

**CHRIS EDELSON**  
American University, Department of Government  
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20016  
(202) 885-6218 edelson@american.edu

### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

**American University**, Washington, D.C.  
*Assistant Professor*, Government Department

Fall 2009-present

*Courses taught:* Govt 215: Civil Rights and Liberties  
Govt 220: The American Constitution  
Govt 296: The Constitution, National Security and the War on Terror (new course I created)

*Service:* Faculty Advisor, Beta Psi Chapter, Pi Sigma Alpha.

### **EDUCATION**

**Harvard Law School**, J.D., 1996

**Brandeis University**, B.A., History, 1993, *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, National Merit Scholar

### **PUBLICATIONS**

*Judging in a Vacuum, Or, Once More, Without Feeling: How Justice Scalia's Jurisprudential Approach Repeats Errors Made in Plessy v. Ferguson*, Akron Law Review (forthcoming fall 2011)

*Missed Opportunity: What We Should Have Learned From the Kagan Hearings* (Washington Lawyer, October 2010). available at:

[http://www.dcbbar.org/for\\_lawyers/resources/publications/washington\\_lawyer/october\\_2010/stand.cfm](http://www.dcbbar.org/for_lawyers/resources/publications/washington_lawyer/october_2010/stand.cfm)

*Justice for All: The Courts and Equal Rights*, with Lara Schwartz, 2006. (Curriculum on the courts and civil rights developed for use with college and high school students).

### **WORK IN PROGRESS**

*Presidential Power and the Rule of Law: From the Federalist Papers to the War on Terror* (course materials I have developed that are intended as a textbook).

## INVITED LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS

“Moving Beyond Racial Blindsight? The Influence of Social Science Evidence After the North Carolina Racial Justice Act”: Michigan State University College of Law (presentation and panel discussion with other panelists), April 2011.

“Focus on Immigration: The Immigration Debate and SB 1070”: American University, (panel discussion sponsored by University Honors Program), October 2010.

“D.C. and Gay Marriage: ‘Til Congress Do Us Part”, American University, Washington College of Law (panel discussion with Prof. Nancy Polikoff), November 2009.

“Marriage Equality: An Update”, American Constitution Society (panel discussion with Ariela Dubler, Christopher Landau, Camilla Taylor), June 2009 (Washington, D.C.).

“State Same-Sex Marriage Amendments”, Howard University School of Law, March 2009.

“Hate Crimes Against Sexual Minorities: Tolerance, Legislative Policy and the Individual”, Washington and Lee University School of Law, September 2008.

“Justice for All: LGBT People and the Courts”, University of Baltimore, October 2007.

Panel Discussion Regarding Samuel Alito Supreme Confirmation Hearing, New Democratic Majority, December 2005 (New York).

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

*April 2007  
through August 2009*

**Human Rights Campaign**

**Washington, D.C.**

*State Legislative Director*

Implemented state legislative strategy for largest national LGBT civil rights organization. Drafted press releases and gave interviews to media regarding current legislative issues. Made presentations at conferences and events.

*February 2006  
through April 2007*

**Human Rights Campaign**

**Washington, D.C**

*Open Society Institute Fellow*

Created curriculum on courts and LGBT rights, including written guide and DVD, for use with high school and college students. Taught curriculum to classes of high school and college students.

*March 2002  
through February 2006*

**Chao & Edelson, L.L.C.**

**New York, N.Y.**

*Principal*

Founding member of law firm with main practice area in employment discrimination litigation.

*March 2001  
through March 2002*

**Liddle & Robinson, L.L.P.**

**New York, N.Y.**

*Associate*

Represented plaintiffs in employment litigation.

*November 2000  
through March 2001  
and September 1996  
through October 1997*

**Gebhardt & Associates, L.L.P.**

**Washington, D.C.**

*Associate*

Represented plaintiffs in employment discrimination litigation.

*November 1998  
through November 2000*

**Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld L.L.P. Washington, D.C.**

*Associate*

Represented defendants in labor and employment litigation.

*October 1997  
through November 1998*

**Collier Shannon Rill & Scott, PLLC**

**Washington, D.C.**

*Associate*

Represented plaintiffs and defendants in employment litigation.