

MELANIE B. JACOBS
Michigan State University College of Law
Room 441 Law College Building
East Lansing, MI 48824
(517) 432-6944
mjacobs@law.msu.edu

Academic Experience:

Michigan State University College of Law, East Lansing, MI

Professor of Law, July 2011 – Present.

Associate Professor of Law, July 2005 – June 2011.

Assistant Professor of Law, July 2002 - June 2005.

Courses taught: Property, Decedents' Estates and Trusts, Family Law: Child, Parent & the State, Assisted Reproductive Technologies and the Law, and Law & Gender.

MSU Lilly Teaching Fellow 2006-07.

Lilly Project: "Bridging the Doctrinal and Skills Gap in Family Law."

Fudan University, Shanghai, China

Guest Lecturer, October 2008

Presented four lectures regarding current family law issues in the United States.

William & Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law, Williamsburg, VA

Visiting Assistant Professor, Fall 2004.

Courses Taught: Family Law and Property

Temple University School of Law, Philadelphia, PA

Teaching Fellow and Lecturer in Law, August 2000 - June 2002.

Courses taught: Family Law; Trusts & Estates and Taxation (with Prof. Robert Bartow); Property (with Prof. Nancy Knauer); and Legal Research & Writing I and II.

Harvard Law School -

Hale & Dorr Legal Services Center, Jamaica Plain, MA

Clinical Instructor, Family Unit, July 1996 -May 1998.

Drafted student training materials and conducted seminars in various family law topics and lawyering skills, including interviewing, counseling, negotiation, and professional ethics. Supervised student advocates in all aspects of practice, from client interviews to contested court hearings, who worked with me on a wide range of family law cases, including divorce, paternity, custody, contempt, modification, and guardianship. Mediated and supervised students in the Family Law Mediation Program.

Boston University School of Law, Boston, MA

Adjunct Instructor - First-Year Writing Program, September 1998 - April 2000.

Taught first-year law students the elements of legal writing and research. Drafted short answer legal research problems and memorandum of law assignments requiring extensive case law and statutory research. Supervised and assisted students during First-Year Moot Court.

Education:

Temple University School of Law, Philadelphia, PA

LL.M. in Legal Education, May 2002

Honorable Abraham L. Freedman Fellowship

Boston University School of Law, Boston, MA

J.D., May 1994

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF LAW AND MEDICINE, *Case and Note Editor*

Boston University Clinical Programs, *Student Public Defender*

Battered Women's Advocacy Project, *Vice-President, Coordinator & Supervisor of Advocacy Programs*

Columbia University, New York, NY

A.B., Political Science, May 1991

Articles:

Should New Definitions of Legal Parentage Cause Us to Re-Evaluate Traditional Definitions? (work in progress)

The Paternity Riddle: Why Genetic Fatherhood Makes Some Men Legal Fathers and Some Men Legal Strangers (work in progress)

Intentional Parenthood's Influence: If Procreative Autonomy Includes the Right not to Parent, Then Should Federal Paternity Establishment Policy Be Changed? 20 AMER. U. J. OF GENDER, SOCIAL POLICY, & THE LAW __ (2012).

Overcoming the Marital Presumption, 50 Fam. Ct. Rev. __ (2012).

More Parents, More Money: Reflections on the Financial Implications of Multiple Parentage, 16 CARDOZO JOURNAL OF LAW & GENDER 217 (2010).

Why Just Two? Disaggregating Traditional Parental Rights and Responsibilities to Recognize Multiple Parents 9 JOURNAL OF LAW & FAMILY STUDIES 309 (2007).

Procreation through ART: Why the Adoption Process Should Not Apply, 35 Cap. U. L. Rev. 399 (2006) (symposium).

My Two Dads: Disaggregating Biological and Social Paternity, 38 ARIZONA STATE L. J. 809 (2006).

Applying Intent-Based Parentage Principles to Nonlegal Lesbian Coparents, 25 N. ILL. U. L. REV. 433 (2005) (symposium).

When Daddy Doesn't Want to be Daddy Anymore: An Argument Against Paternity Fraud Claims, 16 YALE J. L. & FEMINISM 193 (2004).

Micah Has One Mommy and One Legal Stranger: Adjudicating Maternity for Nonbiological Lesbian Coparents, 50 BUFF. L. REV. 341 (2002).

Shorter Works:

Letters: How Many Parents, N.Y. TIMES, February 2, 2010, at A23 (letter).

Letters: The Complex Parenting Network, N.Y. TIMES, Jul. 23, 2007, at A22 (letter).

Book Review, 8 B.U. PUB. INT. L.J. 579 (1999) (reviewing TIMOTHY C. SHIELL, CAMPUS HATE SPEECH ON TRIAL (1998)).

Presentations:

"Should New Definitions of Legal Parentage Cause Us to Re-Evaluate Traditional Definitions?" (presented at the International Association of Law and Mental Health conference in Berlin Germany, July 2011).

"The Paternity Riddle: Why Genetic Fatherhood Makes Some Men Legal Fathers and Some Men Legal Strangers" (presented as part of the Future of Fatherhood panel at the Law & Society Conference in San Francisco, June 2011).

"Intentional Parenthood's Influence: If Procreative Autonomy Includes the Right not to Parent, Then Should Federal Paternity Establishment Policy Be Changed?" (presented on March 25, 2011 at "The New 'Illegitimacy': Revisiting Why Parentage

Should Not Depend on Marriage” at American University Washington College of Law).

“Intentional Parenthood’s Influence: If Procreative Autonomy Includes the Right not to Parent, Then Should Federal Paternity Establishment Policy Be Changed?” (November 5, 2010 as part of the MSU Center for Gender in Global Context colloquia series).

“How the Use of ART Has Changed Legal Parentage,” presented at the Legal and Bioethical Foundations of Assisted Reproductive Technologies symposium co-sponsored by the College of Law and College of Human Medicine, Friday, October 1, 2010 (symposium organizer).

Panelist on “Innovative Teaching Techniques Used in Second/Third Year Courses,” August 6, 2010 at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools conference, Palm Beach, FL.

“Intentional Parenthood’s Influence: If Procreative Autonomy Includes the Right not to Parent, Then Should Federal Paternity Establishment Policy Be Changed?” June 5, 2010 at the combined Midwest Family Law Consortium and International Society of Family Law Conference, UMKC Law School, Kansas City, MO.

“Jaycee Has an Egg Donor, a Sperm Donor, a Gestational Surrogate and No Legal Parents,” May 26, 2010, Keynote Speaker for American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Michigan Chapter, Junior Fellow Research Day, East Lansing, MI.

“Teaching with Assessments,” September 12, 2009 at the Legal Education at the Crossroads Assessment Conference, University of Denver’s Sturm College of Law.

“Bridging the Doctrinal and Skills Gap in Family Law,” June 26, 2009 at the Midwest Family Law Consortium, William-Mitchell School of Law, St. Paul, MN.

“Is Three Better Than Two? Allocating Financial Responsibility Among Multiple Parents,” September 18, 2008 at the International Society of Family Law World Conference in Vienna.

“Duets Are Great: So Are Solos, Trios, & Quartets,” June 13, 2008 at the Jazzing Up Family Conference at Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis, sponsored by the Midwest Family Law Consortium.

“Teaching to Millenials and Incorporating Skills in Family Law,” June 5, 2008 at the Emerging Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference in New York, New York.

“Bridging the Doctrinal and Skills Gap in Family Law,” Poster Presentation, Teaching Section, AALS, January 4, 2008 at the AALS Annual Conference in New York, New York.

“Resolving Conflict Among Multiple Parents,” June 26, 2007 at the University of Padua, sponsored by the International Association of Law & Mental Health World Congress.

UnMarried with Children... “Establishing Legal Parentage,” February 12, 2007 at American University Washington College of Law, sponsored by the Journal of Gender, Social Policy and the Law.

“Why Just Two? Disaggregating Traditional Parental Rights and Responsibilities to Recognize Multiple Parents,” July 6, 2006 at the Law & Society Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

“Why the Adoption Process Should Not Apply to Assisted Reproduction,” April 7, 2006 at the Second Annual Wells Conference on Adoption Law, Capital University Law School.

“My Two Dads: Disaggregating Biological and Social Paternity” March 24, 2006 at the University of Oregon School of Law’s conference entitled, “Delivering Nurturance.”

“In Whose Best Interests, The Child or the State? Re-Evaluating the Role of Biology in Determining Paternity,” November 2005 at the Central States Scholarship Exchange, hosted by MSU College of Law.

“In Whose Best Interests, The Child or the State? Re-Evaluating the Role of Biology in Determining Paternity” July 22, 2005 at the 12th World Conference of the International Society of Family Law, Salt Lake City, Utah.

“What Role Should Biology Play in Determining Paternity?” June 5, 2005 at the Law & Society Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.

“Applying Intent-Based Parentage Principles to Nonlegal Lesbian Coparents” March 24, 2005 at the Northern Illinois University School of Law Family Law & Custody Symposium.

“Same-Sex Marriage Debate” (sponsored by The Federalist Society, The American Constitution Society, and the Lesbian & Gay Law Association), October 27, 2004 at the William & Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law; debated against Professor Teresa Collett of the University of St. Thomas.

“Using the Uniform Parentage Act,” at Theory Meets Practice: A Conversation Between Practitioners Who Represent Gay and Lesbian Parents and Academics Who Write About Legal Issues Relevant to Their Work, presented October 11, 2003 at American University Washington College of Law.

“Using Functional Parenthood to Make the Case Against Paternity Fraud Laws,” at the International Society of Family Law North American Regional Conference hosted by the University of Oregon School of Law, June 27, 2003.

Practice Experience:

Witmer, Karp, Warner & Thuotte LLP, Boston, MA

Associate, May 1998 - July 2000.

Managed caseload including family law, probate, and general civil litigation. Performed extensive discovery including document production, interrogatories and responses, and depositions. Represented clients at contested and uncontested hearings, settlement negotiations, and four-way conferences. Assisted partners with trial preparation, including preparing witness testimony, trial exhibits, and trial motions.

Massachusetts Department of Revenue

Child Support Enforcement Division, Cambridge, MA

Staff Counsel, March 1995- July 1996.

Represented the Commonwealth in child support enforcement matters including establishment of paternity and establishment, modification, and enforcement of child support obligations. Argued uncontested and contested motions; presented pretrial hearings, trials, and criminal contempt cases; and engaged in settlement negotiations. Monitored and advised support staff regarding legal procedure and document preparation.

Bar Admission:

Massachusetts Bar - admitted since 1994.