

# Rana Lehr-Lehnardt

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Admitted to the Utah Bar, 2002

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## ACADEMIA

**Faculty**, University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law, Kansas City, MO, January 2010-December 2017, August 2019-present

- Create a COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) course with faculty from Universitário Christus (Unichristus), Fortaleza, Brazil, which I incorporated into the International Human Rights Law course
- Enrich learning experience by inviting experienced practitioners from around the world (Argentina, Africa, Brazil, Switzerland, France, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, etc.) often using remote technology, to address class and share unique experiences
- Engage students by incorporating the universality and concreteness of food in teaching abstract legal concepts
- Incorporate community service in creating practical application of legal skills by translating documents for Missouri courts web pages and presenting Know Your Rights in Spanish to detained immigrants
- Taught four classes for international LL.M. students
  - Introduction to Common Law, Legal Analysis & Writing
  - Introduction to American Legal Skills
  - Legal English Workshop
  - Summer Enrichment/Orientation for LL.M. students
- Taught six classes for J.D. and LL.M. students
  - International Human Rights Law
  - Global Legal Systems (comparative law)
  - Professional Responsibility
  - Multi-Cultural Lawyering and Spanish for Lawyers
  - Film & Law (Human Rights)
  - Legal Methods, Orientation
- Advised and coached three moot court teams
  - Jessup Public International Law Moot Court
  - LL.M. International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition
  - Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court
- Represented law school and taught classes in foreign law schools during teaching exchanges
  - Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing, China, May 2015, June 2016
  - Jilin University, Chang Chun, China, May 2013
  - Melikşah University, Kayseri, Turkey, November-December 2012
- Committee assignments: Admissions and International Committees
- Faculty Advisor, Sociedad de Interpretación Legal UMKC, 2010-2011
- Organized and led field study experience in Mérida, Mexico for 2017, 2019, 2020
- Faculty Advisor, J. Reuben Clark Law Society, UMKC Student Chapter, 2020-present

**Fellow**, University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law, Kansas City, MO, June 2018-July 2019

- Research existing online legal English programs for strengths, weaknesses, competition, profitability, and possible partnerships

- Develop an online legal English program to supplement the existing summer Legal English Workshop
- Organize and co-lead the Family Law Field Study in Mérida, Mexico

**Guest Lecturer**, William Jewel College, Liberty, MO, 2012-2017, 2019

- Lectured on international law, with emphasis on public international law in the American legal system for Judge Zel Fischer in his course American Jurisprudence

**Moot Court Coach**, University of Wyoming Jessup International Moot Team, September 2003-February 2004

- Taught primer (several sessions) on Public International Law, including general principles of public international law, the United Nations Charter, the Rome Statute, and other treaties
- Guided research, brief writing, and oral advocacy preparation

### **Publications & Presentations:**

- Presenter, National Guard JAG CLE, Changes Under the Biden Administration: Asylum Laws with Focus on U.S.-Mexican Border, Kansas City, MO, May 6, 2021
- Presenter, UMKC Hot Topics CLE, US Refugee Law: Overview & Changes under the Biden Administration, with a dose of Covid, Kansas City, MO, June 25, 2021
- Presenter, National Guard JAG CLE, Changing Asylum Laws & Their Impact on U.S. Refugee Seekers at the U.S.-Mexican Border, Kansas City, MO, May 8, 2020
- Presenter, “Practically Impossible: Recent Changes in Asylum Law that Target Asylum Seekers at the Southern Border: Receiving a Grant of Asylum Near Impossible for Those Crossing the U.S.-Mexican Border with Examples from Dilley, Texas,” J. Reuben Clark Law Society Annual International Conference, Phoenix, AZ, February 28, 2020
- Presenter, “From Declaration to Declaration: The United States and Human Rights,” J. Reuben Clark Law Society Annual International Conference, Philadelphia, PA, February 18, 2017
- Presenter, “Executive Orders, U.S. Refugee Program, and Its Role in Permanent Resettlement,” Saturday Brunch Series, Dialogue Institute of the Southwest, Kansas City, KS, April 15, 2017
- Presenter, “U.S. International Obligations to Refugees,” Saturday Brunch Series, Dialogue Institute of the Southwest, Olathe, KS, February 6, 2016
- Presenter, “USA Patriot Act: An Overview,” UMKC, Kansas City, MO via video-conferencing Université de Bretagne Sud, Vannes, France, January 27, 2016
  - Presented to two campuses with more than 250 students present via technology
- Presenter, “U.S. International Obligations Regarding Refugees,” Saturday Brunch Series, The Dialogue Institute of the Southwest, Olathe, KS, February 6, 2016
- Panel presenter, “Femicide in Guatemala: And a Peek at Tools from Foreign Legal Systems as Possible Avenues to Increase Women’s Access to Justice,” as part of Women’s Access to Justice, Consulado de Mexico, University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Law, September 4, 2014
- Presenter, “The American Jury System: An Interactive Examination of Costs and Benefits,” Jilin University, Changchun, China, July 30, 2013
- Panel presenter, “Falling Behind: Protection and Promotion of Human Rights: Looking to Education for a More Effective Promotion of Human Rights,” Melikşah University, Kayseri, Turkey, December 4, 2012
- Workshop presenter, “The Limitations and Possibilities of Ijtihad as a Tool for Major Law Reform of Shari’a-based Personal Status and Family Law,” Midwest Family Law/International Society of Family Law Conference on “Sustaining Families: Global and Local Perspectives,” Iowa College of Law, Iowa City, Iowa, June 14-16, 2012

- *What's Love Got to Do with It? The Best Interests of the Child in International and Comparative Law*, in THE BEST LOVE OF THE CHILD: INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES, Timothy P. Jackson, ed., (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company 2011), co-authored with Dr. T. Jeremy Gunn
- Workshop presenter, "Traditional v. Modern Interpretations of Sacred Islamic Sources in the Development of Law: The Limitations and Possibilities of Ijtihad as a Tool for Law Reform of Shari'a-based Personal Status and Family Law," Session 475: Islamic and International Law: Searching for Common Ground, Salzburg Global Seminar, Salzburg, Austria, November 14-19, 2010
- Winner, 2002 Southern Illinois University Law School Student Writing Contest, *Treat Your Women Well: Comparisons and Lessons From an Imperfect Example Across the Waters*, 26 S. Ill. U. L.J. 403 (2002)
- Comment, *One Small Step for Women: Female-Friendly Provisions in the International Criminal Court*, 16 BYU J. Pub. L. 317 (2002)
- Presented paper, *NGO Legitimacy: Rethinking Democracy, Accountability, Transparency*, Cornell Law School LL.M. Conference, Ithaca, NY, April 16, 2005 (available in the Cornell Law School section of the NELLCO Legal Scholarship Repository, online at <http://lsr.nellco.org/cornell/lps/clacp/6>)
- Presented paper, *The Role of NGOs at the United Nations*, Asia Pacific Family Dialogue, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Oct. 11-13, 2004

#### Academic Volunteer:

- **Chair**, Kansas City Chapter, J. Reuben Clark Law Society, December 2020-present
- **Advisory Board Member**, Geneva Office for Human Rights Education, 2020-present
  - **Chair, Subcommittee on Family Inclusion in Human Rights Education**, 2022-present
- **Law Professor Section Committee Member**, J. Reuben Clark Law Society, March 2021-present
- **Chair-elect**, Kansas City Chapter, J. Reuben Clark Law Society, September 2019-present
- **National Committee Member**, Women in Law, J. Reuben Clark Law Society, January 2018-present
  - Religious Freedom and Service subcommittees
- **American Society of Comparative Law**, Nominating Committee, 2016 to December 2017
- **Younger Comparativists Committee**, Linkages and Engagement Advisory Group, American Society of Comparative Law, 2015 to December 2017
  - Coordinator of the annual Young Comparativists Mentorship Program
  - Organizing Committee for the YCC Annual Meeting, 2017
    - Organize all panels for the conference
- **Board Member and Women in Law Committee Chair**, J. Reuben Clark Law Society, Kansas City Chapter, 2013 to December 2017
  - Selection committee, first annual J. Reuben Clark Law Society Religious Freedom in 30 Seconds Contest, 2016-2019
- **Organizing Committee**, J. Reuben Clark Law Society Annual Conference, Kansas City, MO 2014
- **Panelist**, Ben Franklin on Ethics CLE, Kansas City, Missouri, May 29, 2013
- **Panels Moderator**, Emerging Voices in Islamic Jurisprudence, St. Paul, Minnesota, Hamline School of Law, September 28-29, 2012
- **Deputy Editor**, Dena H. Elkhatib and Pierre M. Gaunard, *Islamic Finance*, THE INTERNATIONAL LAWYER, A Quarterly Publication of the ABA, International Section 281 (Spring 2012)
- **Panels Moderator**, Global Legal Skills Conference, San Jose, Costa Rica, March 12-14, 2012

- **Panel Moderator**, *Recent State Attempts to Limit International Law and Islamic Law in the United States*, University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Law, March 19, 2012
- **Panelist**, *What’s Going On: War, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity*, April 6, 2011
- **Panelist**, *Women, War, and Peace*, October 5, 2011
- **Chair**, Washington, D.C., Women in Law Committee, J. Reuben Clark Law Society, Mid-Atlantic Chapter, January 2008-July 2009
- **Chair**, Washington, D.C., BYU Alumni Women’s Law Forum, April 2007-July 2009
- **Panelist**, LDS Women and the Law, George Washington Law School, Washington, D.C., April 2007
- **Judge**, George Washington Law School National Religious Freedom Moot Court, Washington, D.C., January 2007
- **Panelist**, J. Reuben Clark Law Society Law Student Conference, Georgetown Law School, Washington, D.C., February 2006
- **Judge**, Jessup International Moot Court Competition, Denver and New York City, 2003, 2004

### Scholarly Works in Progress:

- Writing project: *Une Délice: World Gastronomical Tastings as a Teaching Tool for Comparative Legal Studies*
- Idea phase: *A sharia-ization of Mexico City’s Family Laws? How a Few of Mexico City’s Newer Family Laws Are Similar and Different from Talaq, Muta Marriages, and Polygamy*

### Research Interests:

- Comparative approaches on how law is used to solve conflicts
- Conflicts between rights
  - Such as claims from an Islamic religious community that in order to fully practice its religion, adherents need to present their legal issues before *shari’a* courts, and counter claims from Muslim women that the establishment of a *shari’a* court, even a voluntary court, would infringe on their right to equality before the law.
- How Western democratic societies deal with claims of religious practice that conflict with western ideals of equality between men and women: comparing the approaches
- Cultural relativism and the universality of human rights
- The effect of immigrant populations, specifically Muslims, on Western legal norms
  - France’s ban on the wearing of the *burqa* or *niqab* in public
  - Switzerland’s ban on new construction of minarets (structural part of a mosque)
  - Judicial response to so-called honor killings in the West
- How to reform personal status and family law in Islamic states within an Islamic law context
- The involvement of non-state actors in international norm creation

## OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

### Clerkship:

- **Law Clerk**, Honorable Terrence L. O’Brien, Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, June 2002-August 2003
  - Researched and analyzed legal issues
  - Wrote bench memoranda and drafted opinions
  - Observed oral arguments

## **Law & Human Rights:**

**Researcher/Editor, Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Washington, DC, August 2006-January 2008**

- This work was under the supervision of T. Jeremy Gunn, director of the Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief, American Civil Liberties Union
- Collected and edited an online anthology filled with narratives that feature principles of tolerance, to be used as an educational tool for secondary school teachers. The introduction and link to the anthology is available at [http://www.educationforpeace.com/english/t4t/t4t\\_intro.php](http://www.educationforpeace.com/english/t4t/t4t_intro.php)
- This collection of stories currently received 2000 hits per day when it was released, with two-thirds of those hits downloading content from the site. Most of the hits are from Arabic and Russian users.
- Presented Tolerance Stories Project at Central Asian Round Table on the Exchange and Sharing of Good Practices in Intercultural Dialogue and Promotion of UNESCO's Declaration on Cultural Diversity, Almaty, Kazakhstan, June 4-7, 2007

**Legal Advisor and Coordinator, Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief, American Civil Liberties Union, Washington, D.C., October 2005-June 2006**

- Analyzed legal positions and research questions of law regarding issues under the Establishment Clause, Free Exercise Clause, religious discrimination under Title VII, and freedom of religion and belief generally
- Reviewed case law and legislative history & draft memos and advocacy pieces
- Contract basis from mid-January 2006

**Research Assistant, Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law School, New York, New York, May 2005-October 2005**

- Researched and drafted memoranda on the rights of juveniles in the criminal justice system, international standards for the treatment of juveniles in detention, international cases and commentary regarding juvenile life sentences and treatment while in detention
- Strategized regarding legal arguments, petition structure, petition submission timing

**NYC Legal and Policy Coordinator, World Family Policy Center, New York, New York, January - October 2004**

- Monitored United Nations conferences and meetings and lobbied country delegates
- Established alliances with other non-governmental organizations
- Worked with country representatives and non-governmental organizations toward hosting national/regional family conferences

**Litigation Associate, Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll, May-June 2002**

- Researched legal issues and drafted complaints, motions, and memoranda
- Summer associate, 2001

**Lobbyist/Researcher, David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies and World Family Policy Center, Provo, Utah, January 2001-2002**

- Researched racism, education, family and their significance in international documents
- Lobbied delegates at the United Nations' Preparatory Committee Meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, and the Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa

**Law Clerk Intern**, Judge Denise Lindberg, Utah Third District Court, September-December 2000

- Researched and wrote bench memoranda regarding civil issues

**Assistant to the Director and to the Senior Advisor on Violence Against Women**, President's Interagency Counsel on Women, Department of State, Washington, D.C., May-July 2000

- Researched and wrote a report on honor crimes in countries around the world
- Prepared memos and Q & A's about honor crimes for Secretary of State Madeleine Albright
- Wrote position paper on proposed amendment to Senate bill concerning honor crimes
- Assisted U.S. Mission to the United Nations during the United Nations General Assembly Special Session Women 2000, Beijing+5, June 2000

**Law Clerk Intern**, Office of General Counsel, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah, July-August 2000

- Researched domestic/foreign copyright issues and religion laws in various countries

## **Journalism:**

- **Family, Arts & Entertainment Editor**, *The Daily Herald*, Provo, Utah, June 1998-July 1999
- **Assistant News Editor**, *The Times-News*, Twin Falls, Idaho, December 1996- June 1998
- **Journalism intern**, *Le Monde Informatique*, (a weekly technology publication that is part of IDG Communications), Paris, France, summer 1993
  - Wrote technology news briefs and attended and reported on news conferences for new computer-related products and services.
- **Journalism intern**, *Al-Ahram English Weekly* and *Al-Ahram Hebdo* (French Weekly), Cairo, Egypt, Summer 1994
  - Wrote feature stories and took photos to accompany the stories.

## **EDUCATION**

**LL.M. :** **Master of Laws, Columbia Law School**, New York, New York, May 2005

- Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, awarded for "superior academic achievement"
- International human rights and comparative law emphasis
- Parker Certificate for Achievement in International and Comparative Law
- Selected as alternate for the Traineeship Program (clerkship) at the International Court of Justice for the 2005-2006 term
- Human Rights Clinic, January-May 2005
  - Drafted portions of petition to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights arguing that the United States is in violation of international norms by permitting juveniles to be sentenced to life without possibility of parole
  - Co-researched and co-authored memoranda regarding poverty reduction strategies and other economic development issues in Bolivia
  - Conducted field work in Bolivia on the intersection between human rights and economic development
- Human Rights, Law, and Development Workshop, September-December 2004

- Worked with Serbian NGO to create a domestic violence prevention program for the city of Belgrade

**J.D. :** **Juris Doctor, *Magna Cum Laude*, Brigham Young University Law School, Provo, Utah, April 2002**

- 3.75 GPA, top 3%
- Order of the Coif
- Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Public Law (2001-2002); Note/Comment Lead Editor (2000-2001)
- Finalist, Jessup International Moot Court, Northwest Region, 2002
- Best Oralist, Jessup International Moot Court, Northwest Region, 2001
- President, Women’s Law Forum, 2001-2002; Vice-President 2000-2001
- Academic Scholarship, 1999-2002, Public Interest Law Foundation scholarship, 2000
- Recipient, National Association of Women Lawyers Award 2002, for motivation, tenacity, academic achievement, and contributing “to the advancement of women in society”
- Recipient, J. Reuben Clark Award 2001, “for exemplifying academic excellence, integrity, high ethical standards, and service”

**B.A. :** **Bachelor of Arts, Journalism & French, Brigham Young University, Utah, April 1994**

- Most Outstanding Senior in the Journalism Department, 1993
- Daily Herald/Scripps League Award for Excellence in Communications, 1994
- Language internship in Switzerland, summer 1991

### **Volunteer Experience:**

- **Chief International Communications Director, Geneva Office for Human Rights Education, April 2018-2020**
  - Newsletter Editor: Create, design, and build online newsletter using MailChimp
  - Choose content, edit, build, distribute a monthly newsletter that focuses on human rights education
  - Write a monthly column about human rights education
  - Represent the organization at national and international conferences
- **Cub Scout Den Leader (Wolf, Bear, Webelos), Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, March 2018-present**
- **Activity Days Leader, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Liberty First Ward, Liberty, Missouri, April 2016-December 2017**
  - The program is for girls age 8-12 years old. It encourages girls to make goals and complete projects focusing on knowledge and talents, spirituality, and service.
  - Responsible for weekly activities and ensuring that activities enrich the girls’ lives, build friendships and self-esteem, and contribute to the completion of the program.
  - Successfully argued through three command levels the need and ability to modify the meeting schedule from “no more than twice each month” to weekly, to mirror the frequency with which the boys of the same age meet for Scouts. I used an approach that mirrored the plain language meaning of statutes as the language regarding frequency of meetings is in a handbook that can be likened to a statute for how the program is to be run.
- **Member of the presidency of the Relief Society, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Liberty First Ward, Liberty, Missouri, May 2014-April 2016**
  - The organization oversees the spiritual well-being of women in the congregation and temporal well-being of families in the congregation

- Responsible for a committee of 6-8 individuals to organize monthly activities for the women of the congregation: from service projects to self-defense to organization to spiritual focus
- Monthly teaching responsibilities
- **President of the Primary**, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Liberty First Ward, Liberty, Missouri, 2012-2014
  - The organization oversees the spiritual well-being of all children in the congregation
  - In charge of weekly programs and lessons for approximately 90 children
  - Worked with a team of 3 support staff, 15 teachers, and music director
  - Prepared an annual program to showcase the children's learning of the annual theme
- **Member of the presidency of the Young Women**, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Liberty First Ward, Liberty, Missouri, 2010-2011
- The organization oversees the spiritual well-being of all girls aged 12-18 in the congregation
- In charge of weekly lessons
- Planned with other team members weekly activities, from hiking to baking to crafts
- **President of the Primary**, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Oakton Ward, Virginia, 2008-2009
  - The organization oversees the spiritual well-being of all children in the congregation
  - In charge of weekly programs and lessons for approximately 100 children
  - Worked with a team of 3 support staff, 15 teachers, and music director
  - Prepared an annual program to showcase the children's learning of the annual theme
  - Organized quarterly events for the children (and sometimes their families): Brunch, pioneer activities, Halloween party, etc.
- **French-English Translator/Interpreter** for gender-based immigration and asylum issues, Tahirih Justice Center, Falls Church, Virginia, April 2008-2010
- **Secretary**, Hawthorne Village Condo Association Board, March 2008-July 2009
- **Artistic Expression Chair and Scholarship Selection Committee**, Hispanic Organization for Progress and Education, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 2002-2003

### Personal Interests:

- Languages: French, fluent; Spanish, proficient; Italian, intermediate; Arabic, novice
- Sports competitions: half marathons (20 completed), 10Ks, triathlons
- Outdoor adventures: hiking, skiing (Nordic & Alpine), snorkeling, mountain biking, cycling
- Creating: gardening, international gastronomy, photography
- Traveling: domestically and internationally with a desire to understand cultures, history, languages, and cuisine