

**ELIZABETH J. SAMUELS**  
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<b>PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE</b>
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**UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW**

Professor, 2007- present

Visiting, Assistant, and Associate Professor, July 1987- 2006

Director of Legal Skills Program, 1987-1994

Subjects: Professional Responsibility, Constitutional Law I, Constitutional Law II,  
Supreme Court Seminar, Child and Family, Adoption Law, Property

Committee service includes: Curriculum (chair), Search Committees (Law Dean (chair),  
University Library Director), Admissions, Appointments (chair), Bar Passage Task Force,  
Clinical Education, Dean's Advisory, Dean's Scholars (chair), Educational Technology  
(chair), Law School Self-Study, Student Life (chair), University Faculty Senate, University  
Middle States Self-Study (faculty chapter chair), Faculty Development

**UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE/UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**

Faculty Member, Summer Abroad Program in Comparative Law, Summer 1998

University of Aberdeen, Scotland

Subject: Comparative Family Law (team taught with Scottish faculty)

January 1985

**JONES SCHOOL OF LAW**

- June 1986

**AUBURN UNIVERSITY AT MONTGOMERY**

Montgomery, Alabama

Adjunct faculty: Constitutional Law, Legal Methods, Labor Law

Fall 1985

**MIND (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH)**

London, England

Lawyer volunteer for British national advocacy organization

November 1982

**FREE-LANCE EDITORIAL AND LEGAL WORK**

- August 1986

Montgomery, Alabama

Edited and wrote briefs, other legal documents, and non-legal material

September 1981

**LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION OF ALABAMA**

- October 1982

Staff Attorney, managed Pike County and Crenshaw County offices

## JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP

June 1980  
- July 1981

**JUDGE JAMES L. OAKES**  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit  
Law Clerk

## EDUCATION

**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL** J.D. 1980

Chicago, Illinois

*University of Chicago Law Review*, associate editor

Mandel Legal Aid Clinic, student attorney

**HARVARD (RADCLIFFE) COLLEGE** A.B. 1975, cum laude

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Social Studies, honors interdisciplinary program, emphasis on American history and literature

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Articles

*Surrender and Subordination: Birth Mothers and Adoption Law Reform*, 20 Michigan Journal of Gender and Law 33 (2013).

*Adoption Consents: Legal Incentives for Best Practices*, 10 Adoption Quarterly 85 (2006).

*Legal Representation of Birth Parents and Adoptive Parents*, 9 Adoption Quarterly 73 (2006).

*Time to Decide? The Laws Governing Mothers' Consents to the Adoption of Their Newborn Infants*, 72 Tenn. L. Rev. 509 (2005)

*The Strange History of Adult Adoptee Access to Original Birth Records*, 5 Adoption Quarterly 63 (2001).

*The Idea of Adoption: An Inquiry into the History of Adult Adoptee Access to Birth Records*, 53 Rutgers L. Rev. 367-437 (2001).

(Excerpted in Naomi Cahn and Joan Heifetz Hollinger, eds., *Families By Law: An Adoption Reader* (N.Y.U. Press, 2004); Susan Frelich Appleton and D. Kelly Weisberg, *Adoption and Assisted Reproduction: Families Under Construction* (2009).) (Available in full on the Web site of the American Adoption Congress, [www.americanadoptioncongress.org](http://www.americanadoptioncongress.org).)

*Stories Out of School: Teaching the Case of Brown v. Voss*, 16 Cardozo L. Rev. 1445 (1995). (The subject of an extensive note in the widely used property law casebook, Jesse Dukeminier and James E. Krier, Property 839-41 (7th ed. 2010).)

*The Art of Line Drawing: Public Aid to Religiously Affiliated Child Care*, 69 Ind. L.J. 39 (1993).

### Other Publications

*Letter to the Editor*, The New York Times (June 23, 2014) (following up on a reference to my research in a news article)

*Adoption*, Encyclopedia of Privacy (William G. Staples, ed., 2007).

*Birth Certificates*, Encyclopedia of Privacy (William G. Staples, ed., 2007).

*Mothers' Consents to Adoptions: "Best Practices" and State Laws*, Family Law: Balancing Interests and Pursuing Priorities (Lynn D. Wardle & Camille S. Williams, eds., 2007).

*Adoption with Contact Law Awaits Governor's Signature*, The Daily Record (Baltimore, Maryland), Apr. 22, 2005, Commentary section.

*Book Review: Adoption in America, Edited by Wayne E. Carp*, Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 35(1) (MIT Press, Summer 2004).

*Adult Adoptee Access to Original Birth Certificates*, Nota Bene, Fall 2002, 16.

*How Adoption in America Grew Secret*, Op-Ed, Wash. Post, Oct. 21, 2001, at B5. (Reprinted in 19 Decree 11 (Fall 2002); Adoptive Families, January/February 2002, 17; and CUB Communicator, Winter 2001/2002, 26.)

*How Adoption in America Grew Secret*, Op-Ed, Wash. Post, Oct. 21, 2001, at B5. (Reprinted in 19 Decree 11 (Fall 2002); Adoptive Families, January/February 2002, 17; and CUB Communicator, Winter 2001/2002, 26.)

*Careful! Once You Start Teaching, You May Get Hooked*, 9 The Second Draft 7 (March 1994).

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES -- Presentations and Service

August 2016                      Speaker, Adoption, National Conference of State Legislators, Chicago, Illinois

November 2015                 Speaker, Adoption Contracts and Non-binding "Deals, Innovations in Family Law Dispute Resolution, University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, Maryland"

March 2015 Legislative Testimony, Senate Bill 352, House Judiciary Committee, Indiana General Assembly, Indianapolis, Indiana

April 2013 Legislative Testimony, Senate Bill 23, Senate Committee on Medicaid, Health and Human Services Ohio Senate, Columbus, Ohio

March 2013 Moderator, Panel on How Law Defines Families Based on Genetics, Parentage, and Marriage, Applied Feminism and Families, Annual Conference of the University of Baltimore School of Law Center on Applied Feminism

March 2013 Legislative Testimony (written), House Bill 61, House Judiciary Committee, Ohio House of Representatives, Columbus, Ohio

April 2012 Speaker, keynote panel, Dismantling the Barriers to Identity Access, Mile High Expectations – Adoption in 2012, American Adoption Congress national conference, Denver, Colorado

March 2012 Speaker, The Image of the Child Through the Lens of Adoption, Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture fourth international conference, Mapping Adoption, The Claremont Colleges in Claremont, California

March 2012 Speaker, Applied Feminism and Democracy, University of Baltimore School of Law Center on Applied Feminism fifth annual feminist legal theory conference, Baltimore, Maryland

January 2012 Speaker; Truth in Parentage: Adoption Secrecy and Paternity Estoppel in the Age of Information, Committee on Children and the Law, New York State Bar Association Annual Meeting; New York, New York

January 2012 Speaker; Safety, Justice, and Human Rights, 2012 Women’s Legislative Briefing; Montgomery and Prince George’s, Maryland, County Commissions for Women; The Universities at Shady Gove, Rockville, Maryland

June 2011 Speaker, Birth Mothers, Children, Adoption, and the Stigma of Illegitimacy: Historical Perspectives from the 1950s to the Present, Society for the History of Children and Youth conference; Columbia University, New York, New York

April 2011 Legislative Testimony, House Bill 5453, House Judiciary Committee, Rhode Island House of Representatives, Providence, Rhode Island

March 2011 Legislative testimony, HB 1014 Vital Records – Birth Certificates – Adopted Persons, Health and Governmental Operations Committee, Maryland House of Delegates; Annapolis, Maryland

February 2011 Speech, *Adoption, Identity, and Confidentiality: The History of Closed Records*, Connecticut Statehouse, Hartford, Connecticut

October 2010 Speech, *Adoption, Identity, and Confidentiality: The History of Closed Records*, Pittsburgh Consortium for Adoption Studies (University of Pittsburgh School of Arts and Sciences, School of Law, and Women’s Studies Program), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2010 – present Member, Advisory Council, American Adoption Congress

April 2010 Speaker on Plenary Panel *Secrecy and Policy*; Adoption: Secret Histories, Public Policies; M.I.T., Cambridge, Massachusetts

May 2009 Legislative testimony, Rhode Island State Legislature, Senate Senate Health & Human Services Committee, Senate Bill 779 (access to adoption records), Providence, Rhode Island

April 2009 Workshop presenter, *Law Reform Advocates, Birth Mothers*, Joint Convention of American Adoption Congress and Adoption Network Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio

2007 – present Member, ACLU of Maryland Committee on Litigation and Legal Priorities

June 2008 Speaker, *Birthmothers: Invisibility to Activism? Or Continuing Subordination?*, National Women's Studies Association, Cincinnati, Ohio

April 2008 Speaker, *The Regulation of Adoption: Protecting Children and Families*, a conference for federal and state regulators, American University Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.

December 2007 Co-chair and participant, meeting on adoption law reform legislative priorities, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, New York City

October 2007 Speaker, *Adoptee Access to Records, History, and Searches*, Adoption Ethics and Accountability," sponsored by the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute and Ethica, Inc., Arlington, Virginia

February 2007 Speaker, *UNmarried . . . With Children: Evaluating Legal Constraints and Social Judgments*, symposium at American University's Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.

October 2006 - present Task force on adoption law reform, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, New York, New York

February 2006 Speaker, *Preview of a Changing Supreme Court*, University of Baltimore School of Law

February 2006 Legislative testimony (oral and written), Maine State Legislature, Joint Judiciary Committee, L.D. 1805 (access to adoption records); Augusta, Maine

January 2006 Speaker and panel moderator, *Adoption: The Spiritual Journey for the Human Family* (conference sponsored by Spence-Chapin Adoption Services, American Adoption Congress, and Concerned United Birthparents), New York City

June 2005 Legislative testimony (oral and written), New Jersey State Legislature, Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee, Senate Bill 1093 (access to adoption records); Trenton, New Jersey

April 2005 Speaker, day and evening sessions on how to prepare for the Bar Exam, University of Baltimore School of Law

May 2004 Speaker, *Locating Lost People, Past and Present*, Maryland Library Association 2004 Conference; Ocean City, Maryland

April 2004 Legislative testimony (oral and written), New Hampshire State Legislature, House of Representatives Children and Family Law Committee, Senate Bill 335 (access to adoption records); Concord, New Hampshire

April 2004 Workshop presenter, *The Laws Governing Birth Mothers' Consent*, American Adoption Congress Convention; Kansas City, Missouri

March 2004 Legislative testimony (oral), Maryland General Assembly, House of Delegates Appropriations Committee, House Bill 1140 (state employees' labor and employment rights); Annapolis, Maryland

March 2004 Legislative testimony (oral and written), Maryland General Assembly, House of Delegates Judiciary Committee, House Bill 882 (parental rights termination and adoption statutes); Annapolis, Maryland

November 2003 Speaker, Family Law Association, *The History of Adoption Records Law*, University of Baltimore School of Law

Spring 2003 Consultant to Maryland College of Art on adoption law history, and discussant for film series, in connection with *Everlasting*, a multimedia sound and video installation; Baltimore, Maryland

May 2003 Speaker, *Shedding Light on Secrecy and Openness in Adoption* symposium; Richmond, Virginia

April 2002 Workshop presenter, *The Real History of Birth Records Laws?*, American Adoption Congress convention; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,

2001-present Consultant to state adoption law reform advocates (including California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Virginia)

1998-2001 Committee member, American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress; Washington, D.C.

1998 Consultant to Children's Defense Fund on Establishment Clause issues; Washington, D.C.

1996-2007 Committee member, American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland, Case Review Committee

October 1996 Two-day program for Maryland judges on writing opinions, Maryland  
September 1997 Judicial Institute; Annapolis, Maryland

June 1996 Speaker, *The Idea of Adoption and the Uniform Adoption Act*, International Society of Family Law, North American Regional Conference; Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

September 1995 Workshop on writing administrative law decisions, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Care Financing Administration, Provider Reimbursement Review Board; Baltimore, Maryland

1992-1998 Committee member, Maryland State Bar Litigation Section, Appellate Practice Committee

1992-1996            Legal and editorial consultant, National Organization for Women  
                                 Legal Education and Defense Fund, New York City

1988-present        Legal and editorial consulting, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law;  
                                 Washington, D.C. (formerly Mental Health Law Project)

1987-1988            Council member, Maryland Department of Human Resources,  
                                 Interagency Child Care Council (drafting new child care regulations)

## **AWARD**

2004                    “Angel in Adoption” Award, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute  
                                 of the U.S. Congress

## **OTHER EMPLOYMENT**

May 1976             CHARLES RIVER ASSOCIATES  
- June 1977           Cambridge, Massachusetts  
                                 Researcher and writer for consulting firm that specialized in  
                                 microeconomic and econometric analysis

                                 THE REAL PAPER and THE BOSTON PHOENIX  
                                 Boston, Massachusetts  
                                 Free-lance writer on the arts

August 1975         DANVERS HERALD  
- April 1976         (prize-winning suburban weekly newspaper)  
                                 Danvers, Massachusetts  
                                 Assistant editor, reporter, and photographer

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

1998-2004            Committee member, Parent Advisory Committee for Math, Science,  
                                 and Computer Science Magnet, Montgomery Blair High School,  
                                 Montgomery County, Maryland

1999-2003            Volunteer (organizational consulting, fundraising, graphic design),  
                                 D.C. Youth Orchestra Program, Washington, D.C.



- 1989-1997 Board member, Woodside Child Care Center, Silver Spring, Maryland  
(President, 1995-1997)
- 1988-1992 Board member, Temple Israel Pre-School, JCC of Greater Washington