

ESTHER BARRON

EDUCATION

Northwestern University School of Law

J.D. received May 1995

Brandeis University

Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, received June 1992

ACADEMIC CAREER

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Clinical Professor of Law, September 2013 – present

(Prior appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, September 2005 – August 2010 and Clinical Associate Professor of Law, September 2010- August 2013)

Director, Donald Pritzker Entrepreneurship Law Center, September 2008 – present

(Prior appointment as Assistant Director, Entrepreneurship Law Center, September 2005- September 2008)

- Awarded Continuing Appointment status effective September 2008
- Awarded Dean's Teaching Award 2008-2009
- Awarded The SBA Faculty Appreciation Award 2011-2012
- Awarded AALS Teaching Award 2013
- Appointed to deliver First Lecture 2013
- Techweek100 Award 2017
- Educate and oversee students in providing transactional legal services to a variety of entrepreneurs, social entrepreneurs, small businesses and nonprofit organizations in the Donald Pritzker Entrepreneurship Law Center
- Legal work includes preparation of formation documents for new entities and associated legal advice, drafting and advice related to operational contracts, negotiation and preparation of financing agreements, trademark and other intellectual property research and advice, work with nonprofits applying for or maintaining tax exempt status, advice concerning business licenses and industry-specific regulations, employment agreements and related matters, independent contractor agreements, online contracts and licenses for internet web sites
- Non- Clinical Courses: Entrepreneurship Law, a 40-student seminar surveying legal subjects affecting entrepreneurs; Structuring Transactions – Venture Capital, a 30-student seminar course analyzing the venture capital industry and deal structures; Corporate Law, a required course in the Accelerated LLM Program; Entrepreneurship Law, a seminar course in the Masters of Science in Law Program; NUvention Medical Innovations, an interdisciplinary course; Entrepreneurial Finance and Venture Capital, a seminar course in the Masters of Science in Law Program; Innovation Lab, a 25 student course teaching design thinking and software development; Bay Area Entrepreneurship Immersion Trip, a 16 student one week trip to the Bay Area to meet with entrepreneurs and thought leaders; Law and the Entrepreneur a Massive Open Online Course offered through Northwestern University and Coursera, which enrolled 35,000 students in its first session (Fall 2013)

- Coordinate Structuring Transactions program, including meeting with adjunct professors and reviewing syllabi and course curriculum (2007-2011)
- Oversee individual students in Intensive Semester Program, both in clinical placements and externships
- Advise individual students participating in Owen L. Coon/James A. Rahl Senior Research Program
- Active participant in law school community
- Faculty Coach, StartUp Law Meet Team (2016)
- Faculty Coach, Transactional Law Meet Team (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)
- Faculty Coach, Transactional Law Meet Intellectual Property Team (2011)
- Committee work: Search Committee for Bluhm Legal Clinic Director (August 2019- December 2019), Faculty Advisory Committee (August 2017- December 2019), Law Tech Committee (2017 – present), Chair the program committee for The Garage (March 2015- September 2016), Strategic Planning Committee (May- 2012- December 2013), Strategic Planning Academic Initiative Committee (2013- 2014), Trustee Nominations Work Group (2010-2011), Curricular and Pedagogical Practices Task Force (2010-2012)
- Plan Annual Entrepreneurship Law Conference

LEGAL CAREER

Goldberg, Kohn, Bell, Black, Rosenbloom & Moritz, Chicago, Illinois

Attorney at Law, December 1998 – June 2005

- Commercial finance work for financial institutions documenting and structuring loan transactions
- Analyzed and perfected security interests in collateral, including intellectual property
- Consulted with tax specialists to evaluate corporate structures
- Recruiting committee member, summer associate committee member and associate mentor

Peterson & Ross, Chicago, Illinois

Attorney at Law, September 1995 – November 1998

- Analyzed issues arising from directors' and officers' liability policies, focusing on securities claims, class actions, lender liability actions and employment practice claims

The National Clearinghouse, Chicago, Illinois

Legal Editor, January 1994- July 1994

- Edited articles submitted by attorneys and professors on issues affecting recipients of public aid for publication in the Clearinghouse Review, a national law journal

Life Span Legal Clinic, Des Plaines, Illinois

Intern, June 1994- August 1993

- Assisted clients obtain orders of protection and managed client intake
- Experience with alternative dispute resolution

PUBLICATIONS

Entrepreneurship Law: Cases and Materials, co-authored casebook from Aspen Publishers (2013)

Accidental Founders: The Race from Class Project To Start-Up, 25 *Stan. J.L. Bus. & Fin.* 86 (co-author) (2020)

Experiencing Business Associations in the Classroom, 59 *St. Louis U. L.J.* 787 (co-author) (2015)

A Closer Look at Distance Learning: 19 *Lewis & Clark L. Rev.* 395 (co-author) (2015)

The Value of Relationships Between Incubators (And Similar Programs) and the Legal Community, *Ohio State Entrepreneurial Business Law Journal*, Symposium Articles (2014)

The Design Piracy Prohibition Act, Chicago Fashion Foundation publication (January 2009) (co-author)

Green Fashion: A Legal Perspective, Chicago Fashion Foundation publication (November 2008)

Getting Your Fashionable Business Started, Chicago Fashion Foundation publication (September 2008) (co-author)

PRESENTATIONS

“Trademark Basics for Zell Fellows” at Kellogg Global Hub, Evanston, Illinois, February 20, 2020 (co-presenter)

“Plant Based Entrepreneurship” at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, January 31, 2020 (moderator)

“A Conversation on Cannabis and the Law” at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, October 25, 2019 (moderator)

“Entrepreneurship in Chicago Alumni Event” at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, July 30, 2019 (moderator)

“Training Leading Lawyers and Lawyers Who Lead” at American Association of Law Schools 2019 Conference on Clinical Legal Education, San Francisco, California, May 5, 2019 (co-presenter)

“Communication Competency in Transactional Lawyering” at Transactional Clinical Conference, Berkley, California, May 3, 2019 (co-presenter)

“Trademark Basics- Branding Your Creative Start-up” at 2112, Chicago, Illinois, March 14, 2019 (presenter)

“Legal Basics for Zell Fellows” at Kellogg Global Hub, Evanston, Illinois, February 20, 2019 (co-presenter)

“Legal Issues for Entrepreneurs” at Good Food Accelerator, Chicago, Illinois, November 19, 2018 (presenter)

“Entrepreneurs’ Organization’s Global Student Entrepreneur Awards” at GSEA, Chicago, Illinois November 16, 2018 (judge)

“Founders’ Agreements- Putting Your Deal in Writing” at 2112, Chicago, Illinois, November 6, 2018 (presenter)

“Protecting Your Brand” at Blue 1647, Pilsen, Illinois, September 25, 2018 (co-presenter)

"Legal Tech Venture Day" at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, June 15, 2018 (Judge)

"Entrepreneurial Masterclass on Conquering Pain Points in Global Entrepreneurship" at NU-Kellogg Club France Alumni Event, Paris, France, May 15, 2018 (panelist)

"Innovation and Business Development in the Legal Industry" at Beyond Our Borders Global Legal Innovation Summit, Chicago, Illinois, May 3, 2018 (moderator)

“From Clinic to Center: Innovation in Experiential Education” at American Association of Law Schools 2018 Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Chicago, Illinois, April 29, 2018 (poster presentation co-presenter)

“Let’s Collaborate on Collaboration Agreements” at Transactional Clinical Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April 28, 2018 (co-presenter)

"Women Innovators and how Their Innovations Have Changed Our Lives" at Powering Change: Women in Innovation and Creativity World Intellectual Property Day Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April 26, 2018 (panelist)

"Entity Selection and Business Formation" for Zell Fellows at Kellogg Global Hub, Evanston, Illinois February 14, 2018 (co-presenter)

"CryptoCon 2018: Demystifying Cryptocurrencies" at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, February 5, 2018 (Conference Co-Organizer)

"Managing the Emotional Impact of Risk" at Make No Little Plans: Managing and Leveraging Risk in the Entrepreneurial World Conference, Chicago, Illinois, February 6, 2018 (moderator)

“Legal Issues for Entrepreneurs” at Tech Stars Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, September 12, 2017 (presenter)

"Women at the Mart: Everyday Negotiating to Get What You Want” at 1871, Chicago, Illinois, July 26, 2017 (moderator)

“Trademark Basics" at MATTER, Chicago, Illinois, July 12, 2017 (presenter)

“From Clinic to Center: An Innovation in Experiential Education” at Transactional Clinical Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 2, 2017 (co-presenter)

"Working at the Intersection of Business, Law and Technology" JD-MBA Event at Northwestern University- San Francisco, California, March 22, 2017 (moderator)

“Legal Basics for Zell Fellows” at Kellogg Global Hub, Evanston, Illinois, February 22, 2017

“Trademark Basics- Branding Your Creative Start-Up” at 2112, Chicago, Illinois, February 21, 2017

Law Alumni Club of NYC Entrepreneurship Salon, New York, New York, December 12, 2016 (Presenter)

“Disruption and Entrepreneurship: Uber, Airbnb, and the Sharing Economy” at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, September 20, 2016 (co-presenter)

“Women Achieving Excellence” at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, September 15, 2016 (panelist)

“Innovations in Legal Education: Interdisciplinary Entrepreneurship Education” at Law Schools Global League Academic Conference, Chicago, Illinois, July 19, 2016 (co-presenter)

“Transactional Clinic Impact on the Community Ecosystem” at American Association of Law Schools 2016 Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Baltimore, Maryland, May 3, 2016 (co-presenter)

“What We Wish We Knew Then” at Transactional Clinical Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, April 29, 2016 (co-presenter)

“Using the Other ‘Case Method’ for Teaching Transactional Skills” at Transactional Clinical Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, April 29, 2016 (co-presenter)

"Trademark Basics" at MATTER, Chicago, Illinois, January 25, 2016 (presenter)

"Hal Barron, president of Calico" at MATTER, Chicago, Illinois, November 6, 2015 (interviewer)

"Legal Issues for Entrepreneurs" at Impact Engine, Chicago, Illinois October 20, 2015 (presenter)

"Legal Issues for Entrepreneurs" at Techstars, Chicago, Illinois, August 21, 2015 (presenter)

"Intellectual Property Issues and Other Legal Issues for Artists" at Fort Knox, Chicago, Illinois, July, 14, 2015 (presenter)

“Opening Discussion” at Bridges Not Barriers: The Law-Stem Alliance as a Catalyst for Innovation Conference, Chicago, Illinois, June 17, 2015 (moderator)

“The Start Up of Who? Disrupting the Marketplace by Teaching Entrepreneurial Thinking in Law Schools” at American Association of Law Schools 2015 Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Rancho Mirage, California, May 6, 2015 (co-presenter)

“Entrepreneurship Law at Northwestern Law” at Northwestern University School of Law JD In A Day for YPO , Chicago, Illinois, March 10, 2015 (co presenter)

“Legal Clinic” at the Annual SEA Conference, Lisle, Illinois, February 26, 2015 (co-presenter)

“Dragging Ourselves Into The Future: Law Teaching and Online Learning” at Society of American Law Teachers Teaching Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada, October 11, 2014 (co-presenter)

“Designing the Transactional Learning Experience” at Lewis & Clark Law School 19th Annual Business Law Fall Forum, Portland, Oregon, October 3, 2014 (co-presenter)

“Legal Basics for Entrepreneurs” at Tech Stars Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, July 22, 2014

“Entrepreneurship Law At Northwestern” at Washington Fellows of the President’s Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Business & Entrepreneurship Institute Dinner, Chicago, Illinois, June 27, 2014 (keynote)

“American and European Approaches to Experiential Legal Education: Training the Next Generation of Entrepreneurial Lawyers” at Brooklyn Law School’s Law Symposium: From Bleak House to Geek House: Evolving Law for Entrepreneurial Lawyers, Brooklyn, New York, April 4, 2014 (co-presenter)

“Massive Open Online Clinic?” at American Association of Law Schools 2014 Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Chicago, Illinois, April 2014 (co-presenter)

“Law and the Entrepreneur: Chicago Instructor Meet-Up” at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, November 15, 2013 (co-presenter)

“Product Design: Intellectual Property and Licensing” at School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, November 14, 2013 (co-presenter)

“Topics for Entrepreneurs to Think about when Starting a new Venture” at The Kellogg School of Management, Evanston, Illinois, November 13, 2013

“Law and the Entrepreneur: Boston Instructor Meet-Up” at Space With A Soul, Boston, Massachusetts, October 27, 2013 (co-presenter)

“Law and the Entrepreneur: NYC Instructor Meet-Up” at Grind Broadway, New York, New York, October 25, 2013 (co-presenter)

“Building the Team” at Entrepreneurs UnpluggD Startup Law Summit III, Chicago, Illinois , October 19, 2013

“Entrepreneurship and Northwestern Law” at Northwestern University School of Law alumni weekend, September 28, 2013

“Legal Issues for Entrepreneurs” at Tech Stars Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, July 2, 2013

“Training Students to Practice in the Start-Up Community” at Northwestern Law Alumni Event, Kirkland & Ellis, Palo Alto, California, June 19, 2013 (co-presenter)

“Opportunities for Transactional Clinics and Litigation Clinics to Reach Out and Build Bridges in the Community” at American Association of Law Schools 2013 Conference on Clinical Legal Education, San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 1, 2013 (co-presenter)

“The Law Clinic - Business Incubator Relationship” at The Ohio State Entrepreneurial Business Law Journal’s Symposium, Columbus, Ohio, March 20, 2013 (panelist)

“Legal Clinic” at Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization National Conference, Chicago, Illinois, November 2, 2012 (co-presenter)

“Get the Right Entity” at Entrepreneurs UnpluggD Startup Law Summit II, Chicago, Illinois, September 22, 2012 (co-presenter)

“Teaching Entity Selection” at Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship Teacher Summit, Evanston, Illinois, July 10, 2012 (co-presenter)

“Panel of Practicing Transactional Lawyers What Skills Do Employers Expect Students to Have” at 2012 Transactional Clinical Conference, Los Angeles, California, April 29, 2012 (co-presenter)

“10 Things You Must Do Before Launching” at Entrepreneurs UnpluggD Startup Law Summit I, Chicago, Illinois, April 14, 2012 (co-presenter)

“Innovating Responsibility” at Northwestern Journal of International Law & Business Symposium, Chicago, Illinois, April 12, 2012 (panelist)

“Selling and Marketing in Cyberspace” at The Kellogg School of Management’s inaugural Business-Law Conference, Evanston, Illinois, February 8, 2012 (moderator)

“Power Tools Series: Copyright, Appropriation and Fair Use” at School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, January 19, 2012 (co-presenter)

“Getting Legal Representation to Student Entrepreneurs” at United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 13, 2012 (co-presenter)

“Incubating America: The Legal Relationship Between Incubators and Entrepreneurs” at United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 13, 2012 (co-presenter)

“Legal Issues for Fashion Designers” at Mayor of Chicago’s Fashion Week, Chicago, Illinois, November 2011 (panelist)

“The Practical Implications of Constricted Capital” at The Ohio State Entrepreneurial Business Law Journal’s Symposium, Columbus, Ohio, March 10, 2011 (presenter)

“Top Legal Issues Facing Entrepreneurs” at The Incubator Technology Innovation Center, Evanston, Illinois, December 16, 2010 (co-presenter)

“Intellectual Property Issues Affecting Branding and Design Protection” at the Chicago Fashion Incubator, Chicago, Illinois, December 2, 2010 (panelist)

“Legal Do’s and Don’ts for Entrepreneurs” at Kellogg School of Management, November 4, 2010

“Entrepreneurship Law for Business Leaders” at Kellogg School of Management, Evanston, Illinois, December 8, 2008

“Legal Issues Entrepreneurs Should Know” at Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, May 8 and 9, 2008

“Ten Legal Issues Affecting Entrepreneurs” at Small Business Opportunity Conference, April 8, 2006, February 17, 2007, March 1, 2008

Presentation to Greater Southwest Development Corporation concerning legal issues affecting entrepreneurs, October 17, 2006

ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS

Admitted to practice in Illinois (1995) and Member of Illinois State Bar Association

Member of Transactional Legal Education Organization (LAWBUS), United States Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship, American Bar Association, Clinical Legal Education Association, American Association of Law Schools Clinical Division

Reviewer for promotion of, and grant of continuing appointment to, clinical faculty member of first tier law school

Women In Bio-Chicago 3.8 Initiative, Member

Beyond Board, Member

International Women’s Forum, Member

The Coleman Foundation, Board Member

Tech Stars Chicago (formerly Excelerate Labs), Mentor

1871, Mentor

Impact Engine, Mentor

ELaw Editorial Team, Member

Bloomberg Law Academic, Advisory Board Member

South Chicago Art Center, Board Member (November 2011-November 2014)

Imerman Angels, Steering Committee (December 2011- December 2014)

CEO Roundtable, Member (December 2013- January 2015)