

Alyssa G. Bernstein, PhD, JD

Education

- JD, Harvard Law School**, Cambridge, MA 2019
Prisoners' Legal Assistance Project, Mock Trial Competition Team, National Security Journal Deputy Submissions Editor and Senior Editor, Lambda Representative, Progressive Jewish Alliance Co-President.
- PhD, School of Law, Queen's University Belfast**, Northern Ireland, UK 2018
Empirical research on Palestinian political organizations and resistance within Israeli prisons.
Title: [The Palestinian Prisoners' Movement, 1994–2016](#)
- BA, Yale University**, New Haven, CT 2010
Concentration in Modern Middle East Studies. Study Abroad at the American University of Cairo, Egypt, and the School of International Training in Amman, Jordan.

Fellowships & Awards

- Münster Peace Research Prize Recipient** 2022
Münster International Peace Research Initiative, Münster, Germany
Award for primary and secondary research, including opinion surveys, on the influence of prisoners in peace negotiations and the dynamics of hostage negotiations with terrorist groups.
- Visiting Scholar, Prison Research Centre** 2021 – 2022
Institute of Criminology, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK
Remote affiliation to work with scholars at the Prison Research Center and complete ongoing writing projects based on previous fieldwork, and for further projects on Palestinian resistance in prison.
- Palestinian American Research Council, U.S. Fellow** 2015
Research grant, academic support, and speaking presentation on the Palestinian Prisoners' Movement in 2015 – 2016 in Palestine.
- Project on Middle East Political Science – TRE Grant** 2015
POMEPS, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, Washington, DC
Grant for travel to Palestine for research on 'The Islamicization of the Palestinian Prisoners' Movement' as part of POMEPS Islam in a Changing Middle East program.

Single-Author Books

- Palestinian Political Organization in Israeli Prisons** *Forthcoming Spring 2024*
Oxford University Press, Clarendon Series on Criminology
Monograph on Palestinian prisoners' political organization, counter-prison management, and resistance following the Oslo Accords.

Employment

- Associate, Jenner & Block, International Disputes, Crises, & National Security** 2022 - Present
Washington, DC
Associate working in national security-related plaintiff-side civil litigation and criminal defense. Work includes litigation and investigations under the Anti-Terrorism Act, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, Foreign Agent Registration Act, Federal Tort Claims Act, and military procurement regulations. Responsibilities encompass drafting and substantiating pleadings and motions, conducting client interviews, managing discovery disputes and document review, preparing legal and factual research and memoranda on open legal issues, and drafting reports and memoranda on legal and historic conditions in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and Afghanistan. Advocates for clients before federal courts, governmental agencies, the Department of Defense, and in ongoing discussions with opposing counsel.

- Law Clerk, Chief Judge Timothy Corrigan, United States District Court** 2020 - 2022
Middle District of Florida, Jacksonville, Florida
 Drafted legal opinions in areas ranging from civil rights to federal false claims to securities litigation in United States Federal Court. Researched open questions of law in the Eleventh Circuit. Researched and recommended appropriate criminal sentences. Prepared for hearings on case statuses and dispositive motions, and civil and criminal trials.
- Litigation Associate, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett** 2019 - 2020
Washington, DC
 Writing, researching, and related activities in support of ongoing investigations and litigation in federal and state courts. Motions drafting and discovery management and oversight. Communications within joint defense groups and counsel, and responsiveness to monitorships following corporate convictions.
- Law Clerk, Office of the Federal Public Defender** 2019
Washington, DC
 Legal research and factual analysis to support defense of indigent clients in Federal District Court. Projects on search and seizure law, speedy trial requirements, rules of evidence, and an in-depth historical study of the Federal Sentencing Guideline for prohibited firearms possession.
- Summer Litigation Associate, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett** 2018
Washington, DC
 Writing, researching, and related activities in support of ongoing investigations and litigation for antitrust and national security review. Drafted memoranda on potential cases and regulatory requirements for partners and clients. Projects for clients in corporate, litigation, and regulatory law.
- Intern, Office of the State Attorney** 2017
Jacksonville, Florida
 Performed legal research and factual development for human trafficking investigations.
- International Advocacy Coordinator, Adalah – The Center for Arab Minority Rights** 2012 – 2013
Haifa, Israel
 Carried out international awareness-raising campaigns and outreach, including Arabic to English translation. Developed narratives to support legal strategy. Submissions to United Nations committees.
- Associate, Rawabi and the Rawabi Foundation** 2010 – 2011
Bayti Real Estate Development Company, Ramallah, Palestine
- Intern, Post Conflict Reconstruction (PCR) Project** 2009
Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC
- Online Publications (Selected)**
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- 'Breaking Down Barriers to Emergency Earthquake Aid in Syria'** 2023
Just Security, Co-Authored with Rachel Alpert
<https://www.justsecurity.org/85499/breaking-down-barriers-to-emergency-earthquake-aid-in-syria/>
 Explanation of U.S. export controls delaying Syrian earthquake aid provision, and proposal for an implementable solution for the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security.
- 'Reciprocity between jurisdictions: Are we there yet?'** 2023
The Oath, Co-Authored
<https://www.jenner.com/a/web/c93uNrtbxCNWKJGy5sTgap/898fbV/to-sept-2023-issue-125-opinion-dispute-resolution.pdf>
 Exploration of reciprocity and enforcement of judgments and arbitration awards in the United States, United Kingdom, and United Arab Emirates.

'2017 Was a Bad Year for Egypt's LGBT Community. 2018 Could Be Even Worse.' 2017
Foreign Policy & Lawfare Blog
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/12/28/2017-was-a-bad-year-for-egypts-lgbt-community-2018-could-be-even-worse/>

Analysis of Egyptian debauchery laws and the crackdown on LGBT individuals under President al-Sisi.

'Going against the government at the Office of the Federal Public Defender in D.C.' 2019
Harvard Law Today, Student Spotlights
<https://today.law.harvard.edu/student-voices-going-against-the-government-at-the-office-of-the-federal-public-defender-in-d-c/>

Explanation of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and recent changes in Washington, D.C. criminal law.

Projects

Release, Rehabilitation, Recompense: Palestinian Prisoners' Influence on Domestic and International Negotiations' 2022

Münster International Peace Research Initiative, Münster, Germany

Research on prisoner releases, prisoner of war negotiations, and hostage exchanges in intractable conflict, including between Israel and Palestinian opposition groups. Publications forthcoming.

Lawyers Boycotting Unjust Systems 2014

Lawyers, Conflict, & Transition Project, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Research on how attorneys react to inherently unjust legal systems in regimes ranging from the Occupied Palestinian Territories to South Africa to Northern Ireland.

Gaza Legal Land Manual 2013

Norwegian Refugee Council, Gaza City

Report based on first-person fieldwork in the Gaza Strip on laws, effects, and impact of land use and eminent domain under the de facto government. Conducted interviews, focus groups, and observation with violation victims, stakeholders, and government authorities in the Gaza Strip.

Series on Human Rights Violations in Palestine for International Human Rights Day 2012

United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Jerusalem

Articles and photographs prepared using first-hand field visits and interviews for UNRWA on issues ranging from land seizure to lack of water access in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

pTeaching, Presentations, & Conferences

Supervising Professor, Senior Honors Thesis Fall 2023 - Spring 2024

Georgetown University, Department of Government, Washington, DC

Advising and evaluating senior honors thesis student performing primary and secondary research on comparative restorative justice programs.

Adjunct Lecturer, Seminar, 'Prisons in Conflict' Fall 2022

Georgetown University, Department of Government, Washington, DC

Developed and instructed undergraduate course on the role of prison, prisoners' classifications, and resistance in incarceration in the context of international and internal war.

Organizer & Invited Presenter, Prison Control & Resistance, 'Solidary Cultures of Resistance'

Law & Society Association, Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico 2023

Organized international comparative panel and presented on Palestinian prisoners' political organizations, prison management, and the rise of individual resistance strategies.

Invited Presenter, 'The Ethics of Prison Research'

Law & Society Association, Global Conference, Lisbon, Portugal 2022

Discussed the implications of outsider research into ongoing resistance strategies and the informal rules of prison in active punitive penal contexts.

Invited Presenter, 'Prison Law in Protracted Conflict: Strategies, Symbols, and Techniques of Repression and Resistance'

Justice During Armed Conflict: Accountability or Weapon of War? Peace Research Institute Oslo 2022

Presented paper on comparative use of prison and resistance in South Africa, Turkey, Northern Ireland, and Israel.

Teaching Assistant, Civil Procedure

2017

Professor Jim Greiner, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Graded and tutored students' mid-term submissions on Civil Procedure, a required first-year course.

Invited Speaker, 'Pinned on All Sides: Palestinian Prisoners' Resistance' Lecture

2015

Department of Political Science, Birzeit University, Birzeit, West Bank, Palestine

Presented initial fieldwork findings at an academic lecture entitled 'Pinned on All Sides: Palestinian Prisoners' Resistance – Successes, Divisions, and New Strategies.'

Invited Roundtable Participant, 'International Courts, Prisons, and Restorative Justice'

2014

American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California

Presentation and poster symposium participation on initial findings on Palestinian prisoners' resistance.

Invited Presenter, Tactics in Politically-Motivated Prisoner Movements

2014

British Society of Criminology Annual Conference, Liverpool, UK

Paper on comparative experiences of politically-motivated prisoners' tactics with focus on hypothetical experiences of Palestinian prisoners before original empirical research was performed.

QUB School of Sociology – Crime and Disorder Module

2014

Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Guest lecturer on causes, protester violations, women's roles, and state crime in the Arab Spring protests and their aftermath.

Bar Admission

District of Columbia Bar, Washington, DC

2020

Languages

Arabic: Modern Standard and Colloquial Levantine Arabic.

Other: Familiarity with Hebrew and Farsi.