

Lara Hope Schwartz  
[lschwartz@american.edu](mailto:lschwartz@american.edu)

## Experience

American University School of Public Affairs 2013--  
*Professorial Lecturer and Faculty Adviser to the Politics,  
Policy, and Law Scholars Program* 2014--  
*Adjunct Faculty* 2013-14

Courses: the American Constitution; PPL Washington Scholars Lab; University College Lab; Congress and Legislative Behavior; Introduction to Law; Introduction to CLEG.

Course design: Introduction to CLEG; Politics, Policy, and Law Scholars Capstone.

PPL Scholars: Advise students in the Politics, Policy, and Law Scholars Program on academic progress and choices, career options, and graduate school; connect Scholars with potential employers, mentors, and community service projects; assist with developing resumes and networking strategies; host events; advise student public relations committee; review applications for admission; meet with prospective students and parents; participate in university-wide events for prospective and admitted students.

American University Washington College of Law 2003--  
*Adjunct faculty*

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

American University College of Arts and Sciences 2013  
*Adjunct Faculty*

Course: College Writing

American Constitution Society for Law and Policy 2013—2014  
*Director of Strategic Engagement*  
Advocated for an independent, fair-minded federal judiciary and for preserving Americans' access to our civil justice system; coordinated projects and campaigns on constitutional interpretation and other legal issues; cultivated supporters and spokespeople for priority issues and campaigns.

Media Matters for America 2013  
*Senior Counsel, Courts Matter Director*  
Identified and corrected inaccurate reporting on the courts, legal issues, and legislation. Drafted blogs and research items debunking media myths about civil rights, access to justice, judicial and executive nominations. Conducted outreach to civil rights, media, and consumer protection organizations.

U.S Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions- Disability Office 2012  
*Legal Fellow*  
Researched and drafted reports, op-eds, and policy recommendations on matters affecting Americans with disabilities including Social Security Disability Insurance; Medicaid supports for students and others who travel across state lines; ensuring that copyrighted materials are accessible to blind and low-vision readers; and transition from education to work.

## American Association of People with Disabilities

*VP of External Affairs*

2011-2012

Led communications, messaging, on-line outreach and media strategy for nation's largest cross-disability civil rights organization. Created messaging strategy for organization and its spokespeople. Produced video assets. Created PSA that earned \$3 million in-kind donation of air time on Comcast networks. Wrote speeches and op-eds. Drafted executive-branch lobbying recommendations. Created and disseminated action alerts. Managed new media strategy. Cultivated connections with press and served as organization spokesperson. Developed organizational voice. Served as policy staff member as needed on topics including Americans with Disabilities Act, Medicaid, and regulatory work. Developed coalition partnerships to promote disability rights agenda.

## Thoughts, Words, and Plans

*Writer and strategist*

2009-2011

[www.rentlarasbrain.com](http://www.rentlarasbrain.com)

Drafted op-eds, speeches, press releases, and other public writings for organization principals, philanthropists, citizen activists, and other public figures. Prepared reports, lobby documents, fact sheets, strategic plans, messaging, and annual reports and development materials for civil rights and education organizations. Taught personalized courses in writing and public speaking for professionals.

## Human Rights Campaign

*Legal Director*

2006—2009

*Chief Legislative Counsel*

2005-2006

*Senior Counsel*

2002-2005

*Washington, DC.* Led legal department in nation's largest civil rights organization advocating for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community. Served as lead writer for president, developing organizational voice for major media, academic settings, LGBT press, coalition work, and outreach to community. Drafted advocacy documents, speeches, op-eds, congressional testimony, talking points, press releases, and statements for president and organization spokespeople. Designed and managed creation of the "Blueprint for Positive Change," a set of policy recommendations to benefit LGBT people. Created educational campaign on the courts and civil rights. Developed legislation on tax, federal benefits, and other matters affecting same-sex couples. Led effort to educate community activists and legislators on financial issues affecting same-sex couples and families. Appeared in major media outlets as organization spokesperson. Advocated for hate crimes legislation, fair-minded judicial appointments, employment nondiscrimination, defeating the Federal Marriage Amendment, Don't Ask, Don't Tell repeal, and other matters affecting the LGBT community. Collaborated on development of a middle and high school curriculum covering the role of the courts in advancing and protecting civil rights.

## Gilbert, Heintz, & Randolph, LLP

*Associate*

2001-2002

*Washington, DC.* Practiced litigation and complex dispute resolution regarding legislative redistricting, voting rights, state constitutional law, and multi-party insurance coverage. Co-recipient of Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs award for successful representation of group home for disabled adults in discrimination claim against home warranty company.

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

*Associate*

1999-2000

*Washington, DC.* Defended corporations, officers, and directors in SEC investigations and 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  
*Memphis, TN.* Researched legal issues. Drafted bench memoranda and judicial opinions.

Hogan & Hartson (Baltimore)  
*Summer Associate* 1998

Hughes, Hubbard, and Reed (DC)  
*Summer Associate* 1997

Brown, Goldstein, and Levy (Baltimore)  
*Summer Associate* 1996

## **Education**

Harvard Law School J.D. *cum Laude* 1998  
Co-editor-in-chief, *Harvard Negotiation Law Review*  
Family and community mediator  
ESL tutor, Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School  
Facilitator, “Kids in the Court,” Agassiz Elementary School

Brown University A.B. in English and American Literature  
*magna cum laude* 1993  
Commencement Speaker  
Writing and Rhetoric Fellow, Rose Writing Fellows Program  
Awarded pass with distinction: Seminar in the Teaching of Writing  
English Department award  
Phi Beta Kappa

## **Selected Publications**

ACS Blog: [LGBT Americans are Not Excluded From the Constitution](#)

Media Matters Blog posts at: <http://mediamatters.org/authors/lara-schwartz>

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights: [“Where We Need to Go: A Civil Rights Roadmap for Transportation Equity.”](#) 2011.

Edward Brooke. [“The Next Civil Rights Battle.”](#) *Boston Globe* June 22, 2010.

[“No Forsaking our Core Principles.”](#) *Legal Times* May 26, 2008.

Adequate Parenting blog: Salon [Editor’s Picks](#)

[“Justice for All? The Importance of a Fair and Balanced Judiciary to the GLBT Community,”](#) a publication of the Human Rights Campaign.

“Justice for All” facilitator’s guide (co-authored with Christopher Edelson)

“Straight Talk About Hate Crimes Bills: Anti-gay, Anti-transgender Bias Stalls Federal Hate Crimes Legislation,” 7 *Geo. J. Gender & L* 171 (2006) (with Ithti Toy Ulit, and Deborah Morgan).

Executive produced, scripted, and cast PSA [www.aapd.com/30seconds](http://www.aapd.com/30seconds)

Jessica Norwod “Medicaid Helps Disabled People Live Fully,” *Cleveland Register* 2011  
[http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2011/10/medicaid\\_helps\\_disabled\\_people.html](http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2011/10/medicaid_helps_disabled_people.html)

Anna Liebenow: Medicaid Makes meaningful life possible for me,” (AP; various publications), 2011  
[http://host.madison.com/ct/news/opinion/column/article\\_26c49f76-7bae-5d7f-8f41-1b1eabcd15b7.html](http://host.madison.com/ct/news/opinion/column/article_26c49f76-7bae-5d7f-8f41-1b1eabcd15b7.html)

Joe Solmonese, [“Originalist Sin in Her Defense.”](#) *Legal Times* October 14, 2005.

Joe Solmonese, [“Hearts and Minds Don’t Change on Their Own.”](#) *Huffington Post* October 1, 2009.

Joe Solmonese, [“Getting the Times to Catch Up with Ted Kennedy.”](#) *Huffington Post* August 26, 2009.

Joe Solmonese, [“You Can’t Take this Away from Me: Proposition 8 Broke our Hearts, But it Did Not End our Fight.”](#) *Huffington Post* November 7, 2008.

Joe Solmonese, “Tough Questions for Judge Roberts.” *Advocate.com* July 20, 2005.

Joe Solmonese, “Court Opening Leaves Equality in Question.” *Advocate.com* July 1, 2005.

Joe Solmonese, “Attacks on Judges Threaten Our Judicial System.” *Vancouver Columbian* April 25, 2005.

### **Selected Media and Speaking Appearances**

GVH Live: [Predictions for Supreme Court Marriage Case](#) June 25, 2015

Brookings Institution: [“Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Liberty: A Reconciliation,”](#) March 12, 2009.

Kojo Nnamdi Show January 31, 2011 [“Online Parenting Wars.”](#)

American Constitution Society 2008 Annual Convention-- Panel session: [Rights in Conflict: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Religious Liberty](#); : [Rights in Conflict: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Religious Liberty](#) (Windows Media Player).

Diane Rehm Show, [May 2003](#) and [September 2009](#).

[CNN Situation Room 2009](#), and other appearances on CNN and MSNBC.

[C-Span Washington Journal](#), May 16, 2008.

Federalist Society Panel Discussion: [Gay Marriage and the Role of the Judiciary](#), October 23, 2008.

Federalist Society online Debate Series [Hate Crimes Legislation](#), August 17, 2009.

[Concerned Women for America Convention 2004](#).

Numerous appearances on radio programs around the country.

Debates before university audiences;

Justice Talking (NPR) - [Gay Marriage](#), August 30, 2004;

Oral/written testimony for U.S. House of Representatives hearing and two hearings before the Maryland Judicial Proceedings Committee;

Commencement Speaker, Brown University 1993.