

KIM HAI PEARSON

Gonzaga University School of Law, 721 N. Cincinnati Street, PO Box 3528, Spokane, WA 99220-3528
Phone: 509-313-5957 E-mail: pearsonk@gonzaga.edu

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Gonzaga University School of Law, Spokane, Washington

Full Professor, December 2019 - present; **Associate Professor of Law**, July 2016 – December 2019;

Assistant Professor, August 2010 – June 2015

- **Associate Dean of Academic Affairs & Program Innovation**, January 2019 – present
- **Associate Dean of Faculty Research and Development**, 2016 - 2018
- **Norman and Rita Roberts Scholar**, 2012 – 2015
- Courses: Contracts, Family Law, Wills and Trusts, Sexuality and the Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Professional Responsibility

Young Scholars Fellows with the BYU Center for Law & Religious Studies, Christ Church, Oxford

Legal Academic Writing & Publishing Tutor, Summer 2019

Williams Institute UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles, California

Law Teaching Fellow, July 2008 – July 2010

- Courses Taught: Sexuality and the Law, Legal Scholarship, and Family Law

PUBLICATIONS

“Unfit to Continue”: Buck v. Bell, in *Feminist Judgments Reproductive Rights: Rewritten Supreme Court Opinions* (Cambridge; Ed. Kimberly Mutcherson) (forthcoming 2019).

Child Custody Issues in the Context of LGBTQ Divorce and Relationship Dissolution, in *LGBTQ Divorce and Relationship Dissolution: Psychological and Legal Perspectives and Implications for Practice* (Oxford; Eds. Abbie Goldberg & Adam Romero)(forthcoming 2018). This chapter provides an overview for child custody issues that LGBTQ parents undergoing divorce and relationship dissolution.

“Racial Anxieties in Adoption: Reflections on Adoptive Couple, White Parenthood, and Constitutional Challenges to the ICWA”, 2017 *Mich. St. L. Rev.* 727 (2018). Co-Authored with Addie Rolnick. This essay memorializes our series of blog posts produced for LawPrawfs shortly after the *Adoptive Couple* ruling was issued. Our essay considers Bethany Berger’s work on *Adoptive Couple* and uses the case of the “wrong” sperm donor to throw underlying beliefs about race, gender, political status, and religion into sharp relief.

“Innate Religious Identity”, UMKC Symposium Volume After *Obergefell*, 84 UMKC L. Rev. 803 (2016). This volume is devoted to predicting the direction sexuality law will take after the *Obergefell* ruling. My essay continues my interrogation of legal attentiveness to children’s identity development in custody disputes. LGBT advocates and parents benefited from science that promoted understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity as innate traits. Emerging neuroscience suggests that religiosity may be an innate characteristic. My essay considers whether the science is sufficiently developed to support re-framing of religious identity and there is a failure to offer legal protections to religious parents.

“Chemical Kids”, 24 *Tex. J. Women & L.* 67, 2015.

This article interrogates parenting norms about gender and sexual identity development in the context of chemical exposure as a potential cause for non-normative childhood outcomes, such that everyday usage of plastic food containers and cash register receipts are linked to undesirable health outcomes. Media sources highlight the landscape of fear and high intensity parenting, sometimes using sensational titles suggesting that failure to limit chemical exposure will make a child gay or gender non-conforming. I argue that expressive legal cases contribute to the culture of high intensity parenting, sending the message to parents that they are responsible for their children’s outcomes. As parents attempt to control more of their children’s environments out of fear that they will be punished for failing to allow their children’s natural developmental path to proceed

without disruption, non-normative childhood outcomes (unrelated to health concerns) are likely to be stigmatized rather than cause for celebration.

"The Sacra of LGBT Childhood", 21 Wash. & Lee J. Civ. Rts. & Soc. Just. 54, 2014.

This essay is related to my argument in *Chemical Kids* that current parenting norms suggest parents can affect childhood development because parents are at times held legally and socially responsible for stigmatized childhood outcomes. There is sufficient data now to show that LGBT children in foster care are proportionally overrepresented and suffer ill effects such as depression, homelessness, family rejection, conversion therapy, and assault. Combining the perceived failure to produce a child with a desirable sexual and gender identity and the stigma of sexuality that attaches to LGBT children, sexually non-normative children are pushed outside of the social and legal protections preserved for desired iterations of childhood. This push outside of childhood protections is supported by legal cases and social norms, creating the conditions for parents, as well as the foster care system, to reject LGBT children or allow abusive behaviors like conversion therapy and assault.

"Legal Solutions for API Transracial Adoptees", 3 UC Irvine L. Rev. 1179, 2013.

Rarely has the legal world considered how and where adult adoptees fit in the dialogue about transracial adoption. As children grow up and have to wrestle with questions of belonging and race, racial identity becomes increasingly salient for transracial adoptees and can result in higher rates of depression, eating disorders, and low self-esteem. Despite studies showing the detrimental effects of poor racial identity development for Asian adoptees, there may be little possibility of a legal intervention for this critical developmental process. It is time for the legal world and the Asian American community to grapple with the question of racial identity development, whether we truly value racial identity as a healing possibility for transracial adoptees, and how effective the legal tools available are in delivering racial identity development resources.

"Displaced Mothers, Absent and Unnatural Fathers: LGBT Transracial Adoption", 19 Mich. J. Gender & L. 149, 2012.

This article explores how LGBT transracial adoption fits in with Black versus gay discourse of the type seen in same-sex marriage rhetoric and the erstwhile Don't Ask, Don't Tell debate where race and orientation are compared and contrasted. Media staging of LGBT transracial adoption perpetuates negative stereotypes. Gay dads are characterized as White, privileged and superficial. Black children are portrayed as damaged, unwanted, and victims of their parents. Black men and women are deemed absent or are displaced as unfit parents. The systemic costs accrued in this discourse also include imagining that Black and gay are mutually exclusive, displacing Black women as mothers and ignoring the voices of adult transracial adoptees who desire acknowledgment of their racial loss when they are adopted into majority racial homes. The media staging of Black versus gay also obscures the common ground around which LGBT and racial advocacy groups could coalesce to support already existing LGBT transracial families.

"Sexuality in Child Custody Decisions", Family Court Review, Vol. 50: 280, April 2012.

Essay version of "Mimetic Reproduction of Sexuality in Child Custody Decisions." This was a special volume to highlight new scholars in the field. The journal's readership consists of Family Law judges and practitioners who track developments in Family Law.

"Mimetic Reproduction of Sexuality in Child Custody Decisions", 22 Yale J.L. & Feminism 53, 2010.

In child custody cases parents typically are treated as the primary source for a child's development through modeling and imitation—a kind of "mimetic reproduction." Courts often rely on such arguments as a convenient way to determine which parent is most likely to produce a positive outcome for the child. Mimetic reproduction is also grounded in popular belief and a history of valuing cultural transmission within families. In the context of custody battles lesbian and gay parents have argued defensively that they do not make their children gay—that is, against mimetic reproduction. This paper considers the implications of such arguments in the context of court rulings that claim sexual orientation blind analysis as well as the broader struggle for equality and parity.

"Patriotic Homosocial Discourse", 12 Wm. & Mary J. of Women & L. 627, May 2006.

This paper considers how after 9/11 some expressions of patriotism violently disavowed homosexuality and femininity. These expressions reaffirmed familiar themes of shoring up masculine identity by threatening violence against homosexuality. One manifestation of this discourse is revealed in the photographs of the

torture of Arab male prisoners at Abu Ghraib, in which some were forced to simulate homosexual acts, as a way of inflicting shame, violence and degrading their humanity.

PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, *Domesticating International Children's Rights*, Law and Society Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., May 2019.

Presenter, *Domesticating International Children's Rights*, Western Law Professors of Color & Conference of Asian American Law Professors Annual Meeting, UNLV, October 2018.

Presenter, *Domesticating International Children's Rights*, International Society of Family Law, University of Minnesota, April 2018.

Presenter, *Domesticating International Children's Rights*, UNLV faculty enrichment series, Las Vegas, March 2018.

Presenter, *LGBT Child Custody*, LSA Annual Conference, Mexico City, June 2018.

Presenter, *Heartbreak in the Age of Robots*, AALS Annual Meeting, San Francisco, January 2017.

Presenter and organizer, *LGBTQ Child Custody*, INSW, Gonzaga Law, July 2016.

Presenter, *LGBTQ Child Custody*, Mid-Atlantic People of Color Conference, American University, January 2016.

Presenter, *Innate Religious Identity*, INSW, University of Idaho, July 2015.

Presenter, *Racial Anxieties in Adoption: A Response to 'In the Name of the Child: Race, Gender, and Economics in Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl' by Bethany Berger*, AALS Family Law Mid-Year Workshop, Orlando, Florida, June 2015.

Presenter, *Racial Anxieties in Adoption: A Response to 'In the Name of the Child: Race, Gender, and Economics in Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl' by Bethany Berger*, LSA Annual Conference, Feminist Legal Theory CRN, Seattle, Washington, May 2015.

Invited Lecturer, *Racial Identity Development and Asian American Adoptees*, 2015 Neil Gotanda Lecture, Boalt Hall, University of California, Berkeley, February 9, 2015.

Presenter, *Teaching Identity in Post-Identity Classrooms*, SALT 2014 Annual Meeting, UNLV, October 2014.

Presenter, *Chemical Kids*, AALS 2014 Midyear Meeting, Washington, D.C., June 2014.

Invited Presenter, *Chemical Kids*, Non-Normative Marriage Workshop, University of Wisconsin, Madison, April 2014.

Invited Guest Lecturer, *Chemical Kids*, Washington and Lee School of Law, Lexington, February 2014.

Invited Presenter, *Sacra of LGBT Youth*, Emerging Issues in Child Welfare Symposium, Washington and Lee, Lexington, February 2014.

Presenter, *Veiled Bias*, Rocky Mountain Junior Scholars Forum, J. Reuben Clark School of Law at BYU, Provo, November 2013.

Invited Presenter, *Gatekeeping Mothers: Preventing Sexy Girls and Girly Boys*, The Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law, Work-in-progress Fall Speaker Series, Los Angeles, October 2013.

Presenter, *Gatekeeping Mothers: Preventing Sexy Girls and Girly Boys*, Law and Society Annual Conference, Boston, June 2013.

Presenter, *EDCs and the Dread of the Gay Child*, Pursuit of Justice Conference, Gonzaga University School of Law, April 2013.

Presenter, *Gatekeeping Mothers: Preventing Sexy Girls and Girly Boys*, Faculty Roundtable, Gonzaga University School of Law, April 2013.

Invited Presenter, *Gatekeeping Mothers: Preventing Sexy Girls and Girly Boys*, Plenary panel, From Suzie Wong to Linsanity: Gender Representations of APAs, CAPALF 20th Anniversary Conference, University of California Hastings, February 2013.

Presenter, *Legal Solutions for API Transracial Adoptees*, Rocky Mountain Junior Scholars Forum, University of Utah, September 2012.

Invited Reader, *Altering the Way We See: A Review of Mignon Moore's Invisible Families*, Author Meets Reader, Law and Society Association, June 2012.

Presenter, *Legal Solutions for API Transracial Adoptees*, Fellows Roundtable, Williams Institute Annual Update, UCLA School of Law, April 2012.

Presenter, *Legal Solutions for API Transracial Adoptees*, Junior Faculty Conference, Arizona State University, March 2012.

Invited Presenter, *Legal Solutions for API Transracial Adoptees*, Symposium: Reigniting Community: Strengthening the APA Community, University of California Irvine School of Law, March 2012.

Presenter, *Displaced Mothers, Absent and Unnatural Fathers: LGBT Transracial Adoption*, Faculty Roundtable, Texas Wesleyan, November 2011.

Chair and Presenter, *Positionality*, LatCrit, October 2011.

Presenter, *Displaced Mothers, Absent and Unnatural Fathers: LGBT Transracial Adoption*, International Family Law Society, July 2011.

Presenter, *Displaced Mothers, Absent and Unnatural Fathers: LGBT Transracial Adoption*, Feminist Legal Theory Panel, Law and Society Association, June 2011.

Presenter, *Displaced Mothers, Absent and Unnatural Fathers: LGBT Transracial Adoption*, Poster Session and Fellows Roundtable, Williams Institute Annual Update, February 2011.

Chair and Presenter, *Teaching Race and Orientation*, SALT, December 2010.

Presenter, *Absent and Unnatural Fathers: The False Competition Between Black Dads and Gay Dads*, Works-in-Progress Session, Law and Society Association, May 2010.

Invited Presenter, *Absent and Unnatural Fathers: The False Competition Between Black Dads and Gay Dads*, Faculty Colloquium, J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University, April 2010.

Presenter, *Absent and Unnatural Fathers: The False Competition Between Black Dads and Gay Dads*, Williams Fellows Roundtable, UCLA Law Review Symposium Sexuality and Gender Law Assessing the Field, Envisioning the Future and Williams Institute Annual Update, March 2010.

Presenter, *Mimetic Reproduction in Child Custody Decisions*, Faculty Colloquium, UCLA School of Law, September 2009.

Invited Presenter, *Same Sex Marriage: Constitutional Issues*, My Daily Constitution Performance Art Installation, September 2009.

Presenter, *Mimetic Reproduction in Child Custody Decisions*, Law and Society Association Conference, May 2009.

Presenter, *Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Constitutional Issues*, CLE presentation, Global Arc of Justice: Williams Institute Annual Update, March 2009.

Panelist, *The Aftermath of Prop 8: Is Gay Really the New Black?*, UCLA School of Law, November 2008.

Panelist, *Proposition 8 Debate*, UCLA School of Law, October 2008.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Moderator, 2nd Annual International Human Rights Conference, Gonzaga Law in Florence and the RFK Human Rights Center, Florence, Italy, June 2018.

Moderator, *International Surrogacy, Symposium: Gonzaga Journal of International Law*, Gonzaga University School of Law, March 2013.

Commentator, *Washington's Same Sex Marriage Law: Does it Respect Religious Liberty?*, Federalist Society, Gonzaga University School of Law, March 2012.

Presenter, *Ethics: Hypotheticals on Family Formation*, GSA/OUTlaws & Mission Possible CLE, Gonzaga University School of Law, November 2011.

Presenter, *Ethical Representation of LGBT Families*, Mission Possible CLE, Gonzaga University School of Law, November 2010.

Moderator, *Minority Bar Associations, Race and Criminal Justice in the West* Conference, Gonzaga University School of Law, September 2010.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Gonzaga University School of Law, Spokane, Washington

- Academic Affairs Committee, 2019 – present
- Experiential Learning Program, Chair, October 2019 – present
- Executive J.D. Steering Committee, 2018 – present
- Faculty Recruitment Committee, Chair 2017-2018, Member 2019 - present
- Associate Dean of Faculty Research and Writing 2016 - present
- Faculty Senator; Finance Committee 2015-2016
- Strategic Planning Committee, member 2014-2015
- Student Scholarship Committee, Chair 2014 - present
- Co-organizer with Jessica Kiser and Inga Laurent, DiversiTea student and faculty community strengthening collective. 2014 - present
- Co-organizer with Jessica Kiser and Sarah Guzman, Law Parenting Collective 2014-present
- Co-organizer with Inga Laurent, Genevieve Mann, Catherine Brown, Jason Gillmer, et al., #BlackLivesMatter law school discussion series 2015
- Faculty Advisor, Air and Space Law student group, 2015 - 2017
- Faculty Advisor, Asian Pacific Islander Law Caucus, 2015 - present
- Ad hoc International Initiatives Committee, 2014
- Dean's Advisory Committee, 2013-2014; 2015-2016
- Admissions Committee, 2013-2014
- Organizer, Inland Northwest Scholar Workshop (with University of Idaho), 2013-2014
- Organizer, Work Life Balance Discussion with faculty and students, 2013
- Marketing ad hoc Committee, 2013
- Chair, Faculty Diversity Committee, 2011-2012
- Student Affairs Committee, 2011-2012
- Technology, Electronic Media ad hoc Committee, 2011
- Faculty Adviser, GSA/OUTlaw student group, 2011-2012
- Organizer, Junior Faculty Workshop, 2010 - present
- Professional Development Committee, 2010-2011

Williams Institute UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles, California

- Facilitator, Student-run Dukeminier legal scholarship competition 2010

- Co-Organizer, National LGBT moot court competition 2009
- Moderated panels for The Global Arc of Justice, a multi-national LGBT rights conference presented by the Williams Institute, March 2009

EDUCATION

University of Oxford, New College, 2017 -2019

Master of Studies, International Human Rights Law

- Dissertation: Domesticating the Convention on the Rights of the Child in U.S. Family Law Courts

Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Provo, Utah, 2001 – 2004

Juris Doctor

- Law Review Staff 2002-2003; Senior Editor 2003 – 2004
- Vice-President, Minority Law Student Association 2002-2003
- Merit Scholarship 2001-2004 for academic achievement

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1996 – 1998

Master of Arts, British and American Literature

- Ethnic Studies Fellow, Teaching Assistant – Asian American Studies

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1992 – 1993

Bachelor of Arts, English Major, French Minor

- University of Utah Minority Scholarship for academic achievement during college

BAR ADMISSIONS

Nevada

Ute Tribe