

THOMAS WILSON MITCHELL

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CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

June 1, 2016 – present TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Professor, Texas A&M School of Law, Fort Worth,
TX

Co-Director: Program in Real Estate and
Community Development Law

Courses:

- Property
- Land Use
- Trust and Estates
- Global Law Field Studies (Ghana placement)

Professor, Texas A&M Department of Agricultural
Economics, College Station, TX (Joint, Secondary
Appointment)

Dec. 2015 – present
(on leave 2016-2017) UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL
Professor of Law &
Frederick W. and Vi Miller Chair in Law

Courses:

- Property
- Land Use
- Remedies

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL
William H. Hastie Fellow, LL.M. December, 1999

HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
J.D., *cum laude* 1993 (class rank top 5% -- 5/115)
Honors: *Special Articles Editor*, HOWARD UNIVERSITY LAW JOURNAL
American Jurisprudence Book Award: Constitutional Law

AMHERST COLLEGE

B.A., English 1987

Honors: G. Armour Craig Award for Prose Composition

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

NEW LEGAL REALISM: TRANSLATING LAW-AND-SOCIETY FOR TODAY'S LEGAL PRACTICE (volume one) (Cambridge University Press 2016) (edited with Elizabeth Mertz and Stewart Macaulay).

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Restoring Hope for Heirs Property Owners: The Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act, STATE & LOCAL LAW NEWS, Fall 2016, at 6.

New Legal Realism and Inequality, in NEW LEGAL REALISM: TRANSLATING LAW-AND-SOCIETY FOR TODAY'S LEGAL PRACTICE (Elizabeth Mertz, Stewart Macaulay, and Thomas W. Mitchell, eds., Cambridge University Press 2016)

Reforming Property Law to Address Devastating Land Loss, 66 ALA. L. REV. 1 (2014) (lead article)

Growing Inequality and Racial Economic Gaps, 56 HOWARD LAW JOURNAL 849 (2013)

The Hastie Fellowship Program at Forty: Still Creating Minority Law Professors, 2013 WISCONSIN LAW REVIEW 737 (2013)

Uniform Laws Update, 25 PROB. & PROP. 7 (Jan./Feb. 2011)

Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act (Oct. 19, 2010), available at <http://www.uniformlaws.org/Act.aspx?title=Partition%20of%20Heirs%20Property%20Act> (I served as the Reporter, person with primary drafting responsibility, for this uniform act which was promulgated by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws)

Forced Sale Risk: Class, Race, and the "Double Discount," 37 FLA. ST. U. L. REV. 589 (2010) (co-authored with Stephen Malpezzi, and Richard K. Green)

Destabilizing the Normalization of Rural Black Land Loss: A Critical Role for Legal Empiricism, 2005 WISCONSIN LAW REVIEW 557 (2005)

From Reconstruction to Deconstruction: Undermining Black Landownership, Political Independence and Community Through Partition Sales of Tenancies in Common, 95 NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 505 (2001)

The Land Crisis in Zimbabwe: Getting Beyond the Myopic Focus Upon Black & White, 11 INDIANA UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW REVIEW 587 (2001)

Justice for Rodney King, 1 HOWARD SCROLL: THE SOCIAL JUSTICE LAW REVIEW 30 (1993) (with Scott C. Burrell and Alan R. Dial)

ESSAYS

Summary of Winthrop and Frances Lane Lecture, University of Nebraska College of Law, NEBRASKA TRANSCRIPT, Fall 2010, at 21.

The Empirical Turn in the Legal Academy: A New Legal Realist Perspective, Law and Society Association, November 2006 Newsletter

New Promising African American Landownership Initiatives, Equal Justice Society e-Newsletter - Issue 10 - Summer 2007

POLICY BRIEFS

INSIGHT CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, *THE RACIAL GAP IN LAND RETENTION, ACQUISITION, AND DEVELOPMENT* (June 2009) (I was one of the primary contributors to this policy brief)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act Would Improve Texas Partition Law for Families, REPTL REPORTER, (publication of the State Bar Texas's Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law Section, scheduled for publication in May 2017)

African-Americans' Quest for Full Citizenship Undermined by Recurring Property Ownership Barriers, in RACE, PROPERTY, AND DEBT (Vincent Lloyd ed, Duke University Press, scheduled for 2018)

Property Valuation Beyond Numbers: The Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act and the Sentimental, Cultural, and Historical Value of Land Owned by African-Americans in the U.S. South, Sarah Hitchner, John Schelhas, Cassandra Johnson-Gaither, and Thomas W. Mitchell

THE UNIFORM PARTITION OF HEIRS PROPERTY ACT: FOUNDATIONS AND PRACTICE. I am under contract for this American Bar Association book project that the A.B.A. Section on Real Estate, Trust and Estate Law and Section on State and Local Government Law jointly are co-sponsoring. I am serving as the editor for the book and am also contributing a chapter.

Exit from Common Property Ownership: An International Comparative Study. I expect to publish an article from this research that has been supported by a grant from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate School.

LAND REFORM IN THE NEW DEAL: SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL (book project in progress with two chapters drafted; proposals solicited from NYU Press and the University of Chicago Press).

Uniform/Model Laws and Social Justice: Combining a Social Movement and Top-Down Approach. I have begun to research the extent to which uniform and model law processes provide opportunities and obstacles for advocates for underprivileged people to promote social and economic justice given that few uniform or models laws have been developed to address the specific legal problems poor and minority people often face.

PRIOR ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Nov. 2012 - UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL
Dec. 2015 Professor of Law

Sept. 2006 - UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL
Oct. 2012 Associate Professor of Law

Aug. 2004 - DEPAUL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW
June 2006 *Associate Professor & Dir., Center for Rural & Urban Community Development*

Aug. 2003 - AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION, Chicago IL
Aug. 2004 *Visiting Research Fellow*

Sept. 2002 - UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO'S CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RACE,
Aug. 2003 POLITICS AND CULTURE
Faculty Fellow

Sept. 2000 - UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL
Apr. 2006 *Assistant Professor*

OTHER PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Feb. UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL
1998- *Assistant Dean for Student Relations*
June
2000

Mar. LAND TENURE CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
1997- *Director of the Summer Law Student Externship Program*
Aug. Directed national clinical program that sends law students from several schools across the country to
2001 communities who have experienced land problems related to their lack of access to legal services.

Dec. HONORABLE EMMET G. SULLIVAN
1995- *Law Clerk*
July United States District Court for the District of Columbia Circuit
1996 Drafted bench memoranda, prepared initial drafts of opinions and orders, reviewed motions, and advised a variety of matters related to his federal docket.

- Oct. COVINGTON & BURLING
1993- *Attorney*
- Dec. Drafted memoranda, briefs and other pleadings in insurance coverage and other litigation matters. S
1995 plaintiff class in connection with consent decree involving the District of Columbia concerning cond
Security Prison.
- May U.S. SENATOR DAVID PRYOR, (Arkansas)
1991- U.S. SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
Sept. *Congressional Fellow*
1991 Drafted Committee Print that provided a history of the Special Committee on Aging.
- July U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DAVID “MAC” SWEENEY (D-14, Texas)
1987- *Senior Legislative Assistant*
Sept. Directed congressional staff that included seven legislative assistants. With the assistance of House
1988 legislation in the area of rural health care.

SPECIAL HONORS

American College of Real Estate Lawyers (ACREL). Selected to be a fellow in 2014. ACREL is the most prestigious organization for real estate lawyers in the United States. Membership is by invitation only and ACREL only extends invitations to a small number of people to become fellows each year after it conducts a months-long vetting process. Of the approximately 1,000 ACREL fellows, fewer than forty are law professors.

Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award, 2013 Recipient. One of 10 professors in the United States in the fields of law, medicine, and psychology recognized as a transformational educator who has inspired a former student to create an organization which has conferred lasting benefits within particular communities.

National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, Reporter for Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act (UPHPA) (2007-2010) (Eight states have now enacted the UPHPA into law)

Spirit of Land Rich Award, received award at the University of North Carolina from the Land Rich organization for my work on behalf of minority landowners (April 2007)

National Rural Assembly. Selected by the Kellogg Foundation and the Ford Foundation as one of 300 rural leaders to participate in developing a national policy agenda called the Rural Compact

CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, AND ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- Feb. 3, 2017 *African-Americans’ Quest for Full Citizenship Undermined by Recurring Property Ownership Barriers*, Texas A&M University School of Law, Real Property Law Schmooze
- May 21, 2016 *Exploring Barriers to Scottish-Style Land Reform in the United States* at the SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF LAW, PROPERTY AND SOCIETY, sponsored by Queen’s University Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland (May 20-May 21, 2016).

- May 20, 2016 *Sentimental, Cultural, and Historical Value of African-American Owned Land* at the SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF LAW, PROPERTY AND SOCIETY, sponsored by Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland (May 20-May 21, 2016).
- May 16, 2016 Presenter, *Exploring Barriers to Scottish-Style Land Reform in the United States*, Land Reform in Scotland, A U.S.-U.K. Round Table, University of Glasgow School of Law, United Kingdom, May 16, 2016
- Mar. 11, 2016 Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin – Madison, *Race, Property, and Debt* Symposium (African-American Property Ownership: Racialized Opportunities, Unjust Legal Regimes, and the Racial Wealth Gap)
- Nov. 5, 2015 University of Tennessee College of Law, Faculty Workshop Series, Knoxville, TN
- Oct. 26, 2015 University of Georgia School of Law, Faculty Workshop Series, Athens, GA.
- May 29-30, 2015 Law and Society Association's Annual Meeting, organizer of service panel and panelist on second session, Seattle, WA
- Apr. 30-May 2, 2015 6th Annual Meeting for the Association for Law, Property and Society, University of Georgia School of Law (served as panelist on two panels, including one of three panelists on closing plenary panel), Athens, GA
- Apr. 30, 2015 USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station, Faculty Workshop Series, Athens, GA
- Apr. 7, 2015 Historic Black Towns and Settlements Workshop, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (participated as panelist by conference call)
- Mar. 20, 2015 20th Thomas R. Gallivan, Jr. Conference, *Kelo: A Decade Later*, University of Connecticut School of Law, Hartford, CT
- Mar. 5, 2015 Loyola Law School, Faculty Workshop Series, Los Angeles, CA
- Oct. 24-25, 2014 Midwest Law and Society Retreat, Madison, WI
- Aug. 30, 2014 New Legal Realism 10th Anniversary Conference: Future Directions for Legal Empiricism, University of California, Irvine School of Law, Irvine, CA
- Apr. 11, 2014 Marquette University Law School, Faculty Workshop Series, Milwaukee, WI
- Mar. 24, 2014 Elon University School of Law, Faculty Workshop Series, Greensboro, NC
- Nov. 1, 2013 Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO
- Oct. 24, 2013 Poverty Law Conference at American University Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.

- Apr. 27, 2013 4th Annual Meeting for the Association for Law, Property and Society, University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis, MN
- Feb. 20, 2013 Texas Wesleyan School of Law, 2012-2013 Faculty Speaker Series, Fort Worth, TX
- Nov. 1, 2012 Howard University School of Law, 9th Annual Wiley A. Branton-Howard Law Journal Symposium, Washington, D.C.
- Feb. 28, 2012 UC Hastings College of the Law, Faculty Speakers Series, San Francisco, CA
- Jan. 27, 2012 Mid-Atlantic People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, *Law and the Historical Movement: Law's Response to 21st Century Issues*, panelist, Howard University School of Law, Washington, D.C.
- Nov. 3, 2011 Wayne State University Law School, Faculty Speakers Series, Detroit, MI
- June 2, 2011 Law and Society Association's Annual Meeting, panelist on a plenary session titled *Geographies, Nature and the Environment*, San Francisco, CA
- Mar. 17, 2011 Southern University Law Center, panelist, *We're Taking your Property: Expropriation and Property Rights*, Symposium sponsored by the Journal of Race, Gender and Poverty, Baton Rouge, LA
- Mar. 5, 2011 Association for Law, Property, and Society, panelist, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C.
- Jan. 7, 2010 American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, panelist for joint panel sponsored by Section on Real Estate Transactions and Property Law Section, New Orleans, LA
- May 29 - June 1, 2008 Law and Society Association Meeting, panelist, Montreal, Canada
- Mar. 3, 2008 Law, Poverty and Economic Inequality, panelist, Valparaiso University School of Law, Valparaiso, IN
- July 25-28, 2007 Law and Society Association Meeting, panelist, Berlin, Germany
- July 18-19, 2007 Workshop on Comparative, Transnational, & Emerging Issues in Property Law, panelist, Durham University Department of Law, Durham, England
- Jan. 3, 2007 American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, panelist, Workshop on Remedies: Social Inequality and Monetary Relief, Washington, D.C.
- Mar. 17, 2006 American Society of Law, Culture and the Humanities, panelist, Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, NY
- Jan. 5, 2006 American Association of Law Schools, *Showcase for Exemplary Empirical*

Projects (1 of 4 panelists on panel that was one of three concurrent plenary panels held at the annual meeting), Washington, D.C.

- Aug. 5, 2005 American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association, panelist, Los Cabos, Mexico
- July 8, 2005 International Congress on Law and Mental Health, panelist, Paris, France
- Nov. 12, 2004 *Invisible Fences: Municipal Underbounding and Minority Exclusion* Conference, University of North Carolina Law School, Chapel Hill, NC
- Oct. 8, 2004 2nd National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference (presenter)
Panel on *Race, Geography and Community Development: Legal Advocacy in Urban and Rural Communities*
George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C.
- June 26, 2004 *New Legal Realism* Conference, panelist, Madison, WI
- May 29, 2004 Law and Society Conference, panelist, Chicago, IL
- May 24, 2004 *Who Owns America IV?* Conference, panelist, Madison, WI
- Mar. 26, 2004 University of North Carolina Law School, Faculty Speakers Series, Chapel Hill, NC
- Dec. 5, 2001 *Black Reparations in the Diaspora: A Public Forum and Panel Discussion*, panelist, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
- July 4, 2001 *Law and Society Association's Annual Conference*, panelist, Budapest, Hungary
- June 9, 2001 *Who Owns America (III)?: Minority Land and Community Security*, organized two conference sessions, The Land Tenure Center, Madison, WI
- Apr. 20, 2001 *Dichotomy of State and Federal Policy in the New Millennium*, panelist, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
- June 4, 1998 *Who Owns America (II)*, panelist, Land Tenure Center, Madison, WI

OTHER PUBLIC TALKS, TESTIMONY, and MEDIA INTERVIEWS

- Mar. 14, 2017 Presenter, *The Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act: Commonsense Reform Stabilizing Ownership for Many Vulnerable Families*, webinar sponsored by the American Bar Association, Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law
- Mar. 11, 2017 Presenter, Black Folks Land Legacy Conference, sponsored by Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition, St. Helena Island, South Carolina
- Mar. 9, 2017 Panelist, *In the Clear: Barriers to Recovery, Restoration, and Relocation*, Res/Con Conference, New Orleans, LA

- Jan. 20, 2017 Quoted, *Inherited Property Puts Vulnerable Georgia Communities at Risk*, Georgia Public Broadcasting, Atlanta, Georgia
- Nov. 8, 2016 Panelist, *The “Legalized” Theft of Native American and African American Lands*, American Bar Association, Section of State and Local Government Law, Fall Conference, Phoenix, AZ
- Dec. 3, 2015 Quoted extensively in two, front-page articles about African-American landownership that were published in the JACKSON ADVOCATE, Mississippi’s leading African-American newspaper.
- Dec. 1, 2015 One of two invited speakers who gave a presentation (about heirs’ property) to the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission at the Commission’s quarterly meeting.
- July 15, 2015 Quoted extensively in *Stateline* (publication of the Pew Charitable Trusts) article about heirs’ property challenges.
- June 22, 2015 Featured guest on Washington, D.C.-based radio station WPFW on its program "To Heal DC." Discussed history of land acquisition and loss within African-American community and efforts to preserve remaining black-owned land.
- Apr. 15, 2015 Testified before the South Carolina House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Special Laws in support of the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act. (The subcommittee then voted unanimously to approve the act and subsequently the South Carolina House unanimously approved the bill). Columbia, SC
- Mar. 21, 2015 Quoted in *The Day* newspaper (New London, CT) in article titled *Experts agree: Luster is Off Eminent Domain after U.S. Supreme Court Ruling on Kelo*
- Mar. 12, 2015 Grand Boule of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Guest Lecturer, Madison, WI
- July 24, 2013 Wisconsin Public Radio, *State Supreme Court Decision May Change How Utilities And Government Buy Property*
- Oct. 16, 2011 Black Farmers and Urban Gardeners Conference, panelist, New York, NY
- Aug. 6, 2011 American Bar Association, Annual Meeting, panelist, Protecting Heirs Property: Uniform Laws and Social Justice, Toronto, Canada
- Feb. 18, 2011 Quoted in Dow Jones Newswires article “New Model for Family Property”
- Feb. 11, 2011 American Bar Association, Midyear Meeting, panelist on one of six featured public interest panels at A.B.A. meeting, Atlanta, GA
- May 1, 2010 II Annual Freedom Weekend – Bringing Human Rights Home Community Forum, University of Texas at Austin, panelist, participated by Skype.
- Feb. 19, 2009 Winthrop and Frances Lane Lecture, University of Nebraska College of Law, Lincoln, NE

- Sept. 11-13, 2008 Corporation for Enterprise Development, Asset Learning Conference, panelist, Washington, D.C.
- Nov. 20, 2007 Land Rich Project Briefing
University of Wisconsin School of Business (1 of 3 presenters)
- Apr. 12, 2007 *Land Rich II Conference*, keynote speaker
University of North Carolina Law School, Chapel Hill, NC
- Sept. 20, 2006 Corporation for Enterprise Development, Asset Learning Conference, panelist, Phoenix, AZ
- June 12, 2006 Farmers' Legal Action Group, *This Is Not Your Grandpa's Farm Law: Cutting Edge Legal Issues in Agricultural Law*, Presenter at Continuing Legal Education workshop, St. Paul, MN
- May 8-12, 2006 W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Presenter, Facilitator, and Policy Team Member for Kellogg Foundation's Rural People, Rural Policy initiative, Scottsdale, AZ
- Apr. 8, 2006 Amherst College, presenter, African American Alumni in Academia Panel, Amherst, MA
- Apr. 7, 2006 *Land Rich Conference*, presenter,
University of North Carolina Law School, Chapel Hill, NC
- Mar. 25, 2006 4th Annual North American Baha'i Law Conference, Presenter,
University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, Berkeley, CA
- Oct. 4, 2005 Ford Foundation Convening, *Asset Building: The Perspective of People of Color*, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama
- Feb. 9, 2002 4th Black Land Loss Summit, panelist, Atlanta, GA
- Feb. 5, 2002 *Congressional Black Caucus Black Land Loss Town Meeting*
Washington, D.C. (testified before Congressional panel on legal mechanisms that have led to forced sales of black-owned land in rural America).
- Dec. 2001 Quoted in award winning, Associated Press series titled *Torn From the Land* that explored African-American land loss in the 20th century.
- Nov. 14, 2001 Taught the *Legal Justice* class at East High School, Madison, WI
- Feb. 27, 2001 *Disparities in Black Wealth/White Wealth: What Can Be Done?*, Served on panel with Melvin L. Oliver (Ford Foundation); Ted Shaw (NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund); and Darren Walker (Abyssinian Development Corporation), Columbia Law School, New York, NY
- Apr. 21-22, 1997 *Native American Land Issues Workshop*. Organized two-day workshop at the Menominee Indian Reservation in April, 1997 addressing land tenure issues that impact Native Americans in the Midwest and Far West Region. Keshena, WI

GRANTS

- Fall 2012 UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN GRADUATE SCHOOL
Received funding in fall competition for Summer 2013-Summer 2014.
- Fall 2011 UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN GRADUATE SCHOOL
Received funding in fall competition for Summer 2012.
- June 9, 2006 THE FORD FOUNDATION
Principal investigator on \$175,000 Ford Foundation grant. The grant is to fund a book project that is tentatively entitled *Beyond 40 Acres and a Mule: Race and the New Deal Farming Communities*.
- Dec. 5, 2001 THE FORD FOUNDATION
Principal investigator on \$230,000 Ford Foundation grant funded through the University of Wisconsin. The project is entitled *Forced Sales of Black-Owned Land in the Rural South: Assessing Impacts on Black Wealth and Effects on African American Participation in Civil Society*. I have received an additional \$30,000 supplementary grant under the main grant.
- Dec. 7, 2001 THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON GRADUATE SCHOOL
Awarded \$10,000 “Flexible Fund” Grant.
- Jan. 2000 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
One of five grant writers that worked on grant proposal submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture to establish a Center for Minority Land and Community Security that would be jointly run by Tuskegee University and the Land Tenure Center at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. In January 2,000, the USDA funded the grant proposal. The \$3.5 million grant covers a 4-year period.

MANUSCRIPTS REVIEWED AS REFEREE

Racially Restrictive Covenants – Were They Dignity Takings? for Law & Social Inquiry (2015)

El Titulo en la Mano: The Impact of Titling Programs Upon Low Income Housing in Texas Colonia for Law & Social Inquiry (2008)

Psychological Aspects of Property and Ownership for Law & Social Inquiry (2007)

Intestate Succession, Property, and the Persistence of Poverty: Implications for the Appalachia Region for Land Economics (2006)

Do Human Rights Require Enforceable Property Rights? A Review of Human Rights and Land Reform in Zimbabwe for the Law & Society Review (2006)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Fellow, American College of Real Estate Lawyers, Secretary, Professors - Law School Teaching Committee (since 2016)
- Contributing Editor, Journal of Things We Like (Lots) (for Jotwell's Property Section) (since 2015)
- Affiliate, Center for Financial Security, University of Wisconsin-Madison (since 2012)
- Affiliate, Institute for Legal Studies, University of Wisconsin Law School
- Affiliate, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison (since 2012)
- Affiliate, Land Tenure Center, The Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison (since 2012)
- Faculty Fellow, James A. Graaskamp Center for Real Estate, University of Wisconsin School of Business (since 2007)
- Member, Board of Directors, Farmers' Legal Action Group (since 2001)
- Member, The American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association
- Member, Insight Center for Community Economic Development, Experts of Color Network for the Closing the Racial Wealth Gap Initiative (2007-present)

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Committee Service

- Building and Space Committee
- Chair, Career Services and Externship Advisory & Oversight Committee
- Member, Judicial Clerkships Committee

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL

Law School Service:

- Chair, Hastie Fellowship Committee (2011-2016)
- Curriculum Committee (2015-2016)
- Tenure Committee (2015-2016)
- Advisory Board Member, Laurie Carlson Progressive Ideas Forum (2011-2016)
- Chair, Employment Task Force (2011-2012)
- Graduate Programs (2011-2014)
- A.B.A. Self-Study Committee (2011-2012)
- Academic Planning Council (2010-2013)
- Director and founder of the Program in Real Estate, Land Use, and Community Development (2009-2012)
- Real Estate Initiative Committee (2008-2009)
- Chair, Appointments Committee (2009-2010)
- Appointments Committee (2006-2009)
- Academic Programming: Subcommittee on Skills Training (2010-2011) and Subcommittee on Adjuncts (2009-2011)
- Institute for Legal Studies project/workshop boards

- New Legal Realism Project (2007-2011)
- Law & Humanities (2006-2011)
- Board Member, Great Lakes Indian Law Center (2009-2011)
- Hastie Fellowship Committee (2006-2009)
- Judicial Clerkship Committee, (2006-2007)
- Public Interest Committee (2006-2007)

University Service:

- Faculty Diversity Working Group, (2010-2011)
- NCAA Athletics Self-Study Certification: Academic Integrity Subcommittee (2008-2010)
- Ad-Hoc Land Tenure Center Advisory Committee (2009-2011)
- Mentor, Chancellor Scholarship Program (2007-2011)

OTHER SERVICE

- External Reviewer for faculty member at the University of Arkansas School of Law who was being considered for promotion from Associate Professor to full Professor
- External Reviewer for the State of Arkansas of the University of Arkansas School of Law's LL.M. Program in Agricultural and Food Law, (2013)
- Member, Board of Directors, Association for Law, Property, and Society (2009-2012)
- Member, Board of Directors, Gathering Waters Conservancy (July 2014–March 2016, President; January 2014–July 2014, Vice President; Member 2011-March 2016)
- Member, National Advisory Board, Rural Policy Research Institute (2009-2012)
Reporter, National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (2007-2010) (I have continued working with the Uniform Law Commission as we have been working to get our uniform act – the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act – enacted into law in various jurisdictions since the A.B.A. endorsed it in 2011)
- Member, Board of Directors, Farmers’ Legal Action Group (2001-present) (the leading public interest law firm which serves family farmers across the nation)
- American Bar Association’s Property Preservation Task Force (task force of the A.B.A.’s Real Property, Trust and Estates Law Section) (2006-2009)
- Member, National Rural Assembly (2007-2008) (one of 300 national rural leaders invited to participate in the National Rural Assembly that was held in Washington, D.C., in June 2007 and 2008. The Rural Assembly is sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the National Rural Funders Collaborative)
- Insight Center for Community Economic Development/Ford Foundation, Closing the Racial Wealth Gap Project (2007) (chaired the Land Acquisition, Retention and Utilization Working Group that developed a policy proposal over the course of 5 months that was presented by me at a 2007 convening at the Ford Foundation)

ADMISSIONS TO PRACTICE LAW

California (1993); District of Columbia (1993)