

Lara Hope Schwartz  
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## Experience

### American University

#### School of Public Affairs

<i>Professorial Lecturer</i>	2014-
<i>SPA Honors Program Director</i>	2016-
<i>Politics, Policy, &amp; Law Scholars Program Adviser</i>	2014-15
<i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	2013-14

Award: *Distinguished teaching by an SPA term faculty member, 2015-2016.*

Courses: The American Constitution; Congress and Legislative Behavior; Introduction to Law; Introduction to CLEG; Politics in the US; Washington, DC Lab; Community Service-Learning Program.

Program leadership and advising: Direct SPA program for outstanding undergraduates. Direct program admissions committees. Work with faculty to propose and create colloquia. Advise students on academic and career opportunities. Designed courses and program proposals.

#### Washington College of Law

2003-04  
2014-

*Adjunct faculty*

Courses: U.S. Constitution for international students; Statutory and Regulatory Process; Legal writing for international students; Sexual Orientation and the Law.

### Higher Achievement

*Curriculum Adviser (Pro bono)* 2015-

Estimated 2016 pro-bono hours to date: 260.

Develop curricular materials on law and social justice for out-of-school time program serving middle school scholars in four cities. Supervise undergraduate community service-learning students. Prepare teacher-training materials. Establish volunteer network to support moot court. Lead undergraduate research projects on curriculum development, Common Core alignment, engagement, and retention.

### American Constitution Society for Law and Policy

*Director of Strategic Engagement* 2013-14

Led judicial nominations advocacy. Advised candidates on nomination process. Coordinated campaigns on access to justice, judicial nominations, and constitutional interpretation. supported organization president and communications staff with press outreach and statements.

### Media Matters for America

*Senior Counsel, Courts Matter Director* 2013

Identified and corrected inaccurate reporting on the courts, and legal issues. Conducted outreach to civil rights groups, media, and consumer protection organizations.

### U.S Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions- Disability Office

*Legal Fellow* 2012

Researched and drafted reports, op-eds, and policy recommendations on matters affecting Americans with disabilities including accessibility and long-term services and supports.

### American Association of People with Disabilities

*VP of External Affairs* 2011-12

Led communications, messaging, online outreach and media strategy for nation's largest cross-disability civil rights organization. Created messaging strategy for organization and its spokespeople. Created PSA that earned \$3 million in-kind donation of air time. Drafted executive-branch policy recommendations. Cultivated connections with press. Served as organization spokesperson. Served as policy staff member.

### **Thoughts, Words, and Plans**

*Writer and strategist* 2009-2011

Drafted op-eds, speeches, press releases, and other public writings for organization principals, philanthropists, and others. Wrote reports, advocacy documents, and marketing materials for civil rights organizations. Taught personalized writing and public speaking courses.

### **Human Rights Campaign**

*Legal Director* 2006—2009

*Chief Legislative Counsel* 2005-2006

*Senior Counsel* 2002-2005

Led legal department in nation's largest civil rights organization advocating for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community. Drafted advocacy documents, speeches, op-eds, testimony, messaging, and press releases. Led team that created executive-branch policy recommendations. Created educational campaigns. Developed legislation on tax and benefits. Appeared in major media outlets as organization spokesperson. Advocated for hate crimes legislation, judicial appointments, employment nondiscrimination, defeat of Federal Marriage Amendment, and Don't Ask, Don't Tell repeal.

### **Gilbert, Heintz, & Randolph LLP**

*Associate* 2001-2002

Litigation and complex dispute resolution regarding legislative redistricting and multi-party insurance coverage.

### **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, and Flom LLP**

*Associate* 1999-2000

Defended corporations, officers, and directors in SEC investigations. Represented clients in rulemaking proceedings. Represented high school student in Americans with Disabilities Act matter.

### **Honorable Ronald Lee Gilman, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit**

*Judicial Clerk* 1998-1999

Researched legal issues. Drafted bench memoranda and judicial opinions.

## **Education**

### **Harvard Law School**

J.D. *cum laude* 1998

Co-editor-in-chief, *Harvard Negotiation Law Review*  
Family and community mediator

### **Brown University**

A.B. in English and American Literature 1993  
*magna cum laude*

Commencement Speaker  
Writing and Rhetoric Fellow, Rose Writing Fellows Program  
English Department award  
Phi Beta Kappa