

Aleks Kajstura, Esq.



EDUCATION

J.D., Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

2008

Concentration in Taxation

Honors: Student Fellow, Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy

Activities: Notes Editor, Cardozo Journal of Law and Gender; published Note, "Sex Required: The Impact of Massachusetts' Same-Sex Marriage Cases on Marriages with Intersex and Transsexual Partners."

B.A., Government and History, Smith College

2005

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Legal Director, Prison Policy Initiative

2009 – present

I provide legal and policy analysis for a think tank focusing on ending mass incarceration. My areas of expertise include women's incarceration and prison gerrymandering. My work highlighting mass incarceration's impact on women includes the reports *States of Women's Incarceration: The Global Context* and *Women's Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie*, both series that compile and contextualize data on the various systems of confinement in the United States.

My work to end prison gerrymandering, in brief, includes:

- Drafted state, local, and model legislation, working with local government officials across the nation to craft solutions to keep their redistricting processes from being skewed by prison populations.
- Co-authored a report that led to successful legislation in California, and provided key support to local organizations in Nevada and Washington state, resulting in those states passing legislation ending prison gerrymandering.
- Served as co-counsel in the organization's two major redistricting cases: one representing intervenor-defendants in New York, defending the law ending prison gerrymandering, and another representing amici before a federal three-judge panel in a similar case in Maryland. Served as of-counsel for plaintiffs challenging prison gerrymandering in Cranston, Rhode Island city council districts.

Law Clerk

2008 – 2009

Connecticut Superior Court, Office of Legal Research

Performed legal research and analysis on civil and criminal cases for judges throughout Connecticut. Drafted memoranda on broad range of legal issues. Analyzed party positions on pretrial and summary judgment motions. Made recommendations for disposition of motions.

Judicial Intern, Hon. Bertha D. Josephson, Associate Justice

August 2007

Hampshire Superior Court (Northampton, MA)

Performed legal research and analysis regarding current constitutional trends as well as voir dire issues. Drafted related memoranda. Attended pretrial conferences, hearings and trials.

Judicial Intern, Hon. Kenneth J. Cote, Jr., First Justice

Summer 2007

Holyoke District Court (Holyoke, MA)

Edited and drafted civil and criminal law decisions ranging from admiralty and contract law to suppression matters. Attended pretrial conferences, hearings and trials.

Advocate, Tax Clinic

Spring 2007

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

Assisted three low-income taxpayers to resolve collection disputes before IRS and Tax Court. Conferred with clients to explore factual basis for current and potential claims in tax matters, gathered initial information and conducted follow-up. In part due to my research, the IRS conceded one of my client's cases shortly after the end of the semester.

Law Clerk

2005 – 2008

Prison Policy Initiative

Led complex research project on the Massachusetts mandatory minimum school zone law. Published two reports. Governor's sentencing reform included my main recommendation. Created exhibits for Southern Center for Human Rights class action before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, to show that state statute resulted in making most habitable areas of the state off-limits to sex-offenders.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Prison Policy Initiative reports

- *Women's Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2018* (2018)
- *States of Women's Incarceration: The Global Context 2018* (2018)
- *Women's Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie* (2017)
- *States of Women's Incarceration: The Global Context* (2015)
- *Reaching too far: How Connecticut's large sentencing enhancement zones miss the mark* (2014)
- *Prison Gerrymandering in Massachusetts: How the Census Bureau prison miscount invites phantom constituents to town meeting* (2013)
- *The Geography of Punishment: How Huge Sentencing Enhancement Zones Harm Communities, Fail to Protect Children* (2008)

Presentations

- Wayne State University Law School, Gerrymandering and the Power of Boundaries Symposium, Panel: Race-Based Redistricting (2019)
- Congressional Democratic Women's Working Group, Dinner: Women in the Criminal Justice System (2017)
- Brennan Center, The Democracy Agenda: Strategies for the Midwest, Panel: Issue in Focus: Redistricting (2015)
- League of Women Voters Convention, Caucus: Prison Gerrymandering: Is It Time for Action in Your State? (2014)

BAR ADMISSION

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts

GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Vice Chair, Finance Committee, Town of Sunderland

Volunteer and "Kitchen Cabinet" member, Food Bank of Western Mass