

CHIKA O. OKAFOR

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CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

Northwestern University	Chicago, IL Evanston, IL
<i>Assistant Professor of Law, Pritzker School of Law</i>	2025 – present
<i>Assistant Professor (by courtesy), Department of Economics</i>	2025 – present
<i>Assistant Professor (by courtesy), Kellogg School of Management</i>	2025 – present
<i>Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research</i>	2025 – present

PAST APPOINTMENTS

Harvard University	Cambridge, MA
<i>Opportunity Insights, Research Associate</i>	2024 – 2025
<i>Radcliffe Fellow, Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study</i>	2023 – 2024
<i>– Edna Newman Shapiro, Class of 1936, and Robert Newman Shapiro, Class of 1972, Graduate Student Fellow</i>	
<i>Inaugural Fellow in Law & Political Economy, Harvard Law School</i>	2022 – 2024
<i>Lecturer on Law, Harvard Law School</i>	2023
<i>Reginald F. Lewis Fellow in Law Teaching, Harvard Law School</i>	2021 – 2022
National Bureau of Economic Research	Cambridge, MA
<i>Postdoctoral Fellow in Aging & Health Research</i>	2024 – 2025
<i>Predocctoral Fellow in Aging & Health Economics</i>	2021 – 2023
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Cambridge, MA
<i>Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics</i>	2021 – 2022

EDUCATION

Harvard University	Cambridge, MA
<i>Ph.D. Economics</i>	2024
<i>Dissertation: Seeds of Societal Progress: Essays on Economic Inequality, Criminal Justice, and Climate Change</i>	
<i>Committee: Raj Chetty (chair), Lawrence Katz, Isaiah Andrews, Nathan Hendren</i>	
<i>M.A. Economics</i>	2021
Yale Law School	New Haven, CT
<i>Juris Doctor (J.D.)</i>	2015
<i>Senior Editor, Yale Journal on Regulation</i>	
<i>Editor, Yale Human Rights & Development Law Journal</i>	
Stanford University	Stanford, CA
<i>B.A. Economics (with Honors)</i>	2007
<i>Rhodes Scholar Finalist</i>	

SECONDARY AFFILIATIONS

Harvard University	Cambridge, MA
<i>Opportunity Insights (OI)</i>	2019 – 2025
<i>Resident Tutor, Leverett House (Harvard College)</i>	2018 – 2025
<i>Program in Criminal Justice Policy & Management, Harvard Kennedy School</i>	2022 – 2024
<i>Harvard Environmental Economics Program (HEEP)</i>	2021 – 2024
<i>Center for American Political Studies (CAPS)</i>	2021 – 2024
<i>Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS)</i>	2021 – 2024
American Economic Association (AEA)	United States
<i>Pipeline Mentoring Program</i>	2017 – 2024

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED

Okafor, C.O. Seeing Through Colorblindness: Social Networks as a Mechanism for Discrimination. [accepted for publication in *Journal of Law and Economics*].

❑ “Best Paper with Student Presenter” Award (MD4SG 2020 Conference)

LAW REVIEW

Okafor, C.O. 2024. Un-Erasing Race: Introducing Social Network Discrimination to the Law. 102 N.C. L. REV. 6: 1517.

❑ Flagship law journal of 1 of 2 schools involved in landmark 2023 Supreme Court decision on affirmative action in higher education. Article introduces *social network discrimination* to legal scholarship and explores how it relates to the 2023 Supreme Court decision.

Okafor, C.O. 2015. Returning to Eden: Toward a Faith-Based Framing of the Environmental Movement. VILL. ENVTL. LJ 26: 215.

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

Boston Globe January 14, 2024
 “The Arc of the Moral Universe Doesn’t Bend Itself”
 ❑ Link to article: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2024/01/14/opinion/mlk-day-the-arc-of-the-moral-universe-is-long-but-it-bends-toward-justice/>
 ❑ Link to non-paywalled article: [republished at *The Fulcrum*]

Newsweek June 22, 2023
 “Building the Next Pro-Life Movement”
 ❑ Link to article: <https://www.newsweek.com/building-next-pro-life-movement-opinion-1807329>

CORPORATE & EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Todaydream, Inc. <i>Founder & CEO</i>	Chicago, IL 2021 – present
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP <i>Corporate Attorney</i>	London, England 2015 – 2016
McKinsey & Company <i>Management & Strategy Consultant</i>	Chicago, IL 2007 – 2009

PUBLIC SERVICE & SOCIAL IMPACT LEADERSHIP

LOCAL POLICY

Chicago Public Schools <i>Education Pioneers Fellow (Developed first district-wide College Persistence Toolkit)</i>	Chicago, IL 2014
Chicago Public Schools <i>Project Manager, “Culture of Calm” (Violence Prevention Initiative)</i> ❑ <i>The New York Times</i> profile [click link here]; NPR story [click link here]	Chicago, IL 2009 – 2010

NATIONAL U.S. POLICY

White House <i>Economics & Legal Fellow, Office of Information & Regulatory Affairs (OIRA)</i> ❑ Relevant <i>New York Times</i> profile [click link here]	Washington, DC 2023 – 2024
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund (LDF) <i>Legal Intern</i>	Washington, DC 2012
Capitol Hill, Office of U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin <i>Appropriations Subcommittee Intern</i>	Washington, DC 2009

INTERNATIONAL POLICY

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) <i>Tom & Andi Bernstein Human Rights Fellow</i> ❑ Yale Law School profile [click link here]; USHMM profile [click link here]	Washington, DC 2016 – 2017
Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, Yale Law School <i>Human Rights Team Member</i> ❑ Amicus brief [click link here]	New Haven, CT 2014 – 2015
European Court of Human Rights <i>Kirby Simon Human Rights Fellow</i>	Strasbourg, France 2012

Peking University

Exchange Student

☐ Martin Luther King in China [[click link here](#)]

Beijing, China

2006

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

INSTRUCTOR

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Assistant Professor of Law

☐ Instructor for self-designed course CONPUB 615 (*Fourteenth Amendment*)

☐ Instructor for self-designed course PPTYTORT 617 (*Energy Law*)

Chicago, IL

2025 – present

Harvard Law School

Lecturer on Law

☐ Instructor for self-designed course HLS 3209 (*Wielding Impact: Economics as Tool for Justice*)

☐ Course description [[click link here](#)]

Cambridge, MA

2023

TEACHING FELLOW

Harvard University

Teaching Fellow for ECON 1123 (Introduction to Econometrics), Prof. Jim Stock

Cambridge, MA

2019

American Economic Association (AEA) Summer Program

Teaching Fellow for ECSP 818 (Econometrics), Prof. Jeffrey Wooldridge

☐ “Outstanding June Teaching Fellow” Award (prize for top teaching evaluations)

East Lansing, MI

2018

SELECT HONORS

PH.D. PROGRAM

NBER Postdoctoral Fellowship in Aging & Health Research	2024
NSF SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (SPRF) – <i>declined</i>	2024
Ana Aguado Prize (best paper by a Harvard doctoral student in environmental, natural-resource, or energy economics)	2024
Harvard Radcliffe Institute Dissertation Completion Fellowship	2023
Public Voices Fellow with The OpEd Project, in partnership with the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication	2023
Pre-Doctoral Fellowship on Carbon Pricing and Alternative Instruments in Future U.S. Energy and Climate Policy	2022
Harvard Horizons (1 of 8 Harvard PhD students selected)	2022
Dwight D. Eisenhower/Clifford Roberts Fellowship	2021
Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Dissertation Prize	2021

NBER Predoctoral Fellowship in Aging & Health Economics	2021
NSF-CJARS (Criminal Justice Administrative Records System) Fellowship	2021
Machine Learning and Economics Summer Institute (MLESI), University of Chicago	2021
“Best Paper with Student Presenter” Award – Mechanism Design for Social Good (MD4SG) 2020 Conference	2020
James M. & Cathleen D. Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration, Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy, Harvard University	2019 – 2024
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellow	2019 – 2023
Terence M. Considine Fellow in Law and Economics, Harvard Law School	2019 – 2020
Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics	2019
Price Theory Summer Camp, Becker Friedman Institute at the University of Chicago	2019
Partnering in Education Research (PIER) Fellowship – <i>declined</i>	2019
“Outstanding June Teaching Fellow” Award (<i>prize for top teaching evaluations</i>), Teaching Fellow in American Economic Association (AEA) Summer Program	2018
Harvard Graduate School Leadership Institute (HGSLI) Fellow	2018
Samuel L. Myers, Jr., Award (prize for best research project), AEA Summer Program	2017

J.D. PROGRAM

Tom & Andi Bernstein Human Rights Fellow, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum	2016 – 2017
Education Pioneers Fellow	2014
Kirby Simon Human Rights Fellowship, Yale Law School	2012
NAACP Legal Defense Fund Earl Warren Legal Training Scholarship	2011 – 2014
ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship	2011 – 2014

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Rhodes Scholarship – <i>finalist</i>	2007
Graduation Speaker, Stanford Black Graduation Ceremony	2007
Firestone Medal, Stanford University (<i>prize for best undergraduate theses</i>)	2007
Chappell Lougee Research Scholarship, Stanford University	2005

GRANTS

Stone Research Grant, Harvard Kennedy School	2024
Lab for Economic Applications and Policy (LEAP) Grant	2023
Program on Criminal Justice Policy & Management Graduate Student Research Grant	2022
Center for American Political Studies (CAPS) Seed Grant	2022
Chae Family Economics Research Fund Grant	2022
Center for American Political Studies (CAPS) Seed Grant	2021
William R. Waters Research Grant	2021

Gorilla Grant – Diamond Tier Awardee (Top Tier)	2021
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Engaged Student Grant	2021
Foundations of Human Behavior (FHB) Research Grant	2021
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Engaged Summer Grant	2020
Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS) Research Grantt	2020
Lab for Economic Applications and Policy (LEAP) Grant	2020
AEA/National Science Foundation (NSF) Travel Grant	2019
Harvard Initiative for Learning and Teaching (HILT) Pilot Fund Grant	2019
IQSS Travel Grant	2019
AEA/NSF Travel Grant	2018
AEA/NSF Travel Grant	2017

PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Culp Colloquium (Harvard Law School). *“Climate Changes.”* June, 2025. Cambridge, MA.

American Law & Economics Association (ALEA) Annual Meeting. *“Climate Changes: Leveraging Economic Analysis to Mobilize Climate Action.”* May, 2025. New York, NY.

John Mercer Langston Writing Workshop. *“Problems and Possibilities: Divergent Approaches for Motivating Americans to Fight Climate Change.”* July, 2024. Chicago, IL.

American Law & Economics Association (ALEA) Annual Meeting. *“Choosing Climate Changes.”* May, 2024. Ann Arbor, MI. (Paper accepted but could not attend.)

John Mercer Langston Writing Workshop. *“Un-Erasing Race: Social Network Discrimination and the Law.”* July, 2023. New York, NY.

American Law & Economics Association (ALEA) Annual Meeting. *“Un-Erasing Race: Social Network Discrimination and the Law.”* May, 2023. Boston, MA.

Conference of Empirical Legal Studies. *“Prosecutor Politics: The Impact of Election Cycles on Criminal Sentencing in the Era of Rising Incarceration.”* March, 2022. Virtual.

American Law & Economics Association (ALEA) Annual Meeting. *“Prosecutor Politics: The Impact of Election Cycles on Criminal Sentencing in the Era of Rising Incarceration.”* October, 2021. Virtual.

ACM Conference in Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO 2021). *“Prosecutor Politics: The Impact of Election Cycles on Criminal Sentencing in the Era of Rising Incarceration.”* October, 2021. Virtual.

Conference of Ford Foundation Fellows. *“All Things Equal? Social Networks as a Mechanism for Discrimination.”* August, 2020. Virtual.

Mechanism Design for Social Good 2020 Conference. “*All Things Equal? Social Networks as a Mechanism for Discrimination.*” August, 2020. Virtual.

American Law & Economics Association (ALEA) Annual Meeting. “*A New Merit-Based Rationale for Diversity.*” May, 2020. (Paper accepted but conference canceled.)

Conference of Ford Foundation Fellows. “*Black & Blue Matters: An Empirical Analysis of Everyday Policing After Ferguson.*” October, 2019. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

University of Chicago HCEO Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality. “*Black & Blue Matters: An Empirical Analysis of Everyday Policing After Ferguson.*” June, 2019. Bergen, Norway.

American Economic Association Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference. “*Black & Blue Matters: An Empirical Analysis of Everyday Policing After Ferguson.*” July, 2018. East Lansing, MI.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Department of Economics, Duke University, “*Prosecutor Politics: The Impact of Election Cycles on Criminal Sentencing in the Era of Rising Incarceration.*” Race, Racism, and Structural Inequality Conference, May, 2024.

Harvard Law School, “*Seeing Through Colorblindness: Social Networks as a Mechanism for Discrimination.*” Workshop on Law and Political Economy, April, 2024.

Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study, Harvard University, “*Seeds of Societal Progress: Essays on Economic Inequality, Criminal Justice, and Climate Change.*” AllRad Presentation, March, 2024.

Harvard Law School, “*Seeing Through Colorblindness: Social Networks as a Mechanism for Discrimination.*” Law and Economics Seminar, October, 2023.

University of Michigan Law School, “*Un-Erasing Race: Social Network Discrimination and the Law.*” June, 2023.

University of Michigan, “*Exploring Prosecutor Behavior and Its Impact on Society.*” NSF/CJARS Board Meeting, June, 2023.

Department of Management Science & Engineering, Stanford University, “*Understanding & Motivating U.S. Climate Action.*” “Rising Stars” Workshop, May, 2023.

The University of Texas at Austin Law School, “*Choosing Climate Changes.*” Law and Economics Seminar, April, 2023.

Harvard Kennedy School, “*Prosecutor Politics: The Impact of Election Cycles on Criminal Sentencing in the Era of Rising Incarceration.*” The Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management, January, 2023.

Georgetown Law School, “*Prosecutor Politics: The Impact of Election Cycles on Criminal Sentencing in the Era of Rising Incarceration.*” Law and Economics Workshop, October, 2022.

George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School, “*Prosecutor Politics: The Impact of Election Cycles on Criminal Sentencing in the Era of Rising Incarceration.*” Law and Economics Workshop, October, 2022.

Notre Dame Law School, “*Prosecutor Politics: The Impact of Election Cycles on Criminal Sentencing in the Era of Rising Incarceration.*” Law and Economics Workshop, September, 2022.

John Chambers College of Business and Economics, West Virginia University, “*Prosecutor Politics: The Impact of Election Cycles on Criminal Sentencing in the Era of Rising Incarceration.*” PhD Seminar Series, September, 2022.

Harvard Law School, “*Politics and the Prosecutor: The Impact of Elections on Prosecutorial Discretion and Mass Incarceration.*” Law and Economics Seminar, November, 2020.

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, “*All Things Equal? Social Networks as a Mechanism for Discrimination.*” Research Seminar, October, 2020.

Stanford Graduate School of Business, “*All Things Equal? Social Networks as a Mechanism for Discrimination.*” Rising Scholars Conference, October, 2020.

University of Chicago Law School, “*Politics and the Prosecutor: The Impact of Elections on Prosecutorial Discretion and Mass Incarceration.*” Work-in-Progress Seminar, September, 2020.

Harvard Law School, “*Black & Blue Matters: An Empirical Analysis of Routine Policing After Ferguson.*” Workshop in Empirical Law & Economics, February, 2020.

Harvard Law School, “*A New Merit-Based Rationale for Diversity.*” Law and Economics Seminar, February, 2020.

Stanford University, “*Surviving BLACKademia.*” Black Alumni Summit, March, 2019.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, “*Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day (TODAS).*” Museum Panel with Holocaust Survivor Margit Meissner, April, 2017.

SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

Journal Reviewer

2020 – present

- *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Service

2018 – 2024

- Co-Leader, Mechanism Design for Social Good (MD4SG) Inequality Working Group (2021–2022); Panelist, National Collegiate Research Conference (2021), Harvard Economics Department Peer Mentor (2018–2019), Greener Scott Scholars Mentor at Harvard University (2021–2022; 2023–2024).

Conference Leadership

2021 – 2022

- Area Organizer, American Law & Economics Association (ALEA) 2022 Annual Meeting; Program Committee, Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization 2021 Conference (EAAMO '21).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Economic Association

American Law & Economics Association

Society for Empirical Legal Studies

State of New York Bar (current status: *Active*)

State of Illinois Bar (current status: *Inactive*)