

AVANI MEHTA SOOD

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law
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CURRENT POSITION

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law – Assistant Professor of Law (2013-present)

- Courses: Criminal Law, Evidence, Colloquium on Law & Psychology
- Director, Legal Judgments Lab
- Affiliate, Institute of Personality and Social Research
- Affiliate, Center for the Study of Law and Society

EDUCATION

Princeton University – Ph.D. in Psychology (2013); M.A. in Psychology (2011)

- Program in Law and Public Affairs, Graduate Associate
- Dissertation: *Motivated Cognition in Criminal Law Judgments: Experimental Illustrations, Legal Ramifications, and A Pathway to Remedies* (Advisors: John Darley & Joel Cooper)
- Fellowships and Awards
 - Laurance S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship (2013)
 - Center for Human Values Graduate Prize Fellowship (2012-2013)
 - Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars (2010-2012)
 - Princeton Graduate Fellowship (2007-2008)
 - Center for Human Values Top-Up Prize (2007-2008)
- Assistant in Instruction
 - *Social & Personality Development* – Princeton University (2009)
 - *Social Psychology* – Princeton University (2008)

Yale Law School – J.D. (2003)

- *Yale Law Journal*, Senior Editor (2002-2003), Editor (2001-2002)
- *Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law, and Ethics*, Editor (2000-2002)
- Lowenstein International Human Rights Law Clinic (2001-2003)
- New Haven Legal Assistance Clinic, Family Law Unit (2002-2003)
- Yale Law Women, Executive Board (2002-2003)

Princeton University – A.B. in Psychology, *summa cum laude* (1999)

- *Phi Beta Kappa*
- Edward E. Jones Memorial Thesis Prize
- Howard Crosby Warren Senior Prize
- *The Daily Princetonian*, Editorials & Opinions Editor (1998-1999), Senior Writer (1996-1998), Writer (1995-1996)

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP

Hon. Kimba M. Wood, United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (2004-2005)

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- *Cognitive Cleansing: Experimental Psychology and the Exclusionary Rule*, 103 GEORGETOWN LAW JOURNAL (forthcoming 2015).
- *Motivated Cognition in Legal Judgments—An Analytic Review*, ANNUAL REVIEW OF LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCE (2013).
- *The Plasticity of Harm in the Service of Criminalization Goals*, 100 CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 1313 (2012) (with John Darley).
- *Legal Efforts for Social Reform through the Indian Supreme Court*, 51 HARVARD INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL ONLINE 63 (2010).
- *The Fine Line Between Interrogation and Retribution*, 45 JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY 191 (2009) (with Kevin Carlsmith).
- *Redressing Women’s Rights Violations Through the Judiciary*, 1 JINDAL GLOBAL LAW REVIEW 137 (2009).
- *Gender Justice through Public Interest Litigation—Case Studies from India*, 41 VANDERBILT JOURNAL OF TRANSNATIONAL LAW 833 (2008).

Book Chapters, Reports, and Op-Eds

- *Op-Ed: Was Revenge a Hidden Rationale for Torture?* LOS ANGELES TIMES (Dec. 23, 2014)
- *Aggressive Interrogation and Retributive Justice: A Proposed Psychological Model*, in IDEOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY, AND LAW 574-604 (JON HANSON ED., OXFORD UNIV. PRESS 2012) (with Kevin Carlsmith).
- FAILURE TO DELIVER: VIOLATIONS OF WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS IN KENYAN HEALTH FACILITIES (2007) (with Elisa Slattery & Claris Ogangah).
- LITIGATING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS: USING PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION AND INTERNATIONAL LAW TO PROMOTE GENDER JUSTICE IN INDIA (2006).

EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS

Law School Admission Council Research Grant (2009-2012)

- (funding an ethnographic study of the organizational and ethical culture of large law firms, with collaborators John Darley, Mitt Regan, Elizabeth Chambliss, and Ann Tenbrunsel)

National Science Foundation Research Grant (2009-2011)

- (funding experimental research on the psychological motives behind support for aggressive interrogation, with collaborator Kevin Carlsmith)

Robert L. Bernstein Fellowship in International Human Rights (2005-2006)

- (funding one year of international research and advocacy work applying human rights law)

SELECT SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- Journal of Empirical Legal Studies Junior Workshop – Cornell Law School (forthcoming 2015)
- Law and Society Association Conference – Seattle (forthcoming 2015)
New Developments in Law & Psychological Science
- Conference on Empirical Legal Studies – Berkeley Law School (2014)
Evidence and Adjudication
- Council for the United States and Italy, Young Leaders Conference – Matera, Italy (2014)
Culture, Creativity and Technology: How New Tools and Paradigms Are Bringing a New Life to Personal, Political, and Business Behavior
- Center for the Study of Law and Society Speaker Series – Berkeley Law School (2014)
Cognitive Cleansing: Experimental Psychology and the Exclusionary Rule
- Symposium on Prosecutorial Discretion – Stanford Law School (2014)
Understanding Prosecutorial Discretion: How Prosecutors Make Decisions
- International Society of Justice Research Conference – New York University (2014)
Law & Morality: The Role of Agency, Egregiousness, Character, and Status in Legal Blame and Punishment (symposium chair)
- Institute of Personality and Social Research Colloquium – University of California, Berkeley (2013)
Motivated Cognition in Legal Judgments: Experimental Illustrations, Constitutional Ramifications, and A Pathway to Remedies
- Program in Law and Public Affairs Workshop – Princeton University (2012)
‘Unpoisoning’ the Fruit of the Poisonous Tree: Motivated Applications of the Exclusionary Rule
- Law and Society Association Conference – San Francisco (2011)
Assessing Damages and Harms in Multiple Contexts
- Law and Cognition Colloquium – Harvard Law School (2011)
Motivated Reasoning and Cultural Cognition
- Program in Law and Public Affairs Workshop – Princeton University (2011)
Motivated Reasoning and the Law
- Conference on Empirical Legal Studies – Yale Law School (2010)
Criminal Justice: Psychology of Crime
- Law, Society, and History Colloquium – New York Law School (2010)
The Plasticity of Harm: An Empirical Demonstration of the Malleability of Judgments in the Service of Criminalization

- Northeast Law and Society Conference – Amherst College (2010)
Motive and Meaning: Legal Understandings and Line Drawing
- Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Biennial Conference – New Orleans (2010)
Attitudes Toward Torture: Social Psychological Investigations
- Harvard Law and Mind Sciences Conference – Harvard Law School (2010)
Moral Biology: Mind Sciences and Punishment
- Harvard International Law Journal Symposium – Harvard Law School (2010)
International Dispute Resolution in Practice: Legal Efforts at Social Reform in Foreign Fora
- Princeton Conference on Psychology and Policymaking – Princeton University (2008)
The Fine Line Between Interrogation and Retribution
- Robert L. Bernstein Symposium on International Human Rights – Yale Law School (2006)
Using Public Interest Litigation to Address Violations of Women's Rights in India

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Center for Reproductive Rights, International Legal Program (New York, 2005-2007) – *Legal Fellow*

- Engaged in extensive field research and authored analytical reports on public interest litigation in India and human rights violations in Kenya.
- Conducted trainings on international law for judges and lawyers in India and Kenya.

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP (New York, 2003-2004) – *Litigation Associate*

- Researched and wrote memoranda addressing dimensions of international arbitration law; wrote chapter on international dispute resolution for *Moore's Federal Practice*.
- Engaged in white-collar criminal practice through expansive internal investigation case.
- Provided *pro bono* representation in family court proceedings.

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP (New York, Summer 2002) – *Summer Associate*

- Wrote memoranda on international law, trusts and estates, and gender discrimination issues.
- Undertook representation in *pro bono* case involving immigration and family law.

National Center for Youth Law (Oakland, Summer 2001) – *Summer Associate*

- Conducted research and analysis on various questions of youth law.
- Executed study on states' obligations to meet mental health needs of children in foster care.

The New York County District Attorney's Office, Appeals Bureau (New York, 1999-2000) – *Paralegal*

- Compiled and analyzed case documents; drafted excessive sentence briefs.

SERVICE

Peer reviewer – law / policy journals:

- *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*
- *Indian Journal of Constitutional Law*

- *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*
- *Public Opinion Quarterly*

Peer reviewer – psychology journals:

- *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*
- *Cognition*
- *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*
- *Swiss Journal of Social Psychology*
- *Asian Journal of Social Psychology*
- *British Journal of Social Psychology*

Judicial Clerkship Committee, Berkeley Law

MEMBERSHIPS

Professional memberships:

- Society for Empirical Legal Studies
- International Society for Justice Research
- Law and Society Association
- American Psychology-Law Society

Admitted to the New York State Bar (2004)