

## VERYL POW

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### EDUCATION

#### **UCLA School of Law**, Los Angeles, CA

J.D., May 2017

Enrolled in David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy and Critical Race Studies Specialization

*Activities:* UCLA Law Review, Volume 64, *Articles Editor*

Criminal Justice Society, *Co-Chair*

UCLA National Lawyers Guild, *Co-Chair*

UCLA Committee on Diversity & Equal Opportunity (CODEO), *Graduate Student Representative*

Traffic Ticket Amnesty Clinic, *Co-Chair*

#### **University of Washington**, Seattle, WA

B.A., International Studies and Political Science, May 2009

### EXPERIENCE

#### **University of Baltimore School of Law**, Baltimore, MD

July 2019 – Present

*Teaching Fellow, Community Development Clinic*

#### **Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law**, Washington, D.C.

September 2017 – June 2019

*Associate Counsel and Skadden Fellow, Criminal Justice Project*

- Providing direct representation to indigent defendants who are sued by bail bonds companies in civil debt collection suits in the District Court for Baltimore City.
  - Engage in case development, and skills practice involving oral argumentation, motions writing, amicus brief writing, administrative complaint filing, and negotiations with opposing counsel.
- Affirmatively challenging Baltimore's bail bond industry using consumer protection and insurance law.
  - Filed *Alice Hughes et al. v. 4 Aces Bail Bonds Inc. et al.* in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City (case no. 24C18006137), a class action against a major unlicensed bail bond company in Baltimore, its debt collection law firm, its debt collection agency, and the two surety insurance companies that underwrite its bail bonds.
    - For media coverage of my advocacy against this company, see, e.g., Heather Cobun, *Lawsuit Alleges Unlicensed Bail Bond Company Filed, Collected Judgments*, THE DAILY RECORD (Nov. 26, 2018); David A. Graham, *The High Cost of Unlicensed Bail Bonds*, THE ATLANTIC (Mar. 2, 2018); Tim Prudente, *Civil Rights Lawyers in D.C. Sue East Baltimore Bail Bonds Company, Alleging It's Unlicensed*, BALTIMORE SUN (Nov. 20, 2018).
  - Primary researcher and author of the complaint (and subsequent briefings), which seeks compensatory damages, as well as declaratory and injunctive relief, and alleges violations of the Maryland Consumer Debt Collection Act, the Maryland Consumer Protection Act, civil conspiracy to collect payments by unlawful means, and unjust enrichment.
- Running weekly legal bail bond debtor clinics and delivering Know Your Rights presentations about bail bond contracts to the Baltimore community.
- Participating in Maryland bail reform efforts as a member of the Coalition for Safe and Justice Maryland.

#### **Cherry Hill Food Co-Op**, Baltimore, MD

March 2019 – Present

*Steering Committee Member*

- Providing legal and policy assistance to emerging food co-operative in Cherry Hill, a low-income neighborhood in South Baltimore without a grocery store.

#### **Baltimore Action Legal Team**, Baltimore, MD

October 2018 - Present

*Legal Brain Trust Attorney*

- Providing legal and policy assistance to four local nonprofit organizations as a member attorney in Baltimore Action Legal Team's (BALT) inaugural Legal Brain Trust. BALT is a Baltimore-based

organization with a community and movement lawyering orientation, and comprises of a cohort of seven attorneys selected to provide legal assistance to grassroots organizations.

**UCLA Law Criminal Defense Clinic**, UCLA Law, Los Angeles, CA

January 2017 – May 2017

*Student Counsel*

- Represented a client charged with disorderly conduct, from case development to trial, which ended in acquittal. During the bench trial, I conducted direct examination of key witness, cross-examination of state's key witness, and delivered closing argument.

**Research Assistant for Professor Noah Zatz**, UCLA Law, Los Angeles, CA

July 2016 – June 2017

- Provided research and data analysis of criminal case dockets from the Los Angeles County Superior Court to assess how court-ordered community service operates as a form of involuntary manual labor.

**Hadsell Stormer & Renick, LLP**, Pasadena, CA

May 2016 – August 2016

*California Employment Lawyers Association (CELA)'s 2016 Employee Justice Fellow*

- Provided legal research and motions writing to assist with litigation in the areas of employment and civil rights law.

**A New Way of Life**, Los Angeles, CA

August 2015 – August 2016

*Law Clerk*

- Represented indigent clients in traffic courts throughout Los Angeles County who faced traffic court debt and driver's license suspensions from traffic citations.
- Participated in Southern California traffic litigation team, which filed *Mata Alvarado et al. v. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles* (Case No. BC628849), on August 2, 2016, to request declaratory and injunctive relief against the Los Angeles County Superior Court for failing to hold ability to pay hearings before suspending licenses, in violation of Vehicle Code §§ 40508 and 40509.5(b).
  - Interviewed potential plaintiffs, gathered declarations, conducted legal research and wrote memorandum addressing counterarguments, and provided substantive edits to complaint.
- Wrote section of report, *Stopped, Fined, Arrested: Racial Bias in Policing and Traffic Courts in California*, published on April 11, 2016, analyzing how driver's license suspensions and arrests pursuant to traffic tickets are economically and racially discriminatory and operate as a pathway to incarceration in California.
  - Filed Public Records Act (PRA) requests with local law enforcement agencies for information on license suspensions and arrests pursuant to traffic violations by zip code; compared PRA data with U.S. Census data to uncover disproportionate impact on low-income black and brown populations.
  - Gathered client anecdotes featured throughout the report.
  - Wrote a section titled "Individual Loss of Liberty and Erosion of Community Trust in Law Enforcement."
- Designed and led Know-Your-Rights workshops in South L.A. around traffic stops and DUI checkpoints.

**Debt-Free Los Angeles**, Los Angeles, CA

October 2015 – June 2016

*Founder*

- Built a grassroots community organizing campaign against driver's license suspensions and traffic court debt.
- Hosted public meetings twice a month at Ascot Library in Watts, CA, to educate community members of traffic court rights and led skills-based workshops to develop the leadership capacity of community members.

**UCLA School of Law Reentry Legal Clinic**, UCLA Law, Los Angeles, CA

September 2015 – May 2017

*Clinic Chair*

- Administered clinic that assisted with criminal record expungements and reinstatements of suspended driver's licenses.

**Research Assistant for Professor Khaled A. Beydoun**, Detroit Mercy Law, Detroit, MI

June 2015 – May 2017

- Provided legal research and editing for three published law review articles.

**Orleans Public Defenders**, New Orleans, LA  
*Summer Law Clerk*

May 2015 – August 2015

**“Wake” Amateur Athletic Union Basketball Program**, Seattle, WA  
*Head Coach for Boys’ 15U Basketball Team; Assistant Coach for 17U Team*

August 2013 – July 2016

**Interagency Programs**, Seattle, WA  
*Social Studies and Aggression Replacement Training Teacher for At-Risk High School Students*

August 2013 – July 2014

**Roosevelt High School Boys’ Basketball Program**, Seattle, WA  
*Head JV Coach, 2013-2014 / Head JVC Coach, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 / Assistant Varsity Coach, 2011-2014*

October 2011 – August 2014

**University of Washington Comparative History of Ideas (CHID) Department**, Seattle, WA  
*Teacher of 2-Credit UW Class, “CHID 496K: Exposing Human Rights Conflicts through Dance and Music”*

Winter 2007

## **PUBLISHED WORKS**

### *Law Review Articles*

- Veryl Pow, *Rebellious Social Movement Lawyering Against Traffic Court Debt*, 64 UCLA L. REV. 1770 (2017) (outlining a new theory of activist lawyering through a case study of the fight to eliminate traffic court debt in California).

### *Op-Eds, Newsletters, and Blog Posts*

- Veryl Pow, *Cash Rules Everything Around Me: Contesting the Profiteers of Money Bail*, A.B.A. YOUNG LAW. DIVISION C.R. & SOC. JUST., Vol. 1 No. 6 (Winter 2018) (discussing the importance of affirmatively challenging the bail industry to achieve meaningful bail reform).
- Veryl Pow, *Taking on the Bail Industry: A Call to Consumer Advocates to Participate in Bail Reform*, NAT. ASS. OF CONSUMER ADVOCATES, July 20, 2018 (Blog Post), <https://www.consumeradvocates.org/blog/2018/taking-bail-industry-call-consumer-advocates-participate-bail-reform> (encouraging consumer advocates to take on bail reform).
- Veryl Pow & Khaled A. Beydoun, *Mizzou in the Eyes of Non-Black People of Color*, MUSLIM MATTERS, Nov. 12, 2015 (Opinion), <http://muslimmatters.org/2015/11/12/mizzou-in-the-eyes-of-non-black-people-of-color> (discussing the broader social movement implications of the student protest at the University of Missouri).
- Veryl Pow & Myesha Braden, *Unlicensed Bail Bond Companies Prey Upon Baltimore’s Most Needy*, AFRO - AM., Apr. 20, 2018 (Opinion), <https://www.afro.com/unlicensed-bail-bond-companies-prey-upon-baltimores-needy> (discussing the business of unlicensed bail bond companies who prey on Baltimore’s poor communities of color).
- Veryl Pow & Myesha Braden, *Unlicensed, Baltimore-Based Bail Bond Companies Perpetuate Economic Inequality Along Racial Lines*, MEDIUM, Dec. 4, 2018 (Opinion), <https://medium.com/@LawyersComm/unlicensed-baltimore-based-bail-bond-companies-perpetuate-economic-inequality-along-racial-lines-95abadca7d12> (discussing the filing of the *Hughes* class action).

## **SELECTED PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

- Panelist, *Carceral Capitalism: Challenging the Profiteers of Money Bail in Maryland*, Maryland Partners for Justice Conference, Baltimore, MD (*forthcoming* May 23, 2019) (discussing legal strategies to challenge bail industry).
- Panelist, *Anti-Capitalism: Exploring Our Political Grounding*, Law For Black Lives (May 7, 2019) (discussing community development alternatives to racial capitalism on a webinar broadcasted to a network of 5,000 movement lawyers).
- Legal Instructor, *Representing Consumers in Bail Bond Collections Actions*, Maryland Legal Aid Consumer Task Force, Baltimore, MD (Jan. 24, 2019) (training pro bono attorneys in the statewide network of Maryland Legal Aid on issue spotting and defenses to bail bond consumer debt collection claims).

- Opening Speaker, *Poverty, Racial Inequity, and Human Rights*, Maryland Legal Aid 2018 All-Staff & Board Conference, Anne Arundel, MD (Nov. 27, 2018) (discussing effects of deindustrialization on Baltimore's demography).
- Panelist, *Community Listening: A Response to an Established Community Lawyering Practice*, National Legal Aid & Defender Association, Houston, TX (Nov. 1, 2018) (discussing community lawyering approach to Maryland bail reform).
- Panelist, Criminal Justice Reform Panel at "Kappas on Capitol Hill," Kappa Alpha Psi's Annual James "Biff" Carter Legislative Policy Conference, Washington, D.C. (Mar. 5, 2018) (discussing bail reform).
- Panelist, *Agents of Change*, UCLA Law's Public Interest Program and the Institute on Inequality and Democracy at UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, UCLA School of Law (Apr. 6, 2016) (discussing race and class dimensions of past and contemporary social movements).