

Lara Hope Schwartz

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Experience

American University

School of Public Affairs

<i>Director, Project on Civil Discourse</i>	2018-
<i>Professorial Lecturer</i>	2014-
<i>SPA Honors Program Director</i>	2016-
<i>Politics, Policy, & Law Scholars Program Adviser</i>	2014-15

Direct Project on Civil Discourse, which supports students in developing their skills as listeners and communicators and opening their minds to diverse perspectives. Develop resources for faculty to facilitate inclusive and rigorous discourse in their classrooms; created tool for students to map their goals as speakers and learners; organize events with distinguished speakers on topics such as free speech, political discourse, and understanding diverse perspectives. Direct SPA Honors Program, which serves outstanding undergraduates. Advise students on academic and career opportunities. Received award for *Distinguished teaching by an SPA term faculty member, 2015-2016*. Courses taught: The American Constitution; Law and the Political System; Congress and Legislative Behavior; Introduction to Law; Introduction to CLEG; Politics in the US; Washington, DC Lab; Community Service-Learning Program.

Washington College of Law

<i>Adjunct faculty</i>	2003-04
	2014-

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

Higher Achievement

<i>Curriculum Adviser (Pro bono)</i>	2015-17
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Developed curricular materials on law and social justice for out-of-school time program serving middle school scholars in four cities. Prepared teacher-training materials. Established volunteer network to support moot court program. Led undergraduate research projects on curriculum development, Common Core alignment, engagement, and retention. Planned and hosted moot court sessions for rising 8th-grade scholars.

American Constitution Society for Law and Policy

<i>Director of Strategic Engagement</i>	2013-14
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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

<i>Senior Counsel, Courts Matter Director</i>	2013
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Identified and corrected inaccurate reporting on the courts, and legal issues. Conducted outreach to civil rights groups, media, and consumer protection organizations.

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 6th 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

Selected Publications

Huffington Post blog posts at: <https://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/lara-schwartz>

Advocates of Dignity can do Better than Death, Savannah Law Review (2016). SSRN: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2799960

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