

ELIZABETH R. KUKURA

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

Associate Professor of Law, 2023-present

Assistant Professor of Law, 2020-2023

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 Health Justice & Bioethics (formerly Center for Urban Bioethics)

Affiliated Adjunct Professor, 2019-2020

Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, PA

Adjunct Professor, Spring 2017

Abraham L. Freedman Teaching Fellow, 2013-2016

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

Normalizing Maternal Ambivalence, 57 ARIZ. ST. L.J. __ (forthcoming 2025).

The Relationship Between Demedicalization and Criminalization in Reproductive Health, 34 HEALTH MATRIX 217 (2024) (symposium issue) (invited) (selected for inclusion in Gender & the Law (Thomson Reuters 2025)).

Rethinking the Infrastructure of Childbirth, 91 UMKC L. REV. 497 (2023) (symposium issue) (invited).

Birthing Alone, 79 WASH. & LEE L. REV. 1463 (2022) (reviewed in JOTWELL, Doron Dorfman, *Dealing With Doulas: Birth Justice, Delivery Room Conflicts, and the Rigidity of the Health Care System* (Apr. 29, 2024)).

Reconceiving Reproductive Health Systems: Caring for Trans, Nonbinary, and Gender-Expansive People During Pregnancy and Childbirth, J. L. MED & ETHICS 50(3): 471-488 (2022) (peer reviewed) (quoted by [Merriam-Webster](#) in definition for “gender dysphoria”).

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) (featured in THE REGULATORY REVIEW, Evelyn Mangold, [Where Are the Midwives?](#) (Dec. 13, 2022)).

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)).

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 2023) (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 2023).

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).

Essays & Shorter Works

[From Constitutional Protections to Medical Ethics: The Future of Pregnant Patients' Medical Self-Determination Rights After Dobbs](#), *J. L. MED & ETHICS* 51(3):528-32 (2023) (with Nadia Sawicki) (peer reviewed).

[Pregnancy Risk and Coerced Interventions After Dobbs](#), 76 SMU L. REV. 105 (2023) (symposium issue) (invited).

[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) (invited).

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, Does v. Amita Kachru, No. A168669 \(Cal. App. 1st\)](#) (filed Sept. 3, 2024) (on behalf of the Birth Rights Bar Association).

[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 Rights Tops Biden To-Do List Even Without Congress](#), Bloomberg (Nov. 14, 2022) (interviewed about potential executive branch action on abortion access).

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 Publications 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

Bryan Cave LLP, New York, NY
Associate, 2011-2013
Summer Associate, Summer 2008

Law Students for Reproductive Justice (currently If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice), Oakland, CA
Legal Fellow, 2009-2010

Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy, Los Angeles, CA
Public Policy Fellow, 2004-2006

PRESENTATIONS

Panelist, Author Meets Reader: The Pregnancy Police, Law & Society Association Annual Meeting (May 2025)

Panelist, *Hot Flash* Book Discussion, AALS Section on Aging and Law (May 2025) (invited)

Panelist, Three Years After *Dobbs*—The Reproductive Justice Landscape, Center for Health Policy and Law, Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA (April 2025) (invited)

Temple Reproductive Freedom Conference (April 2025) (invited)

Panelist, Politicization of Reproductive Health Care, American University Washington College of Law (March 2025) (invited)

Guest Speaker, Reproductive Rights & Justice Seminar, Drexel Kline School of Law (October 2024) (invited)

“Obstetric Violence & Civil Rights,” Elon Law School Symposium, The Doc is In: Prescribing Treatment for Health Crises Through the Legal System (September 2024)

“Demedicalization and Criminalization in Reproductive Health,” American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics, Health Law Professors Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (June 2024)

“Obstetric Violence and the Limits of Law,” Essex Law School, UK (April 2024) (invited) (virtual)

Guest Speaker, Birth Justice Seminar, Hofstra University, Maurice A. Deane School of Law (April 2024) (invited) (virtual)

“Obstetric Violence as Epistemic Injustice,” presented at:

- Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado (June 2024)
- Eastern Sociological Society, Mini-Conference on Reproduction, Washington, D.C. (March 2024)

Guest Speaker, Reproductive Health Law & Policy, American University Washington College of Law (January 2024) (invited) (virtual)

“Normalizing Maternal Ambivalence,” presented at:

- Family Law Scholars & Teachers Conference, Works-in-Progress Session, University of Baltimore (June 2024)
- Richmond Junior Faculty Forum (May 2024)
- University of Baltimore Faculty Colloquium (April 2024)
- Hofstra Faculty Colloquium (April 2024)
- AALS Annual Meeting, Women in Legal Education, Exploring the Taboo Session, Washington, D.C. (January 2024)
- MoM Conference (Journal of Mother Studies) (March 2023) (virtual)
- Eastern Sociological Society, Mini-Conference on Reproduction, Baltimore, Maryland (February 2023)
- 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)

Panelist, Racial Inequities in Maternal and Infant Health, Reproductive Justice Post *Dobbs* Conference, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences & UB Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, Buffalo, New York (October 2023)

Invited Participant, Future of Reproductive Justice Scholarship Workshop & Symposium, Wake Forest University School of Law (June 2023)

“Obstetric Violence and the Limits of Law,” American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics, 46th Annual Health Law Professors Conference, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law (June 2023)

Panelist, The Future of Feminist Health Law Roundtable, Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico (June 2023)

“Abortion Access and Birth Justice Post-*Dobbs*: Disruptions and Opportunities,” Reproductive Rights and Justice After *Roe*, Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Law Medicine Center (April 2023) (invited) (panel on Reproductive Rights and Justice Beyond Abortion)

Panelist, Feminist Judgments in the US: Converting Theory into Practice, Penn Carey School of Law (April 2023) (invited)

Panelist, Mainstreaming Reproductive Health in Health Law, Policy and Ethics Conference, UCLA School of Law (February 2023) (invited) (panel on Patient Safety and Autonomy in Reproductive and Sexual Health).

“From Constitutional Protections to Medical Ethics: The Future of Pregnant Patients’ Medical Self-Determination Rights After *Dobbs*,” After *Roe* and *Dobbs*: Seeking Reproductive Justice in the Next 50 Years, Boston University School of Law (January 2023) (invited) (presented with co-author Nadia Sawicki)

“The Health Risks of Legislative Ambiguity in a post-*Dobbs* World,” Notre Dame Journal of Legislation Symposium, Notre Dame Law School (virtual) (November 2022) (invited)

“The Constitutional Implications of Reproductive Uncertainty After *Dobbs*,” The Future of Reproductive Rights, Con Law Scholars Forum, Center for Constitutional Law, Akron Law School (virtual) (October 2022)

“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)

“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).

“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

Panelist, Integrating RJ Into Any Job, Lawyering for Reproductive Justice Summit, Penn Law (February 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

- Intellectual Life Committee, 2020-21
 - Chair, 2024-present
- Curriculum Committee, 2023-2024
- Appointments Committee, 2022-23
- Readmission Committee, 2021-22
- 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, 2023-24

Health Law Program

- Co-created *Vital Signs* Programming Series, 2023-present
- Organizer and moderator of following webinars:
 - *After Dobbs: How the Supreme Court Ended Roe But Not Abortion* webinar (March 2025)
 - *The Birth Justice Tribunal: Pursuing Accountability for Mistreatment During Childbirth* webinar (February 2025)
 - *Older Adults and Firearms: A Public Health Concern We Don't Talk About* webinar (November 2024)
 - *Reproductive Health at the Supreme Court: Reflections on Abortion Access in Law and on the Ground at the End of the 2023-2024 Term* webinar (August 2024)
 - *The Comstock Act and Abortion Access: Understanding the Act's History and its Implications for the Future of Reproductive Health Care* webinar (May 2024)
 - *Using State Law to Promote Abortion Access: Updates from the Pennsylvania Litigation and Other State Developments* webinar (March 2024)
 - *African Americans and the U.S. Health Care System: A History of Distrust* (October 2023)
 - *Making Sense of the Medication Abortion Litigation* webinar (May 2023)

- Moderator, Policing Pregnancy: A Book Talk with Grace Howard (October 2024), co-sponsored with CLPSA & Undergraduate Law Program

Other Programming

- Moderator, If/When/How & OutLaw Panel on Trans Health Care (April 2025)
- Moderator, If/When/How & ACS Panel on *Dobbs* & Supreme Court (October 2024)
- Organizer & Panelist, Critical Conversations: Reimagining Judicial Opinions with Critical Legal Theory (August 2024)
- Moderator, Impact of *Dobbs* on Reproductive Healthcare and Privacy, Drexel Kline School of Law, American Constitution Society Event (October 2022)

Orientation

- Reading and Briefing Cases (taught May 2022, May 2023, May 2024, May 2025)

Diversity Pipeline Program

- Reading and Briefing Cases (taught July 2024)

Independent Study Advisor, Fall 2022

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

External Service—Academic & Legal

Quality Maternal & Newborn Care Research Alliance (QMNC), 2024-present

Co-Editor, [Gender and the Law](#), 2021-present (Thomson Reuters)

Co-Editor, SSRN Legal Writing eJournal, 2024-present

Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD)

- Scholarship Grants Committee, 2022-2025
 - Chair, 2022-2023
- Scholars Forum Committee, 2018-2022
- New Member Outreach Committee, 2017-2018

Legal Writing Institute (LWI)

- 2026 Biennial Conference Committee (Sponsorship), 2024-2026
- Awards Committee, 2022-2024
- Diversity & Inclusion Committee, 2020-2021

AALS Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues Section, Individual & Institutional Awards Committee, 2022-2023

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, 2023-24
- Co-Chair, Scholarship Committee, 2019-21

Participatory Law Scholarship Fund Selection Committee, 2024-present

Family Law Scholars & Teachers Conference Planning Committee, Member & Local Host, 2024-25

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

External Service—Community

Birth Justice Tribunal Advisory Committee, 2023

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

Philadelphia Midwives Collective, Board Member, 2019-2024

Friends Child Care Center, Trustee, 2018-2023

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 Justice Bar (formerly 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