

Maria Foscarinis
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Washington, DC 20036
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EMPLOYMENT

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

Founder and Executive Director, 1989 - present

Founded and direct national advocacy group devoted to enforcing and expanding legal rights of homeless and poor persons. Conduct legislative advocacy at local and national levels to promote new policies; litigation to enforce existing laws; direct, edit and research reports and articles. Lead fund and organizational development activities; support Board of Directors in carrying out its governance responsibilities.

Cornell University

Adjunct professor, January to April 2003

Co-taught seminar on The New Paradigm: Women, Men and Public Policy, for upper-level undergraduates participating in Cornell's semester in Washington program.

National Coalition for the Homeless

Washington Counsel, November 1985 - June 1989

Established and directed Washington office of national advocacy group. Directed campaigns to enact federal legislation to aid the homeless, including the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act; drafted portions of legislation. Successfully litigated federal actions on behalf of the homeless. Directed, edited and researched reports and articles.

Sullivan & Cromwell

Litigation Associate, 1982 - 1985

Conducted antitrust, securities, and general corporate litigation. Pro bono work including representation of homeless families denied emergency shelter in federal court class action.

Honorable Amalya L. Kears, United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

Judicial clerk, 1981 - 1982

EDUCATION

Columbia University School of Law

Juris Doctor Degree, May 1981

Columbia Law Review, Notes and Comments Editor

Note, Toward a Constitutional Definition of Punishment, 80 Colum. L. Rev. 1667 (1980)

Honors: Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, 1978 - 1979

Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Master of Arts degree in Philosophy, October 1978

Honors: John Dewey Fellowship

Barnard College

Bachelor of Arts degree, Magna Cum Laude, May 1977

Phi Beta Kappa, Honors in philosophy, Dean's list

New York State Regents Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

Articles and book chapters

Can I Get Some Remedy? (co-authored with Eric Tars, Heather Johnson and Tristia Bauman), in Columbia Human Rights Law Review (2014)

Homelessness in America: A Human Rights Crisis, 2 J. of Law in Soc'y 515 (2012)

The Human Right to Housing, Shelterforce: The Journal of Affordable Housing and Community Building (2011)

Homelessness: Action to End and Prevent the Crisis, in Mandate for Change, ed. Chester W. Hartman (2009)

The Evolution of Homelessness: Trends and Future Directions, in Homelessness in America, ed. Robert Hartmann McNamara (2008)

Finding Home, Odyssey: The World of Greece 88 (2008)

Housing Rights and Wrongs: The U.S. and the Right to Housing (with Eric Tars), in Human Rights at Home, ed. Cathy Albisa, Larry Cox, Martha Davis and Cindy Soohoo (2008)

The Growth of a Movement for a Human Right to Housing in the U.S., 20 Harvard Human Rights Journal 35 (2007)

Advocating for the Right to Housing: Notes from the U.S., 30 N.Y.U Rev. of L. and Soc. Change 447 (2006)

Responses to Homelessness: Past Policies, Future Directions and a Right to Housing (with Rob Rosenthal), in A Right to Housing, ed. Rachel Bratt and Chester Hartman (2006)

Homelessness, Litigation and Law Reform Strategies: A U.S. perspective, in Homelessness, Human Rights and the Law (symposium volume), 10 Austl. J. of Hum. Rts. 105 (2004)

The Human Right to Housing: Making the Case in U.S. Advocacy (with Brad Paul, Bruce Porter and Andrew Scherer), 38 Clearinghouse Rev. 97 (2004)

Responding to the School Mobility of Children Experiencing Homelessness: The McKinney-Vento Act and Beyond (with Patricia Julianelle), 72 J. Negro Ed. 39 (2003)

Homelessness and Human Rights, in ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, Representing the Poor and Homeless (2001)

Homelessness and Human Rights: Towards an Integrated Strategy, 19 St. Louis Pub. L.Rev. 327 (2000) (Symposium issue)

Homelessness and the Constitution, in Encyclopedia of the American Constitution, 2d ed. (Macmillan Reference) (2000)

Out of Sight, Out of Mind: The Continuing Trend Toward the Criminalization of Homelessness, 6 Geo. J. on Poverty Law & Pol'y 145 (Summer 1999)

Barring the Homeless on the Basis of Myths, Christian Science Monitor, January 5, 1998, at 15

Helping the Homeless, Christian Science Monitor, July 25, 1997, at 18

New Municipal Ordinances Regulating Homeless People (with Richard Herz), in The Police and the Homeless (M. L. Forst, ed.) (1997)

Downward Spiral: The Criminalization of Homelessness, 14 Yale L. & Pol'y Rev. 1 (1996)

The Federal Role: The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, in Homelessness in America: A Reference Book (J. Baumhol, ed.) (1996)

Shelter and Housing: Programs under the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, 29 Clearinghouse Rev. 760 (1995)

The Criminalization of Homelessness: An Overview of Litigation Theories and Strategies (with Richard Herz), 29 Clearinghouse Rev. 719 (1995)

Education of Homeless Children: Barriers, Remedies, and Litigation Strategies (with Greg Ernst), 29 Clearinghouse Rev. 754 (1995)

Converting Military Bases and Other Vacant Federal Property to Aid Homeless People, 28 Clearinghouse Rev. 1365 (1995)

Attack Homelessness, Not Homeless People, 5 CUPReport 3 (1994) (Center for Urban Policy Research, Rutgers University)

Homelessness is the Foe, Not the Homeless (with Jim Scheibel), L.A. Times (Dec. 16, 1993)

End Homelessness Now (with Jim Scheibel), 1 Geo. J. on Fighting Poverty 44 (1993)

Beyond Homelessness: Ethics, Advocacy and Strategy, St. Louis Univ. Pub. L. Rev. (1993) (symposium issue on Ethics in Government and the Legal Profession)

The Politics of Homelessness: A Call to Action, 46 American Psychologist 1232 (1991)

Federal Legislative and Litigative Strategies: An Overview, 1 Md. J. of Contemp. Legal Issues 9 (1990)

Homelessness: Federal and State Legislative Solutions, in Assisting the Homeless: State and Local Responses in an Era of Limited Resources (1988) (published by Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations)

Broken Lives: Denial of Education to Homeless Youth (with Lydia Ely), 9 Children's Legal Rts. J. 2 (1988)

Model Legislation, The Homeless Person's Survival Act of 1986 (with Kim Hopper), in Homelessness: Critical Issues for Policy and Practice (1987) (Boston Foundation)

Testimony (representative recent sample)

Disposal of Federal Real Property: Legislative Proposals, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, July 27, 2011

Federal Asset Management: Eliminating Waste by Disposing of Unneeded Federal Real Property, U.S. Senate, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security, June 9, 2011

Reauthorization of the HUD-McKinney programs, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunities, House Committee on Financial Services, Oct. 4, 2007

Protecting the Civil Rights of Homeless People, White House Domestic Policy Council Forum on Homelessness

Beyond McKinney: Policies to End Homelessness, before the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development, Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, United States House of Representatives

Blog posts: Maintain regular blog hosted by Huffington Post; contributor since 2010

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Speaking engagements include international, national, state and local conferences, national and local bar associations, law schools as well as scores of conferences, demonstrations and other events.

Regularly interviewed by international, national and local electronic and print media, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, Associated Press, NBC, CBS, CNN, and NPR.

SELECTED HONORS AND CURRENT AFFILIATIONS

Columbia Law School Alumni Association of Washington D.C., Award for Distinguished Service, (2008); Public Interest Achievement Award (2006), Columbia Law School Public Interest Foundation; U.S. Delegation to Habitat II, the world conference on cities and housing, invited (1996); John W. Macy award, National Alliance to End Homelessness (1995); Honorary Diploma from the Cephalonian Society of America (1993); Listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who of American Women and Who's Who in American Law

Vice Chair, Board of Directors, U.S. Human Rights Network (2004 to 2012)

PERSONAL

Born August 8, 1956, in New York City; languages: fluent in Modern Greek, knowledge of French.

Ceramic sculpture exhibited in several group shows. Married to Nathan Stoltzfus.