

MICHELLE ADAMS

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University of Michigan Law School
3166 Jeffries Hall
701 S. State Street
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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan Law School

Henry M. Butzel Professor of Law (2022–present)

- 2024 L. Hart Wright Award for Excellence in Teaching (Professor of the Year Award)
- Notable institutional service: Dean Search Committee (twice: 2022-2023; 2024); University Comm. on Principles on Diversity of Thought and Freedom of Expression (twice: summer 2023; 2024)

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

Professor of Law (2007–2022)

Co-director, Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy (2011-2021)

Visiting Professor (Spring 2007)

- Professor of the Year Award from the Class of 2022
- Conceived, organized and co-taught ten week “pop-up” course:
“*The First 100 Days: The Trump Administration and the Rule of Law*” (Spring 2017)
- Notable institutional service: Chair, Faculty Development Committee (2017-2018);
Dean Search Committee (2015); Chair, Appointments Committee (2010-2011)

Brooklyn Law School

Visiting Professor of Law (Fall 2006) (offer extended)

Seton Hall University School of Law

Professor of Law (2001-2007)

Associate Professor of Law (1998-2001)

Assistant Professor of Law (1995-1998)

- Dean’s Scholar (2003-2005)
- Six-time Professor of the Year nominee
- Notable institutional service: University Provost Search Committee (2004-2005)

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA

Master of Laws, with equivalent of *cum laude* honors (1994)

Charles Hamilton Houston Fellow (first ever)

City University of New York Law School, New York, NY

Juris Doctor (1989)

Brown University, Providence, RI

Bachelor of Arts, History (1985)

SIGNIFICANT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Commissioner, Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States (2021)

BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

THE CONTAINMENT: DETROIT, THE SUPREME COURT, AND THE BATTLE FOR RACIAL JUSTICE IN THE NORTH (Farrar, Straus & Giroux) (2025) <https://us.macmillan.com/books/9780374250423/thecontainment/>

Milliken v. Bradley, a chapter in CRITICAL RACE JUDGMENTS: REWRITTEN U.S. COURT OPINIONS ON RACE AND THE LAW (Bennett Capers, et al., eds.) (Cambridge University Press) (2022)

LAW REVIEW ARTICLES AND ESSAYS

Equality of Opportunity and The Schoolhouse Gate

Reviewing The Schoolhouse Gate: Public Education, the Supreme Court, and the Battle for the American Mind by Justin Driver (with Derek Black)
128 YALE LAW JOURNAL 2302 (2019)

Integration Reclaimed: Reviewing Critical Race Consciousness by Gary Peller
46 CONNECTICUT LAW REVIEW 725 (2013)

Racial Inclusion, Exclusion and Segregation in Constitutional Law
28 CONSTITUTIONAL COMMENTARY 1 (2012)

Is Integration a Discriminatory Purpose?
96 IOWA LAW REVIEW 837 (2011)

Stifling the Potential of Grutter v. Bollinger: Parents Involved In Community School Districts v. Seattle School District No. 1
88 BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 937 (2008)

Radical Integration
94 CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 261 (2006)

Shifting Sands: The Jurisprudence of Integration Past, Present, and Future
47 HOWARD LAW JOURNAL 795 (2004)

Searching for Strict Scrutiny in Grutter v. Bollinger
78 TULANE LAW REVIEW 1941 (2004)

Grutter v. Bollinger: This Generation's Brown v. Board of Education?
35 UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO LAW REVIEW 755 (2004)

Causation, Constitutional Principles and the Jurisprudential Legacy of the Warren Court
59 WASHINGTON & LEE LAW REVIEW 1173 (2002)

Intergroup Rivalry, Anti-Competitive Conduct and Affirmative Action
82 BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 1089 (2002)

Isn't It Ironic? The Central Paradox at the Heart of Percentage Plans
62 OHIO STATE LAW JOURNAL 1729 (2001)

Causation and Responsibility in Tort and Affirmative Action
79 TEXAS LAW REVIEW 643 (2001)

The Last Wave of Affirmative Action
1998 WISCONSIN LAW REVIEW 1395

Knowing Your Place: Theorizing Sexual Harassment at Home
40 ARIZONA LAW REVIEW 17 (1998)

Separate and [Un]Equal: Housing Choice, Mobility and Equalization in the Federally Subsidized Housing Program
71 TULANE LAW REVIEW 413 (1997)

OTHER LEGAL AND SCHOLARLY COMMENTARY

THE NEW REPUBLIC, *The Integration Success Stories* (Aug. 2019)

THE NEW YORKER, *The Unfulfilled Promise of the Fair Housing Act* (Apr. 2018)

YU NEWS, *Reflections on Charlottesville. A Legal Scholar's Perspective* (Aug. 2017)

THE NEW YORK TIMES, *Under Obama, Is America "Post-Racial?"* (Sept. 2011)

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

Integrated Schools Podcast, *The Containment* (Feb. 2025)

Strict Scrutiny Podcast, *The Containment* (Jan. 2025)

SHOWTIME, *Deadlocked: How America Shaped The Supreme Court* (expert commentary) (Sept. 2023)

Bloomberg Law Podcast, *The End of Affirmative Action in College Admissions* (Jul. 2023)

NETFLIX, *Amend: The Fight For America* (expert commentary) (Feb. 2021)

NPR, *This Supreme Court Case Made School District Lines a Tool for Segregation* (Jul. 2019)

Integrated Schools Podcast, *Not In My Suburbs: Milliken v. Bradley @ 45* (Jul. 2019)

WDET-FM, Detroit Today, *The FHA Has Not Lived Up to its Promise of Desegregation* (May 2018)

Cardozo Benchmarks Video Series on U.S. Supreme Court Cases (Apr. 2016)
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project, Inc.

Cardozo Benchmarks Video Series on U.S. Supreme Court Cases, *Fisher v. UT* (Jun. 2013)

COURSES AND TEACHING

Primary: Constitutional Law, The First Amendment, Race & the Law

Secondary: Race, Law & History, Federal Civil Rights, Federal Courts, Civil Procedure, Torts

OTHER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of California, Berkeley School of Law, Visiting Scholar (Spring 2002)

Stanford Law School, Visiting Scholar (Fall 2001)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

Member, The Board of Directors, The Innocence Project (2010–2013)

Chair, Poverty Law Section, Association of American Law Schools (2003–2004)

BAR ADMISSIONS

United States Supreme Court (2003)
United States District Court, Southern District of New York (1991)
New York State Bar, Appellate Division, Second Department (1990)

OTHER AWARDS

Certificate of Excellence, Cardozo Black Law Students Association (2022)
Women's Law Initiative Faculty Honoree (2021)
Certificate of Appreciation, Cardozo Black Law Students Association (2018)
Cardozo School of Law Center for Public Service 2016 Faculty Inspire! Award (2009 & 2016)
Public Interest Law Association Alumni Award for Public Service, CUNY Law School (1996)
Staten Island NAACP Thurgood Marshall Award for Achievement in Civil Rights Litigation (1993)
Law Students Civil Rights Research Council Summer Internship Award (1987)

AMICUS BRIEFS

Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin U.S. Supreme Court 2015-2016 Term
Co-author, Brief Amici Curiae of 53 Current Members of the Texas State Senate and House of
Representatives in Support of Respondents

Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin U.S. Supreme Court 2012-2013 Term
Co-author, Brief Amici Curiae of 38 Current Members of the Texas State Senate and House of
Representatives in Support of Respondents

Parents Involved v. Seattle School District No. 1 U.S. Supreme Court 2006-2007 Term
Co-author, Brief Amici Curiae of The National Parent Teacher Association in Support of Respondents

SELECTED LEGAL AND SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

University of Michigan Law School Mar. 2025
Speaker: The "Blue Jeans" Lecture (given annually by the winner of the 2024 L. Hart Wright
Award for Excellence in Teaching)
"What I've Learned"

Michigan State University College of Law Feb. 2025
Speaker: Faculty Workshop
The Containment: Detroit, The Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North

Detroit Historical Museum Feb. 2025
Speaker: (in conversation with Paul Dimond)
The Containment: Detroit, The Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North

The Center for Brooklyn History Jan. 2025
Speaker: (in conversation with Aaron Robertson)
The Containment: Detroit, The Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North

Politics and Prose Bookstore Jan. 2025
Speaker: (in conversation with Sheryll Cashin)
The Containment: Detroit, The Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North

Ann Arbor District Library Jan. 2025
Speaker: (in conversation with James Tobin)
The Containment: Detroit, The Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North

University of Michigan Law School Panelist: Summer Faculty Workshop <i>Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College</i>	Aug. 2023
University of Michigan Law School Speaker: Faculty Workshop <i>The Containment: Detroit, The Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North</i>	Feb. 2020
Columbia University Panelist: Awakening Our Democracy: Divided We Stand? <i>Reflections on the U.S. Political Landscape Awakening our Democracy</i>	Nov. 2018
Seton Hall Law School Speaker: Faculty Workshop <i>The Containment: Detroit, The Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North</i>	Apr. 2018
Duke Law School Law Speaker: Identity and Politics Workshop <i>The Containment: Detroit, The Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North</i>	Feb. 2018
Rutgers Law School Speaker: Faculty Workshop <i>The Containment: Detroit, The Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North</i>	Nov. 2017
Columbia Law School Speaker: Critical Race Theory Colloquium <i>The Containment: Detroit, The Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North</i>	Oct. 2017
University of Virginia School of Law, Center for the Study of Race and Law Speaker: Racial Justice Reform after Obama: Reconsidering Goals and Means <i>The Containment: Detroit, The Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North</i>	Jun. 2017
Fordham University School of Law, Center on Race, Law & Justice Speaker: University Colloquium on Race and Ethnicity <i>The Containment: Detroit, The Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North</i>	Oct. 2016
University of Iowa College of Law Speaker: Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop <i>The Containment: Detroit, The Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North</i>	Jul. 2016
Loyola Law School, Los Angeles Speaker: Faculty Workshop <i>The Containment: Detroit, The Supreme Court, and the Battle for Racial Justice in the North</i>	Feb. 2016
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Panelist: John Roberts and the Judicial Process <i>Ten Years the Chief: Examining a Decade of John Roberts on the Supreme Court</i>	Oct. 2015
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Moderator & Panelist: Conversations on the Constitution <i>The 2015-2016 Supreme Court Term</i>	Sep. 2015

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Moderator: Author Meets Reader <i>The Great Dissent: How Oliver Wendell Holmes Changed His Mind – and Changed the History of Free Speech in America</i> by Thomas Healy	Sep. 2013
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Panelist: Conversations on the Constitution <i>The 2013-2014 Supreme Court Term</i>	Aug. 2013
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Moderator: Conversations on the Constitution <i>The Supreme Court Tackles Same-Sex Marriage</i>	Apr. 2013
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Moderator & Panelist: Conversations on the Constitution <i>The 2012-2013 Supreme Court Term</i>	Sep. 2012
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Moderator: Conversations on the Constitution <i>Fisher v. University of Texas</i>	Mar. 2012
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Moderator: Author Meets Reader <i>Is Marriage for White People?: How the African American Marriage Decline Affects Everyone</i> by Ralph Richard Banks	Nov. 2011
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Moderator & Panelist: Conversations on the Constitution <i>The 2011-2012 Supreme Court Term</i>	Oct. 2011
Seton Hall Law School Moderator: Third National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference <i>The Jurisprudence of Justice John Paul Stevens</i>	Sep. 2010
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Moderator: The Content and Context of “Hate Speech” Conference <i>Rethinking Regulation and Remedies “Hate Speech,” Discrimination and Segregation</i>	May 2010
Duke Law School Panelist: From Slavery to Freedom to the White House: Race in 21 st Century America Conf. <i>New Ideas for Old Challenges: Promoting Civil Rights and Racial Justice</i>	Apr. 2010
Anti-Defamation League, New York Lawyers’ Division Panelist: 16 th Annual Edward Brodsky Legal Conference <i>Race & the Law in the Age of Obama and the Roberts Court</i>	Mar 2010
Seton Hall Law School Speaker: Faculty Workshop <i>Is Integration A Discriminatory Purpose?</i>	Mar 2010
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Participant: Public Moot of Counsel for the Respondent in <i>Ashcroft v. Iqbal</i> (in the Supreme Court of the United States October Term, 2008)	Nov. 2008

Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association Panelist & Organizer: Author Meets Reader <i>The Lost Promise of Civil Rights by Risa Goluboff</i>	Jun. 2008
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Panelist: Conversations on the Constitution <i>Is the Constitution Color Blind?</i>	Oct. 2007
Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association Panelist: Law and Society in the 21 st Century: Transformations, Resistances, Futures <i>The Future of 'Separate but Equal' Across Race, Sex, and Sexual Orientation</i>	Jul. 2007
Hofstra University School of Law Speaker: Faculty Workshop <i>Toward a Unified Standard for Evaluating the Constitutionality of Racial Preferences</i>	Feb. 2007
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Speaker: Faculty Workshop <i>Toward a Unified Standard for Evaluating the Constitutionality of Racial Preferences</i>	Jan. 2007
Brooklyn Law School Speaker: Faculty Workshop <i>Toward a Unified Standard for Evaluating the Constitutionality of Racial Preferences</i>	Nov. 2006
Brooklyn Law School Speaker: Sparer Public Interest Law Program <i>Sparer Lecture</i>	Nov. 2006
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Panelist: Author Meets Reader <i>Covering by Kenji Yoshino</i>	Oct. 2006
Brooklyn Law School Speaker: Constitution Day Program <i>Supreme Court, Current Term</i>	Sep. 2006
Seton Hall University School of Law Speaker: Faculty Workshop <i>Toward a Unified Standard for Evaluating the Constitutionality of Racial Preferences</i>	Aug. 2006
University of Minnesota Law School Panelist: With All Deliberate Speed: <i>Brown II</i> and Desegregation's Children Conf. <i>Racial Integration in Grutter and Gratz</i>	May 2005
Brooklyn Law School Speaker: Faculty Workshop <i>Radical Integration</i>	Apr. 2005
Case Western Reserve School of Law Speaker: Faculty Workshop <i>Radical Integration</i>	Apr. 2005

Historical Society of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey Panelist: Annual Attorney General's Lecture Series <i>Fifty Years After Brown: Are We There Yet?</i>	Apr. 2004
St. John's University School of Law Panelist: <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> at Fifty: Have We Achieved Its Goals? Conf. <i>Achieving Diversity in the Classroom</i>	Nov. 2003
University of Toledo College of Law Panelist: Conference on the Fiftieth Anniversary of <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> Current Issues Related to Brown	Oct. 2003
Lavender Law Conference, The National Lesbian and Gay Law Association Panelist: <i>The Supreme Court's Vision of Diversity for the 21st Century: A Comparative Analysis of Lawrence and Grutter</i>	Oct. 2003
Tulane University School of Law Panelist: Symposium on <i>Brown to Grutter: Affirmative Action and Higher Education in the South</i> <i>Deconstructing Grutter and Gratz: Constitutional Analysis</i>	Sep. 2003
Harvard University Panelist: Colorlines Conference: Segregation and Integration in America's Present and Future <i>Beyond Equity: Extending the Diversity Defense</i>	Sep. 2003
Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting Moderator: Poverty Law Section <i>Issues Relating to the 2002 Census</i>	Jan. 2003
Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis Speaker: Faculty Workshop <i>Intergroup Rivalry, Intergroup Competition and Affirmative Action</i>	Apr. 2002
Washington & Lee School of Law Panelist: A Symposium on the Jurisprudential Legacy of the Warren Court <i>Institutional Role of the Federal Courts</i>	Mar. 2002
Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting Session Leader: Session on Housing and Law <i>Workshop on Property, Wealth and Inequality</i>	Jan. 2001
Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting Session Leader: Session on Pedagogy: Constitutional Law/Civil Rights/Education <i>Workshop on Property, Wealth and Inequality</i>	Jan. 2001
American University, Washington College of Law Panelist: <i>Identities, Intimacies and Cash: Re-Theorizing Commodification</i>	Jun. 2000
Seton Hall University School of Law Keynote Speaker: On Becoming a Lawyer <i>Orientation Exercises</i>	Aug. 1999
Law & Society Annual Meeting Panelist: <i>Intersections of Law, Oppression and Culture</i>	May 1999

Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting Panelist: Poverty Law Section <i>The Privatization of Poverty Law</i>	Jan. 1999
University of Miami School of Law Plenary Speaker: Symposium: Fair Housing 1968 – 1998: Promises Kept, Promises Broken <i>Theorizing Sexual Harassment at Home</i>	Feb. 1998
Fordham University School of Law Panelist: Symposium: Lawyering for Poor Communities in the 21 st Century <i>Visions for the Future</i>	Nov. 1997
Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting Panelist: Property Section <i>Developing Fair Housing in a Multiracial Society</i>	Jan. 1996
Seton Hall University School of Law Moderator: Symposium: Mount Laurel – What Lessons Have We Learned? <i>Housing Mobility</i>	Oct. 1996