

KARA SHELI WALLIS

Research & Teaching Interests

Primary: Civil Procedure; 1983 Civil Rights Litigation; Class Actions & Social Impact Strategy; Reproductive Justice & Family Regulation; Prisoners' Rights & Mass Incarceration; Ethical Lawyering & Professional Responsibility

Other: State Court Civil Practice; Legal Writing & Lawyering Skills; Bar Exam Preparation

Academic Appointments & Affiliations

City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law – Queens, NY

Civil Procedure Appointment, Tenure Track Faculty

- Associate Professor of Law (April 2025 - Present)
- Assistant Professor of Law (July 2023 - April 2025)

Adjunct Professor of Law, Contract Faculty

- Legal Writing & Lawyering Seminar (Fall 2018; Spring 2019; Summer 2019; Fall 2019; Spring 2020; Summer 2020; Fall 2020; Summer 2021; Spring 2023)
- Family Law Independent Study (Fall 2018, Fall 2019)
- Academic Skills Support 1L Orientation Instructor (August 2018; August 2019)
- Advanced Family Law Clinic, Supervising Attorney (Spring 2018)
- Family Law Clinic, Supervising Attorney (Fall 2017)

New York State Judicial Institute, Pace University School of Law - White Plains, NY

Civil Procedure Faculty, NYS Legal Education Opportunity Program (Summer 2025)

Seattle University School of Law – Seattle, WA

Visiting Scholar (Fall 2025)

Publications

Kara S. Wallis, "Harmful Reports: How Federal Mandated Reporting Policy Entrenches Racism in Healthcare Settings & Undermines Public Health," CUNY Law Review (Forthcoming 2025)

Kara Sheli Wallis, "Letters to the Editor: Finding the path toward dialogue around Israel's war in Gaza" [L.A. Times](#) (Nov. 10, 2023)

Kara S. Wallis, "Nothing About Us Without Us: Rule of Law, White Supremacy, and the Lack of Legitimacy in Our Federal Courts" (Seattle University Visiting Scholar Research, Fall 2025)

Katharine McCabe, PhD, Kara S. Wallis, JD, "Harmful Reports: How Federal Law Compromises Healthcare Delivery through Surveillance of Pregnant Patients" (In Revision Post-Peer Review)

Kara S. Wallis, "New York State's Failure to Protect Families with Incarcerated Parents from Federal Law – Revisiting the 2010 ASFA Expanded Discretion Act" (In Progress)

Kara S. Wallis, "No Access, No Choice: Foster Youth, Abortion, & State Removal of Children" [18 CUNY L. Rev. 119](#) (2014)

Education

Juris Doctorate – CUNY School of Law – Queens, NY (2015)

Masters of Arts: Ethics & Society – Fordham University – Bronx, NY (2012)

Bach. of Arts: Philosophy with Departmental Honors – Seattle University – Seattle, WA (2009)

Presentations, Panels, & Other Work

Guest Lecturer with Hon. Tracey Bing (Ret.) “Ethical Lawyering & Professional Responsibility”
First Impressions Youth Legal Collaborative, CUNY School of Law (July 8, 2025)

Discussion Facilitator, “Anti-Fascism Organizing,” National Lawyers Guild (NLG) - NYC
Chapter, New York University (NYU) School of Law (Feb. 18, 2025)

CLE Moderator, “Digital Awareness for the Social Justice Legal Community,” NLG, New York Civil
Liberties Union (NYCLU), and Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) (Feb. 1, 2025)

Consultant, Civil Procedure NexGen Bar Exam Materials, Helix Bar Review - AccessLex (2024)

CLE Moderator, “Communicating with Putative Plaintiffs in Group and Class Actions,”
National Lawyers Guild (Sept. 27, 2024)

Video Interview, Ethics & Society Alumni Spotlight Series, [The Ethics and Society Blog](#),
Fordham University (December 8, 2023)

Co-Moderator, “Indigenous Organizing, Tribal Law, & 1983 Civil Rights Actions,”
CUNY Law Lawyering Seminar Program Panel (Summer 2021)

Co-Moderator, “Workplace Discrimination and Protective Legislation: The Crown Act,”
CUNY Law Lawyering Seminar Program Panel (Fall 2020)

Co-Moderator, “Government Misconduct & *Pro Se* Plaintiffs in Civil Rights Litigation,”
CUNY Law Lawyering Seminar Program Panel (Summer 2020)

Panelist, *Strategies to Respect and Promote the Health and Well-being of Pregnant People & Mothers*,
Columbia Law School, [Human Rights Institute Symposium](#) (April 2019)

Co-Moderator, “Employees at Risk of Employer Abuse & Immigration Concerns,”
CUNY Law Lawyering Seminar Program Panel (Dec. 2018)

Guest Lecturer, Implications of Sociology & Law Course, Fordham University (Nov. 2018)

Guest Lecturer & Clinic Rounds, CUNY Family Law Clinic (Sept. 2018; Oct. 2018)

Quote, [For Foster Teens, Accessing Birth Control Is an Uphill Battle](#), Rewire News Group (Dec. 20, 2017)

Panelist, “Race and Privilege Practicing Alumni Panel,” CUNY Law Clinic Program (Oct. 2017)

Author Presentation, *No Access, No Choice: Foster Youth, Abortion, & State Removal of Children*
with Farah Diaz-Tello, Esq. (If/When/How), CUNY School of Law (Sept. 2014)

Author Presentation, *Kant on Revolution: The Moral Permissibility of Political Reform*, National
Conference on Undergraduate Research, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (May 2009)

Author Presentation, *Kant on Revolution: The Moral Permissibility of Political Reform*,
Seattle University Undergraduate Research Association Conference (April 2009)

Academic Service & Commitments

Bar Exam Support Mentor for assigned CUNY Law graduates (Feb. 2018 – July 2025 Exams)
Faculty Representative (Elected), CUNY Law Committee on Committees (Summer 2024 - Present)
Academic Advisor for assigned 1L, 2L, 3L and 4L CUNY Law Students (August 2023 - Present)
Moot Court Faculty Advisor, CUNY Law Moot Court Team (August 2023 - Present)
Board Member, CUNY School of Law Foundation, Inc. (August 2024 - March 2025)
Moot Court Oral Argument Judge, CUNY Law Moot Court Competition (2022, 2023, 2024)
Moot Court Brief Grader, CUNY Law Moot Court Competition (Summer 2023)
Law Review Faculty Advisor, CUNY Law Review (2023-2024 Academic Year)
Guest Administrative Law Judge, CUNY Law Economic Justice Project Clinic (2022, 2023)
Regularly mentor student scholarship. *See e.g., W. Jennings, Separating Families Without Due Process: Hidden Child Removals Closer to Home*, 22 CUNY L. Rev. 1, n.† (2019)

Bar Admissions

New York State - New York Bar Association, Sex & Law Committee Member (2014 - 2016)

State of Florida - Florida Bar Association (inactive)

Federal Court

Supreme Court of the United States
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida (pro hac vice)
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

Legal Experience

Florida Justice Institute

Nov. 2020 – March 2023

Staff Attorney, Florida Prison Litigation Partnership with Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) & Florida Legal Services

Primarily litigated Section 1983 and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) class action challenges to Florida's use of solitary confinement in [youth](#) and [adult](#) state prison systems. Researched and drafted motions, briefs, and reply papers, including on complex civil procedure issues. Managed discovery requests, disputes, and production. Conducted and defended depositions. Assisted experts with fact-gathering and report writing. Advised named plaintiffs and incarcerated class member contacts. Negotiated with opposing counsel through formal and informal meet and confers. Litigated contested hearings with live witnesses, experts, and oral argument.

The Bronx Defenders

Sept. 2015 – Nov. 2020

Family Defense Attorney; Custody Specialist

Provided holistic defense to parents and other caregivers accused of abuse and neglect in Family Court. Responsible for all aspects of the civil litigation, including managing discovery, research and motions, and emergency hearings and trials requiring evidentiary arguments and high level of trial advocacy.

Brooklyn Defenders Services

Sept. 2014 – Feb. 2015

Family Defense Legal Extern

Assisted attorneys in Family Court litigation, including research, drafting motions and memoranda, and in-court cross and direct examinations of witnesses. Worked with outside agencies and in-house teams to avoid collateral consequences.

Center for Appellate Litigation

May 2014 – Aug. 2014

Legal Intern

Digested and reviewed trial level records and litigation histories. Researched and drafted appellate briefs. Worked with clients on issues related to incarceration and reentry.

Economic Justice Project, Main Street Legal Services

Jan. 2014 – June 2014

Clinic Intern

Represented public assistance recipients in administrative hearings. Lobbied for economic justice policy reform.

Pregnancy Justice (National Advocates for Pregnant Women)

Aug. 2011 – Aug. 2012

Program Associate; Legal Intern; Graduate Intern

Performed legal and social science research to support policy reform and impact litigation. Organized and edited amicus briefs, academic articles, and institutional publications. Drafted and managed funding proposals.

National Organization for Women - NYC Chapter

Sept. 2011 - Dec. 2011

Policy Research Graduate Intern

Researched issues involving gender discrimination and reproductive justice, including policy review and proposals. Facilitated outreach events and know-your-rights clinics.