

**ELIZABETH J. SAMUELS**  
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**PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

- UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW** July 1987  
Visiting, Assistant, and Associate Professor; Professor 2007- present - present  
Director of Legal Skills Program, 1987-1994  
Subjects: Constitutional Law I, Constitutional Law II, Supreme Court Seminar,  
Property, Child and Family, Adoption Law Seminar  
Committee service includes: Curriculum (chair), Search Committees (Law Dean (chair),  
University Library Director), Admissions, Appointments (chair), Bar Passage Task Force,  
Clinical Education, Dean's Advisory, Dean's Scholars (chair), Educational Technology  
(chair), Law School Self-Study, Student Life (chair), University Faculty Senate, University  
Middle States Self-Study (faculty chapter chair), Faculty Development
- UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE/UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND** Summer 1998  
Faculty Member, Summer Abroad Program in Comparative Law  
University of Aberdeen, Scotland  
Subject: Comparative Family Law (team taught with Scottish faculty)
- January 1985 **JONES SCHOOL OF LAW**  
- June 1986 Montgomery, Alabama  
**AUBURN UNIVERSITY AT MONTGOMERY**  
Adjunct faculty  
Subjects: Constitutional Law, Legal Methods, undergraduate Labor Law
- Fall 1985 **MIND (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH)**  
London, England  
Lawyer volunteer for British national advocacy organization
- November 1982 **FREE-LANCE EDITORIAL AND LEGAL WORK**  
- August 1986 Montgomery, Alabama  
Edited and wrote briefs, other legal documents, and non-legal material
- September 1981 **LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION OF ALABAMA**  
- October 1982 Staff Attorney, managed Pike County and Crenshaw County offices

## JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP

### JUDGE JAMES L. OAKES

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit  
Law Clerk

June 1980  
- July 1981

## EDUCATION

### UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL J.D. 1980

Chicago, Illinois

*University of Chicago Law Review*, associate editor

Mandel Legal Aid Clinic, student attorney

### HARVARD (RADCLIFFE) COLLEGE A.B. 1975, cum laude

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Social Studies, honors interdisciplinary program,  
with emphasis on American history and literature

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Articles

*Adoption Consents: Legal Incentives for Best Practices*, 10 *Adoption Quarterly* 85 (2006).

*Legal Representation of Birth Parents and Adoptive Parents*, 9 *Adoption Quarterly* 73 (2006).

*Time to Decide? The Laws Governing Mothers' Consents to the Adoption of Their Newborn Infants*, 72 *Tenn. L. Rev.* 509 (2005)

*The Strange History of Adult Adoptee Access to Original Birth Records*, 5 *Adoption Quarterly* 63 (2001).

*The Idea of Adoption: An Inquiry into the History of Adult Adoptee Access to Birth Records*, 53 *Rutgers L. Rev.* 367-437 (2001).

(Excerpted in Naomi Cahn and Joan Heifetz Hollinger, eds., *Families By Law: An Adoption Reader* (N.Y.U. Press, 2004).) (Available in full on the Web site of the American Adoption Congress, [www.americanadoptioncongress.org](http://www.americanadoptioncongress.org).)

*Stories Out of School: Teaching the Case of Brown v. Voss*, 16 *Cardozo L. Rev.* 1445 (1995). (The subject of an extensive note in the widely used property law casebook, Jesse Dukeminier and James E. Krier, *Property* 839-41 (7th ed. 2010).)

*The Art of Line Drawing: Public Aid to Religiously Affiliated Child Care*, 69 *Ind. L.J.* 39 (1993).

## Other Publications

*Adoption*, Encyclopedia of Privacy (William G. Staples, ed., 2007).

*Birth Certificates*, Encyclopedia of Privacy (William G. Staples, ed., 2007).

*Mothers' Consents to Adoptions: "Best Practices" and State Laws*, Family Law: Balancing Interests and Pursuing Priorities (Lynn D. Wardle & Camille S. Williams, eds., 2007).

*Adoption With Contact Law Awaits Governor's Signature*, The Daily Record (Baltimore, Maryland), Apr. 22, 2005, Commentary section.

*Book Review: Adoption in America, Edited by Wayne E. Carp*, Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 35(1) (MIT Press, Summer 2004).

*Adult Adoptee Access to Original Birth Certificates*, Nota Bene, Fall 2002, 16.

*How Adoption in America Grew Secret*, Op-Ed, Wash. Post, Oct. 21, 2001, at B5.

(Reprinted in 19 Decree 11 (Fall 2002); Adoptive Families, January/February 2002, 17; and CUB Communicator, Winter 2001/2002, 26.)

*How Adoption in America Grew Secret*, Op-Ed, Wash. Post, Oct. 21, 2001, at B5. (Reprinted in 19 Decree 11 (Fall 2002); Adoptive Families, January/February 2002, 17; and CUB Communicator, Winter 2001/2002, 26.)

*Careful! Once You Start Teaching, You May Get Hooked*, 9 The Second Draft 7 (March 1994).

<b>PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES -- Presentations and Service</b>
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April 2012                      Speaker, keynote panel, Dismantling the Barriers to Identity Access, Mile High Expectations – Adoption in 2012, American Adoption Congress national conference, Denver, Colorado

March 2012                      Speaker, The Image of the Child Through the Lens of Adoption, Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture fourth international conference, Mapping Adoption, The Claremont Colleges in Claremont, California

March 2012                      Speaker, Applied Feminism and Democracy, University of Baltimore School of Law Center on Applied Feminism fifth annual feminist legal theory conference, Baltimore, Maryland

January 2012                      Speaker; Truth in Parentage: Adoption Secrecy and Paternity Estoppel in the Age of Information, Committee on Children and the Law, New York

State Bar Association Annual Meeting; New York, New York

January 2012 Speaker; Safety, Justice, and Human Rights, 2012 Women’s Legislative Briefing; Montgomery and Prince George’s, Maryland, County Commissions for Women; The Universities at Shady Gove, Rockville, Maryland

June 2011 Speaker, Birth Mothers, Children, Adoption, and the Stigma of Illegitimacy: Historical Perspectives from the 1950s to the Present, Society for the History of Children and Youth conference; Columbia University, New York, New York

April 2011 Legislative Testimony, House Bill 5453, House Judiciary Committee, Rhode Island House of Representatives, Providence, Rhode Island

March 2011 Legislative testimony, HB 1014 Vital Records – Birth Certificates – Adopted Persons, Health and Governmental Operations Committee, Maryland House of Delegates; Annapolis, Maryland

February 2011 Speech, *Adoption, Identity, and Confidentiality: The History of Closed Records*, Connecticut Statehouse, Hartford, Connecticut

October 2010 Speech, *Adoption, Identity, and Confidentiality: The History of Closed Records*, Pittsburgh Consortium for Adoption Studies (University of Pittsburgh School of Arts and Sciences, School of Law, and Women’s Studies Program), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2010 – present Member, Advisory Council, American Adoption Congress

April 2010 Speaker on Plenary Panel *Secrecy and Policy*; Adoption: Secret Histories, Public Policies; M.I.T., Cambridge, Massachusetts

May 2009 Legislative testimony, Rhode Island State Legislature, Senate Senate Health & Human Services Committee, Senate Bill 779 (access to adoption records), Providence, Rhode Island

April 2009 Workshop presenter, *Law Reform Advocates, Birth Mothers*, Joint Convention of American Adoption Congress and Adoption Network Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio

2007 – present Member, ACLU of Maryland Committee on Litigation and Legal Priorities

June 2008 Speaker, *Birthmothers: Invisibility to Activism? Or Continuing Subordination?*, National Women's Studies Association,

Cincinnati, Ohio

- April 2008 Speaker, *The Regulation of Adoption: Protecting Children and Families*, a conference for federal and state regulators, American University Washington College of Law , Washington, D.C.
- December 2007 Co-chair and participant, meeting on adoption law reform legislative priorities, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, New York City
- October 2007 Speaker, *Adoptee Access to Records, History, and Searches*, Adoption Ethics and Accountability," sponsored by the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute and Ethica, Inc., Arlington, Virginia
- February 2007 Speaker, *UNmarried . . . With Children: Evaluating Legal Constraints and Social Judgments*, symposium at American University's Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.
- October 2006 - present Task force on adoption law reform, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, New York, New York
- February 2006 Speaker, *Preview of a Changing Supreme Court*, University of Baltimore School of Law
- February 2006 Legislative testimony (oral and written), Maine State Legislature, Joint Judiciary Committee, L.D. 1805 (access to adoption records); Augusta, Maine
- January 2006 Speaker and panel moderator, *Adoption: The Spiritual Journey for the Human Family* (conference sponsored by Spence-Chapin Adoption Services, American Adoption Congress, and Concerned United Birthparents), New York City
- June 2005 Legislative testimony (oral and written), New Jersey State Legislature, Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee, Senate Bill 1093 (access to adoption records); Trenton, New Jersey
- April 2005 Speaker, day and evening sessions on how to prepare for the Bar Exam, University of Baltimore School of Law
- May 2004 Speaker, *Locating Lost People, Past and Present*, Maryland Library

Association 2004 Conference; Ocean City, Maryland

- April 2004 Legislative testimony (oral and written), New Hampshire State Legislature, House of Representatives Children and Family Law Committee, Senate Bill 335 (access to adoption records); Concord, New Hampshire
- April 2004 Workshop presenter, *The Laws Governing Birth Mothers' Consent*, American Adoption Congress Convention; Kansas City, Missouri
- March 2004 Legislative testimony (oral), Maryland General Assembly, House of Delegates Appropriations Committee, House Bill 1140 (state employees' labor and employment rights); Annapolis, Maryland
- March 2004 Legislative testimony (oral and written), Maryland General Assembly, House of Delegates Judiciary Committee, House Bill 882 (parental rights termination and adoption statutes); Annapolis, Maryland
- November 2003 Speaker, Family Law Association, *The History of Adoption Records Law*, University of Baltimore School of Law
- Spring 2003 Consultant to Maryland College of Art on adoption law history, and discussant for film series, in connection with *Everlasting*, a multimedia sound and video installation; Baltimore, Maryland
- May 2003 Speaker, *Shedding Light on Secrecy and Openness in Adoption* symposium; Richmond, Virginia
- April 2002 Workshop presenter, *The Real History of Birth Records Laws?*, American Adoption Congress convention; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
- 2001-present Consultant to state adoption law reform advocates (including California, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Virginia)
- 1998-2001 Committee member, American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress; Washington, D.C.
- 1998 Consultant to Children's Defense Fund on Establishment Clause issues; Washington, D.C.
- 1996-2007 Committee member, American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland, Case Review Committee
- October 1996 Two-day program for Maryland judges on writing opinions, Maryland

September 1997	Judicial Institute; Annapolis, Maryland
June 1996	Speaker, <i>The Idea of Adoption and the Uniform Adoption Act</i> , International Society of Family Law, North American Regional Conference; Quebec City, Quebec, Canada
September 1995	Workshop on writing administrative law decisions, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Care Financing Administration, Provider Reimbursement Review Board; Baltimore, Maryland
1992-1998	Committee member, Maryland State Bar Litigation Section, Appellate Practice Committee
1992-1996	Legal and editorial consultant, National Organization for Women Legal Education and Defense Fund, New York City
1988-present	Legal and editorial consulting, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; Washington, D.C. (formerly Mental Health Law Project)
1987-1988	Council member, Maryland Department of Human Resources, Interagency Child Care Council (drafting new child care regulations)

## **AWARD**

2004	“Angel in Adoption” Award, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute of the U.S. Congress
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<b>OTHER EMPLOYMENT</b>
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May 1976 - June 1977	<b>CHARLES RIVER ASSOCIATES</b> Cambridge, Massachusetts Researcher and writer for consulting firm that specialized in microeconomic and econometric analysis
	<b>THE REAL PAPER and THE BOSTON PHOENIX</b> Boston, Massachusetts Free-lance writer on the arts
August 1975 - April 1976	<b>DANVERS HERALD</b> (prize-winning suburban weekly newspaper) Danvers, Massachusetts Assistant editor, reporter, and photographer

<b>COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES</b>
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|------------------------|---|
| 1998-2004              | Committee member, Parent Advisory Committee for Math, Science, and Computer Science Magnet, Montgomery Blair High School, Montgomery County, Maryland |
| 1999-2003              | Volunteer (organizational consulting, fundraising, graphic design), D.C. Youth Orchestra Program, Washington, D.C.                                    |
| 1989-1997              | Board member, Woodside Child Care Center, Silver Spring, Maryland (President, 1995-1997)  |
| 1988-1991<br>1988-1992 | Board member, Temple Israel Pre-School, JCC of Greater Washington   |