

## **DEBRA CHOPP**

University of Michigan Law School  
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### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL**

Ann Arbor, MI

##### **Clinical Assistant Professor, Director, Pediatric Advocacy Clinic**

January 2007–Present

- Teach and supervise student attorneys as they represent low-income clients in the areas of special education law, family law, housing law, and public benefits.
- Instruct law students on core lawyering skills, such as client interviewing, counseling, negotiation, formal courtroom advocacy, informal advocacy, legal writing, and professional responsibility.
- Serve as liaison between clinic and four medical partner sites, manage referrals, answer provider legal questions.
- Conduct multiple trainings each year for pediatric residents, social workers, and medical faculty and staff at medical-partner sites on substantive areas of law including special education, family law, public benefits, and housing law.
- Other courses taught: *Topics in Education Law* seminar, *Identity and the Law* mini-seminar, *Work-Life Balance* mini-seminar.

### **LEGAL AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT**

#### **UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL**

Ann Arbor, MI

##### **Staff Attorney, Pediatric Advocacy Initiative**

September 2005- December 2006

- Represented indigent clients in civil litigation, with a particular focus on special education law.

#### **SANCTUARY FOR FAMILIES:**

##### **CENTER FOR BATTERED WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES**

Bronx, NY

##### **Volunteer Attorney**

October 2004-June 2005

- Counseled and represented battered women in Bronx Family Court, particularly in the Integrated Domestic Violence Court, in all matters pertaining to order of protection and child custody litigation.

#### **ADVOCATES FOR HIGHWAY AND AUTO SAFETY**

Washington, DC

##### **Legislative Assistant**

September 2002-October 2003

- Formulated federal legislative agenda, strategies, and materials to improve highway safety. Wrote testimony for federal congressional hearings.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

*Special Education Law*, Michigan Poverty Law Program summer training series, Ann Arbor, MI, July 2015.

*Cross-Cultural Lawyering*, Committee on Regional Training (CORT) Family Law Conference, Ann Arbor, MI, June 2015.

*Practicing Law with an Awareness of Culture*, Family Court Forum, Ann Arbor, MI, June 2015.

*Special Education Law and the Challenges of School Reentry*, Co-presenter, Department of Pediatric Rehab Medicine, Ann Arbor, MI, January 6, 2015.

*Social Determinants of Health and Patient Advocacy*, Co-presenter, Program on Global Health and Disparities, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Michigan, September 2014.

*Education Law Fundamentals for Psychologists*, University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI, August 2014.

*Arguing on the Side of Culture*, Co-presenter, National Conference of Forensic Social Workers, New York, NY, July 2014.

*Special Education Law*, University of Michigan School of Education, Ann Arbor, MI, June 2014.

*Finding Opportunities in Our Own Backyards*, Co-presenter, American Association of Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Chicago, IL, April 2014.

*How Doctors and Lawyers Can Partner to Improve Patient Health*, Health Equity Scholars Program, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, MI January 2014.

*The Intersection Between Family Law and Education Law*, Michigan Poverty Law Program Roadshow, Lansing, MI November 2013.

*The Role of Evaluations in Special Education*, University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI, June 2013.

*Facing and Embracing Risk in Litigation, Multidisciplinary, and Transactional Clinics*, American Association of Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education, San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 2013.

*Special Education Law*, University of Michigan School of Education, Ann Arbor, MI April 2013.

*Michigan Education Summit 2012*, University of Michigan Law School, May 2012.

*Translating Client Narrative in an Interdisciplinary Practice*, Midwest Clinical Law Teachers Conference, Madison, WI, November 2011.

*Interviewing Clients*, Basic Lawyer Skills Training, Ann Arbor, MI, November 2011.

*The Pediatric Advocacy Initiative: The University of Michigan's Medical-Legal Partnership*, Mott & Women's Management Leadership Group, University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI, June 2010.

*Finding Opportunities in Our Own Backyard: A Partnership Between Social Workers and Law Students*, Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care Conference, New Orleans, LA, April 2009.

*Special Education Law*, Legal Aid and Defenders Association Conference, Detroit, MI, December 2008.

*The Nexus Between Special Education and Family Law*, Michigan Poverty Law Program Roadshow, Lansing, MI, September 2008.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Co-author. *Arguing on the Side of Culture*, R. Ortega and F. Vandervort, co-authors. *Litig. J.* Fall 2014 (2014): 10-3.

*The Intersection of Family Law and Education Law*, Res Ipsa Loquitur, Washtenaw County Bar Association, July 2014.

*School Districts and Families Under the IDEA: Collaborative in Theory, Adversarial in Fact*, 32 J. NAT'L ASS'N ADMIN. L. JUDICIARY 423 (Fall 2012).

*Progressive Identities: The Evolution of the Women's Movement Post ERA Failure*, 23 *Michigan Journal of Political Science* 1 (1997).

## **EDUCATION**

### **UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL**

Philadelphia, PA

Juris Doctor, May 2002

- Board Member, Advocate, and Supervisor, Custody and Support Assistance Clinic
- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Award for Excellence in Family Law
- Certificate for Exemplary Public Service
- Senior Editor, *Journal of Constitutional Law*

### **UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

Ann Arbor, MI

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, May 1997, *High Honors*

- Grace Award for Best Honors Thesis in Political Science

### **GRANTS**

*Michigan State Bar Foundation.* Grant to conduct Foster Care Outreach Project for children in the child welfare system requiring special education services, September 2007-September 2008.

### **OTHER**

Law School representative to Child Health Evaluation and Research (CHEAR) Unit

Member, AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education

Member, Board of Directors, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

### **BAR ADMISSIONS**

Admitted to practice in Michigan and New York.