

SHEILA A. BEDI

357 East Chicago Avenue Chicago, IL 60611 Sheila.Bedi@law.northwestern.edu

EMPLOYMENT

Northwestern University Law School, Bluhm Legal Clinic, Community Justice And Civil Rights Clinic, IL. January 2020-Present

Director and Clinical Professor of Law. Directs legal clinic that works within social justice movements to redress over-policing and mass imprisonment. Clinic docket is a mix of systemic litigation and discrete policy projects. Supervises students' case-driven research, writing and advocacy. Teaches seminar on lawyering for systemic change, racial justice and community lawyering. Developed and teaches seminar on policing in Chicago. Developed and teaches seminar at Stateville Prison on mass imprisonment and violence reduction strategies.

Selected cases and projects include:

- *Campbell et al v. City of Chicago*, No. 17-4467(N.D.IL). Represented community based organizations including Black Lives Matter Chicago, Network 49, Justice for Families and Brighton Park Neighborhood Council in action challenging Chicago Police Department's (CPD) pattern and practice of racism and violence.
- *Chicagians for an End to the Gang Database et al v. City of Chicago*, No. 18-cv-4242 (N.D. IL) Represented individuals and organizations (including Organized Communities Against Deportation and BYP 100 Chicago) in city-wide class action challenging CPD's use of gang databases as unconstitutional and discriminatory.
- *Hampton v. Baldwin*, No. 18cv550, (S.D. IL)(et al). Represented Black transwoman in Illinois Department of Corrections' custody in series of lawsuits seeking redress for the sexual violence she survived and her transfer to the women's division.
- Policy projects relating to prison and jail oversight for Black Lives Matters Chicago, the Westside NAACP, and Good Kids Mad City.

Northwestern University Law School, Bluhm Legal Clinic, Roderick MacArthur Justice Center Chicago, IL. September 2012-Present

Clinical Professor of Law. Enforced the civil rights of individuals involved with the criminal and juvenile justice system. Selected cases involve police accountability, the rights of people living with mental illness in jails, the due process rights of people on parole and sexual violence in prison.

Co-taught seminar on civil rights litigation.

Southern Poverty Law Center. New Orleans, LA. January 2009-September 2012.

Deputy Legal Director. Directed the Southern Poverty Law Center's (SPLC) work related to reducing imprisonment rates and reforming public education systems in Mississippi and Louisiana. Provided strategic guidance and legal support to justice reform campaigns in other Deep South states. Engaged in class action litigation and legislative advocacy. Supported community-based reform campaigns through technical assistance and legal representation. Supervised a team of fourteen lawyers and advocates. Selected accomplishments include a successful legal and advocacy campaign that lead a corrections agency to cancel its contract with the second largest private prison company in the world; a significant reduction in an adult jail population, legislation that reduced the

number of children tried and convicted as adults; the closure of a notorious juvenile detention center, and the development of alternatives to imprisonment.

Southern Poverty Law Center. Jackson, Mississippi. May 2005-Jan. 2008.

Co-Director, MS Office. Directed activities of SPLC office dedicated to reforming Mississippi's juvenile justice system. Engaged in federal district court litigation, facility investigations and public policy/media advocacy. Coordinated legislative campaign resulting in passage of the Mississippi Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act of 2006, a \$7 million appropriation for previously unfunded alternatives to incarceration and the closure of a brutal juvenile prison. Supervised a team of eight lawyers and advocates.

Southern Poverty Law Center. Jackson, Mississippi. Oct. 2003-May 2005.

Staff Attorney. Engaged in legal and policy advocacy to reform Mississippi's juvenile justice system and to reduce the imprisonment of children. Coordinated legislative campaign resulting in the passage of the Mississippi Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2005. Represented class of children in federal district court conditions of confinement litigation. Drafted legislation and testified before state legislature. Secured appropriate services and placements for confined youth through individual representation.

Selected cases from SPLC Docket include:

- *Jones et al. v. Gusman et al.*, Case No. 2:12-cv-00859 (E.D. La) (class action filed on behalf of all individuals imprisoned at the Orleans Parish Prison—alleging violence, protection from harm, sexual abuse and inadequate mental health care);
- *Jobe et al., v. Judd et al.*, No. 8:12-cv-00568 (M.D. Fla) (class action challenging isolation and excessive use of chemical restraints in county jail);
- *J.H., et al., v. Hinds County, Mississippi*, Case No. 3:11-cv-00327-DPJ –FKB (S.D. Miss.) (class action challenging violent conditions of confinement and denial of mental health services in detention center);
- *M.T., et al., v. Forrest County, Mississippi*, Case No. 2:11-cv-91-KS-MTP (S.D. Miss.) (class action challenging the excessive use of restraints and force in juvenile detention center);
- *C.B., et al., v. Walnut Grove Correctional Authority, et al.*, Case No. 3:10-cv-663 DPJ-FKB (S.D. Miss.) (class action challenging the brutal physical abuse, use of solitary confinement and other unconstitutional conditions in privately operated prison);
- *E.W. v. Lauderdale County*, Case No. 4:09-cv-137 TSL-LRA (S.D. Miss.) (class action challenging isolation, solitary confinement and the excessive use of chemical restraints against child detainees);
- *D.W. v. Harrison County*, Case No. 1:09-cv-267 LG-RHN (S.D. Miss.) (class action challenging physical and sexual abuse of children and denial of mental health care for suicidal youth);
- *J.A. v. Barbour*, No. 3:07-cv-00394 (S.D. Miss) (class action challenging the sexual abuse and prolonged shackling of imprisoned girls);
- *K.L.W. v. James*, No. 2:04-cv-149BN (S.D. Miss.) (class action challenging the denial of incarcerated children's access to counsel).

Justice Policy Institute. Washington D.C. January 2008-January 2009.

Executive Director. Director of think tank and advocacy organization dedicated to reducing society's reliance on incarceration. Engaged in legislative advocacy for progressive criminal justice reform in

Maryland and Mississippi. Provided technical assistance and support to ongoing reform campaigns throughout the country. Produced publications and strategic communications to support criminal justice reform.

American University Washington College of Law. January-April 2009. Instructor/Supervisor. Supervised teams of law students who conducted interviews with women incarcerated in an Alabama prison. Students received course credit for participating in this project and the interviews they conducted were incorporated into a Justice Policy Institute publication: *Creating the Roadmap for Reduction: Reducing the Number of Women in Prison in Alabama*. Instructed students on the history of the criminal justice system, interviewing skills, and strategies for criminal justice policy reform.

American University Washington College of Law. August-December 2008. *Adjunct Professor.* Supervised law students in law clinic engaged in community economic development throughout the Washington D.C. area. Clients included a community-based criminal justice reform organization, a farmer's market and youth training institute. Coached students through client interviewing, counseling, case planning and supervised the production of legal documents. Provided feedback on simulated client intakes and negotiations. Taught seminar on incorporating community organizing, media and policy advocacy into legal campaigns.

Institute for Public Representation, Georgetown University Law Center. Washington D.C. Aug. 2001-Aug. 2003.

Clinical Teaching Fellow/Civil Rights Staff Attorney. Developed new practice area at the Institute enforcing the civil rights of individuals who are imprisoned. Litigated civil rights cases in federal district and appellate court and before administrative agencies. Managed diverse civil docket including prisoners' rights, employment discrimination, disability rights, and open government. Supervised students' case-driven research, writing and advocacy.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND COMMENTARY

- *Incarceration and the Law: Cases and Materials* (West Publishing forthcoming 2020) (with Margo Schlanger and David Shapiro).
- *Communities Need Control Over Police if Justice is to Prevail* (commentary, co-authored with Craig Futterman) Chicago Sun Times Mar. 9, 2020
- *Breaking Down the Walls: Lessons Learned from Successful State Campaigns to Close Youth Prisons. Report published by the Youth First Initiative* (March 2017)
- *To Truly Reform Police, Give IPRA the Boot.* Chicago Sun-Times April 2016 (with Craig Futterman).
- *Violence against women won't become history until Mass incarceration is.* Editorial published by Truthout.org (March 2015).
- *Seeking Transformative Justice in Ferguson, Dearborn, and Beyond.* Editorial published by Huffington Post. (Sept. 2014).
- *Pregnant Women and Immigrant Children: The Latest Victims of Mass Imprisonment?* Editorial published by Truthout.org (Aug. 2014).
- *Unprisoning our Children.* Editorial published by Huffington Post (April 2014).

- *The Costs of imprisonment are too High for Everyone*. Editorial published by Talking Points Memo. (March 2014).
- *When too many students are expelled, crime results*. Editorial published by Chicago Tribune (Jan. 2014).
- *We Can't Arrest Our Way to Safer Schools*. Editorial published by U.S. News and World Report (Dec. 2013).
- *Are prisons bleeding us dry?* Editorial published by DailyBeast.org (Dec. 2013).
- *On Mothers, Mothering and Mass Incarceration*. Editorial published by Truthout.org (May 2013).
- *Access Denied: New Orleans Parents and Students Identify Barriers to Public Education*. Editor. (Winter 2010).
- *Registering Harm: How Sex Registries Fail Youth and Communities*. Justice Policy Institute. Editor. (Fall 2008).
- *Moving Targets: A Decade of Resistance to the Prison Industrial Complex*. Justice Policy Institute. Editor. (Fall 2008).
- *Mississippi: An Assessment of Access to Counsel and Quality of Representation in Youth Court Proceedings*. Co-authored with Jennifer-Riley Collins and Robin Walker. (Fall 2007).
- *Mississippi Juvenile Justice Reform Briefing Book*. Co-authored with Danielle Lipow. (Winter 2005).
- *Crime Constructs Race, Race Constructs Crime: The Criminal Justice System and The Constructed Identities of African and Asian Americans*. 18 Harvard Black Letter Law Journal, 181-99 (Spring 2003).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- *Litigating Civil Rights Claims for Transgender Prisoners*. National Police Accountability Project, March 2020
- *Mass Incarceration*. National Lawyer's Guild. March 2020
- *Civil Rights Litigation* Journal of Law and Social Policy Symposium.. March 2020
- *Ongoing Racial Disparities in American Institutions*. Northwestern University Dream Week:. Jan. 2020
- *Class Action Litigation, Policing and Systemic Change*. National Police Accountability Project:. Oct. 2019
- *Breaking Down the Walls. Strategies to Close Youth Prisons*. Nat. Juv. Def. Ass. New Mexico. Oct. 2017
- *Prison Rape and Prison Abolition*. The University of Chicago. April 2017.
- *National Police Accountability Project--Chicago. Department of Justice Report on Investigation of Chicago Police Department: Implications for Civil Rights Cases*. March 2017.
- *Invisible Institute. A public conversation on the Police Union Contract*. Feb. 2017.
- *The US Department of Justice and the Chicago Police Department: A community teach-in*. Jan. 2017.
- *American Constitution Society. Midwest Regional Convening. The Left Frontier: Charting the Next Progressive Movement*. Oct. 2016.

- *Hot Topics in Juvenile Justice: Ending Youth Imprisonment.* American Bar Association. May 2016.
- *Police Accountability in Chicago.* Chicago Westside NAACP April 2016.
- *Dismantling the Prison Part of the Criminal Justice System Pipeline: Institutional Advocacy and Strategy.* American University Washington College of Law. February 2016.
- *The Realities and Regulation of Prison Labor.* Loyola University School of Law. March 2015.
- *Parole Reform, Mass incarceration and the need for a New Theory of Justice.* American Constitution Society Scholars Forum. Barry University Law School. March 2015.
- *Parole and Jail Reform--Local Strategies to End Mass Imprisonment.* Northwestern University Law School--Collaboration for Justice Panel. March 2015.
- *Weaponizing Title IX to End Sexual Violence against LGBTQ Youth who are Imprisoned.* American University Washington College of Law. April 2015.
- *National Police and Accountability Project Continuing Legal Education: Litigating Sexual Assault Cases and the Prison Rape Elimination Act.* Sept. 2014
- *A response to Ferguson: Chicago Kent College of Law.* Oct. 2014
- *Tearing Down the Walls: The Urgent Human Rights Crisis in U.S. Prisons and the Imperative to End Mass Incarceration.* Keynote Speaker, Martin Luther King Jr. Week Commemoration Jan. 2015
- *Children's Right to Education in Prison and Jails.* UC Davis Law School. Feb. 2014
- *Prison Rape Elimination Act: Strategies for Civil Rights Litigation.* Loyola Law School, New Orleans, Feb. 2014
- *State-Sanctioned Violence in Juvenile Prisons.* Attorney General Eric Holder's National Task 2012

Community Service/Board Appointments

- **Organized Communities Against Deportation,** Board Member
- **Chicago Torture Justice Center.** Secretary of the Board
- **Fellow, American Bar Association,** inducted in 2014
- **American Bar Association Committee on Youth at Risk.** Commissioner 2013-2014
- **Public Voices Fellowship Recipient.** The Op/ed Project. 2013-2014
- **Campaign for Youth Justice. Washington DC.** Advisory Board Member since April 2010
- **President, Board of Directors, Mississippi American Civil Liberties Union. Jackson, MS.** (Sept. 2005-March 2007)
- **Election Protection Volunteer** (2008—Fredericksburg Virginia); (2004—Oxford, MS).
- **MS Delta Expungement Clinic Coordinator.** Summer 2006.
- **Whitman Walker Clinic.** Entitlements Volunteer. Washington DC. (Jan.1999-Aug.2003).

Honors

- **2017 Excellence in Public Interest Awardee, Federal District Court Northern District of Illinois**
- **2011 Loyola Black Law Students Association Public Service and Leadership Award.** Directed the work of SPLC-New Orleans office that was recognized for its contributions to the New Orleans Community.

- **2010 The Peter M. Cicchino Awards for Outstanding Advocacy in the Public Interest.** Received Alumna award recognizing public interest accomplishments from the American University.
- **2008 American Bar Association Journal Newsmaker of the Year.** Recognized by the ABA Journal for justice reform efforts.
- **2007 Fannie Lou Hamer Award.** Presented by the NAACP in recognition of service to the African- American community.
- **2005 Heroes for Children Award.** Recognized by Mississippi as Allies for Children's Mental Health for leadership in juvenile justice reform campaign.
- **2005 Vernon Dahmer Award.** Presented by the NAACP to an individual who has made a significant difference in the lives of Mississippi's children.
- **2005 Young Influential.** Named by the Jackson Free Press (Jackson, MS) as an influential Jacksonian for contributions to criminal justice reform efforts.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, L.L.M. in Advocacy, Aug. 2003.

American University, Washington College of Law, J.D. May 2001, *cum laude*.

Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Law Fellowship Recipient, 2000-01. Student Bar Association Pro- Bono/Public Interest Committee Student Chairwoman 1999-01. University Student Award for Outstanding Service to the University Community, 2001.

Michigan State University James Madison College, B.A. in Sociology/Political Science, Aug. 1998.

Panhellenic Certificates of Excellent Academic Achievement, 1995-98. Mayor's Certificate of Commendation for Outstanding Community Service, 1998.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Admitted to practice in Illinois, Mississippi, the District of Columbia and Alabama (inactive).