia Midwives Collective, Board Member, 2019-present

Friends Child Care Center, Trustee, 2018-present

Global Perinatal Task Force on Birth Setting During Covid-19, 2020-2021

Pennsylvania Association of Certified Professional Midwives (PACPM), Secretary, 2016-2021



**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Bar Association, 2009-present

LGBT Bar Association, 2009-present

Law & Society Association, 2014-present

American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics, 2016-present

Birth Rights Bar Association, 2018-present

**ADMISSIONS**

New Jersey Bar

New York Bar

U.S. Federal Court for the District of New Jersey

U.S. Federal Court for the Southern District of New York

U.S. Federal Court for the Eastern District of New York