

EKOW NYANSA YANKAH

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GENERAL BIO

Ekow N. Yankah is the Associate Dean for Faculty and Research, the Thomas M. Cooley Professor of Law and a professor of philosophy at the University of Michigan. His work focuses on questions of political and criminal theory and, particularly, questions of political obligation and justifications of punishment.

Professor Yankah's work has appeared in law review articles, peer reviewed legal theory journals, books, and medical journals, including *NOMOS*, *Ratio Juris*, *Law and Philosophy*, *Criminal Law and Philosophy*, *Stanford Law Review*, *Texas Law Review* and the *Harvard Law and Policy Review* among others.

He has been a distinguished visiting faculty member at the University of Toronto School of Law and a visiting fellow at the Israeli Institute of Advanced Studies, among others. His work has been translated into Italian and Spanish. He has delivered a number of named lectures including the Melden Lectures at the University of California, Irvine, Department of Philosophy and been recognized as a "Visionary Scholar" by Michigan State University School of Law.

Yankah's interests have also led him to develop expertise in voting rights and election law. He served for years as the co-chair of the New York Democratic Lawyers Council (NYDLC), the voting rights arm of the New York Democratic party and the coordinating arm of the DNC. In 2020, the NYDLC honored him with the Guardian of Democracy Award. That year, he was appointed to New York's Public Campaign Finance Board, which he served as chairman for nearly three years.

He also sits on multiple nonprofit and start-up boards, including the Innocence Project, where he was recognized as an Advocate for Justice in 2017. He maintains a public presence writing for publications spanning *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post* and *The Chicago Tribune*, among others, and has been a regular commentator on criminal law and policing issues on television and radio, including NBC, CNN, MSNBC, BBC, BBC International, NPR and PBS.

His students have recognized Yankah numerous times for his dedication to teaching, including an Inspiration Award from the Cardozo student body. He also received the Cardozo Alumni of the Year Award from Cardozo BALLSA, becoming the first non-Cardozo graduate or faculty member to be recognized.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF LAW, Ann Arbor, Michigan
2022-Present

Thomas M. Cooley Professor of Law; Professor of Philosophy (by courtesy)

Subjects: Jurisprudence and Legal Theory, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and Torts

Awards, Service and Other: Provost Advisory Committee

CARDOZO LAW SCHOOL, New York, New York
2011-2022

Professor of Law

Affiliated Scholar, Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization

Subjects: Jurisprudence and Legal Theory, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and Torts

Awards, Service and Other: BALLSA Alumni of the Year Award (First Non-Cardozo Graduate or Faculty Member Awarded); Top 50 Under 50 Law Professors; Faculty Inspire Award; ABA Law School Review Committee (Curriculum Reform); Chair – (Lateral and Entry-Level) Appointments Committee, Chair –

Diversity Committee; Chair - Faculty Development Committee; Chair - Adjunct Faculty Hiring

Faculty Advisor: BLSA; Cardozo Democrats; Cardozo American Constitution Society; Unemployment Action Center; Journal of International and Comparative Law

2008-2011

Associate Professor of Law

2007

Visiting Associate Professor of Law

NYU SCHOOL OF LAW, New York, New York

2022

Adjunct Professor

Subjects: Criminal Law

FORDHAM LAW SCHOOL, New York, New York 2010,

2012

Adjunct Professor

Subjects: Torts

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, SCHOOL OF LAW, Champaign, Illinois

2005

Richard W. and Marie L. Corman Scholar and Assistant Professor of Law

Member: Law and Philosophy Program; Program in Criminal Law and Procedure

Subjects: Jurisprudence and Legal Theory, Torts and Criminal Procedure

Awards, Service and Other: Black Law Students Association Award for Special Service; University-wide Senator; University-wide Senate Committee on Student Discipline; University-wide Senate Committee on Student Discipline Special Steering Committee.

BOIES, SCHILLER & FLEXNER LLP, New York, New York 2003

Associate, Complex Commercial Litigation

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, New York, New York

2000

Law and Philosophy Research Fellow/Legal Discourse Fellow

VISITING AND FELLOWSHIPS

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON, DICKSON POON SCHOOL OF LAW

Visiting Professor of Law – (Fall 2019)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCHOOL OF LAW, Toronto, Canada

Distinguished Visiting Faculty Member - (Oct. 2017)

THE INTERDISCIPLINARY, RADZYNER LAW SCHOOL, Herzliya, Israel

Visiting Professor of Law – (May – June, 2017)

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES, HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Jerusalem, Israel

Visiting Fellow – (Spring 2016)

PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Prison Conditions as Civic Betrayal, (forthcoming in PUNISHMENT THEORY MEETS PUNISHMENT PRACTICE) (HART PUBLISHING)

Taking Victims Seriously: Punishment as Equality Affirming, _ MICH. ST. L. REV. _ (Invited “Visionary Article Series”) (forthcoming)

Securing the Past: Moral and Political Battles, in TIME, MEANING, AND VALUE (OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS) (forthcoming)

Deputization and Privileged White Violence, 77 STAN. L. REV. 703 (2025)

Should Vulnerable Victims Show Mercy?, 102 TEXAS L. REV. 1515 (2024)

Police Killings as Felony Murder, 17 HARV. L. & POL'Y REV. 157 (2022)

Whose Burden to Bear?: Privilege, Lawbreaking and Race. Symposium on Tommie Shelby's DARK GHETTOS: INJUSTICE, DISSENT, AND REFORM in 16 CRIM. LAW AND PHIL. 13 (2022)

Mandatory Voting and Black Citizenship, 90 FORDHAM L. REV. 639 (2021)

Provider Care Team Segregation and Operative Mortality Following Coronary Bypass Grafting, 14 CIRCULATION _ , (2021) (with Dr. John Hollingsworth, et. al.)

Reckless Racism and Mens Rea in Criminal Punishment, 53 ARIZONA ST. L. REV. 681 (2021)

Punishing Them All: How Criminal Justice Should Account for Mass Incarceration, 97 RES PHILOSOPHICA 185 (2020)

The Right to Reintegration, 23 NEW CRIMINAL LAW REVIEW 74 (2020)

The Place of Retributivism in Punishment, 71 RUTGERS L. REV 1003 (2020)

Race, Criminal Law and Ethical Life in PALGRAVE HANDBOOK ON APPLIED ETHICS AND THE CRIMINAL LAW (2019)

The Sovereign and the Republic: A Republican View of Political Obligation, LXI NOMOS 102 (2019)

Pretext of Justification: Republicanism, Policing and Race, 40 CARDOZO L. REV. 1543 (2019)
Reprinted in part in *A Republican Vision of Policing*, in THE CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF POLICING IN THE UNITED STATES (2019)

Legal Hypocrisy, 32 RATIO JURIS 2 (2019)

Book Review: *The Failure of "Rights" in Racial Justice: Comments on From Slave Abuse to Hate Crime by Ely Aaronson*, 14 JERUSALEM REVIEW OF LEGAL STUDIES 192 (2017)

Facing Terror Together: Public Agents and Civic Worth, 2 CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF LAW 244 (2015)

Republican Responsibility in Criminal Law. 9 CRIM. LAW AND PHIL. 457 (2015)

Legal Vices and Civic Virtue. 7 CRIM. LAW AND PHIL. 61 (2012) *Reprinted in* ARISTOTLE AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF LAW: THEORY, PRACTICE AND JUSTICE (IUS GENTINUM: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON LAW AND JUSTICE) (EDS. LIESBETH HUPPES-CLUYSENSAER & NUNO M.M.S. COELHO) (2013)

When Justice Can't Be Done: The Obligation to Govern and Rights in the State of Terror. 31 LAW AND PHIL. 643 (2012)

Book Review: *Crime, Freedom and Civic Bonds: Arthur Ripstein's Force and Freedom*. 6 CRIM. LAW AND PHIL. 255 (2012)

[Liberal Virtue](#) in LAW, VIRTUE AND JUSTICE (ALALIA AMAYA AND HO HOCK LAI EDS.; OXFORD: HART PUBLICATIONS) (with reply by Anthony Duff) (2011)

[A Paradox in Overcriminalization](#). 14 NEW CRIMINAL LAW REVIEW 1 (2011)

Book Review: [Peter de Marneffe, Liberalism and Prostitution](#), in NOTRE DAME PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW (2010)

[Virtue's Domain](#). 2009 U. ILL. L. REV. 1167 (2009)

[The Law of Duty and the Virtue of Justice](#). 27 CRIM. JUST. ETHICS 67 (2008) (symposium including Anthony Duff, Jeff McMahan, Andrew Von Hirsch and Andrew Ashworth; reply by George Fletcher)

[The Force of Law: The Role of Coercion in Legal Normativity](#). 42 U. RICH. L. REV. 1195 (2008)

IN PROGRESS

BOOK PROJECT: FOR WE ARE ALL BONDED: POLITICAL OBLIGATION, FRANCHISE AND CRIMINAL LAW

Franchise as a Republican Value: Pursuing the Common Good

Republican Rights and (De)Criminalization

Franchise, Ancient and Modern: Franchise as a Political Value

Republicanism and the Rule of Law

Rawlsian Conjecture, Secular Communication and Exclusion

The Right to Condemn

The Second-Person Point of View, Rights and Child Criminals

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND PARTICIPATION

Deputization and Privileged White Violence – University of California (Irvine), School of Philosophy - The Melden Lectures

Race, Punishment and Social Bonds – Swarthmore College – The Gilbert Lecture

Franchise as a Republican Value: Pursuing the Common Good – Loyola University (New Orleans) Philosophy Department; Northwestern University Philosophy Department

Republican Rights and (De)Criminalization – Republican Theories of Criminal Law Conference

Republicanism, Policing and Race – Villanova Law School Faculty Workshop; Minnesota Law School – The Future of Criminal Law (Keynote Speaker);

Franchise, Ancient and Modern: Franchise as a Political Value – American Philosophical Association (Central Division Meeting) Jurisprudence Section; New Voices in Legal Theory, St. Andrews, Scotland

Republican Responsibility in Criminal Law – UCLA Legal Theory Workshop; Berkeley GALA Seminar; Robina Institute – University of Minnesota School of Law

The Sovereign and the Republic: A Republican View of Political Obligation – University of Pennsylvania Center for Ethics and Rule of Law; Kings College (London) New Waves in Legal and Political Theory; IVR – Belo Horizonte, Brazil

MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law and Neuroscience – Invited Commenter - interdisciplinary collaboration to aimed at exploring ways to deploy neuroscientific insights to improve the fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system while avoiding neuroscientific evidence in criminal law contexts.

Legal Hypocrisy - Cardozo Junior Faculty Workshop; Columbia Law School Lieber Colloquium; University of Toronto; University of Baltimore School of Law Faculty Workshop; University of Alabama School of Law Faculty Workshop; University of Pennsylvania School of Law Faculty Workshop; NYU Political Theory Workshop; Princeton Center for Human Values

Legal Vices and Civic Virtue - World Congress of Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy, Frankfurt (Special Workshop Aristotle and the Philosophy of Law: Theory, Practice and Justice) (Workshop on Legal Normativity and the Philosophy of Practical Reason); Rutgers Law School (Newark) Symposium on Vice and Crime; Cardozo Law School Faculty Workshop

Rethinking Criminal Law Theory: New Canadian Perspectives in the Philosophy of Domestic, Transnational, and International Criminal Law – Commenter, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

Rawlsian Conjecture, Secular Communication and Exclusion – Annenberg/Oxford Summer Institute (Oxford, England); Central European University (Budapest)

When Justice Can't be Done: The Obligation to Govern and Rights in the State of Terror - Cardozo Symposium on The Obligations of Sovereignty; Cardozo Junior Faculty Workshop; The New Voices in Legal Theory Conference, St. Louis; University of Buffalo Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy; University of North Carolina State Philosophy Department Public Lectures

Liberal Virtue - University of Colorado Speaker's Colloquium; University of Illinois Faculty Workshop; Criminal Law Theory Workshop; Cardozo Faculty Workshop; Oxford University Jurisprudence Working Group; World Congress of Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy (Beijing)

A Paradox in Overcriminalization – Symposium on Overcriminalization, Pace Law School

Conference on Terrorism, Human Security and Human Rights – Commenter, Jindal Global Law School, New Delhi, India

Virtue's Domain - Prawfsfest – New Voices Roundtable; Rutgers University (New Camden) School of Law Faculty Workshop; Cardozo Law School Faculty Workshop; Washington University School of Law Regional Junior Faculty Workshop; Law and Society – Theories of Punishment; New Voices in Legal Theory Roundtable; Pace Law School Faculty Workshop

The Force of Law: The Role of Coercion in Legal Normativity - The University of Illinois School of Law Faculty Workshop; The Chicago-Kent School of Law - University of Illinois School of Law Faculty Workshop; University of Notre Dame School of Law Faculty Workshop; University of Virginia School of Law - Law and Humanities Workshop; Cardozo Law School Bauer Workshop

Contributing Editor, Jotwell (Jurisprudence Section): Eds. Brian Bix and Brian Tamanaha

Refereed Articles in various law reviews, legal theory and philosophy journals including *The Harvard Law Review*, *The Monist*, *Law and Philosophy*, *Oxford University Press*, *Criminal Law and Philosophy* and *The New Criminal Law Review*

PROFESSIONAL ROLES

NEW YORK STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS, PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD, Albany, New York
2020-2022

Chairman

Appointed as the first Democratic Member of the New York's statutorily created Public Campaign Finance Board, a bi-partisan committee to construct the infrastructure and regulations to implement the nation's largest campaign finance matching program.

Elected Chairman.

Beginning from initiation, with no staff or program, was responsible for building and hiring the Democratic staff, including the Democratic Co-Executive Director and Democratic Co-General Counsel. Built a diverse team, of nearly 50 employees focused on the ability to serve diverse New Yorkers across education, race and class. Negotiated with Republican counterparts, resolving contentious issues and ultimately pass the program's regulations. Led coordinating efforts with technical team to construct matching funds Information Technology systems for candidates. Directed a State-wide budget of over \$14M dollars and managed total matching funds of ~\$250M dollars. Stepped down immediately before launch due to statutory prohibition on non-New York residents working for the Board of Elections.

THE INNOCENCE PROJECT, New York, New York
2010-Present

Board of Directors; Executive Board

Recognized as an "Advocate for Justice," Nov. 2017

Spearheaded "Jazz for Justice" Fundraising Campaign, securing Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra to host an intimate fundraiser, raising over \$1M dollars.

MOTHER JONES MAGAZINE, San Francisco
2020-Present

Board of Directors; Governance Committee

Chairman

Core responsibilities include governing regulations, search and recruitment of new Board members.

AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY, New York, New York
2010-Present

New York Executive Board Member

NEW YORK DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS COUNCIL, New York, New York
2008-2020

Co-Chair

Recognized as the “Guardian of Democracy,” Aug. 2020

Op-Eds and Public Commentary

Modern Day Segregation in Hospitals is Killing Black Patients, Salon, June 26, 2021 (with John M. Hollingsworth and Brahmajee K. Nallamothu)

Prisoners are Getting Whiter. That’s One Way Mass Incarceration May End, Washington Post, February 26, 2021 (with Keith Humphreys)

New York’s Next Shot to Strengthen Our Democracy, Gotham Gazette, February 24, 2021

Trump’s Racism is Bad for White People Too, New York Daily News, October 19, 2020

Dismantling Obstacles to Voting in NY, Newsday, August 28, 2020

Racialized Violence Never Takes A Break: On The Killing Of Ahmaud Arbery, New York Daily News, May 08, 2020

Can My Children Be Friends With White People?, New York Times, November 11, 2017

Cardozo Law Professor Perfectly Explains What Trump Stands For, Huffington Post, November 16, 2016
(www.aol.com/video/view/cardozo-law-professor-perfectly-explains-what-trump-stands-for/58264bc0c7480e44b98f03b7/?a_dgi=aolshare_facebook)

Trump and the Country We Lost, Huffington Post, November 8, 2016

No Wave of Compassion When Addicts Were Hooked on Crack, PBS NewsHour, March 29, 2016

When Addiction Has a White Face, New York Times, February 9, 2016

Why NCAA Athletes Shouldn’t be Paid, The New Yorker, October 14, 2015

Seeing Walter Scott, The New Yorker, April 12, 2015

Eric Garner’s Value, Huffington Post, December 12, 2014

Ferguson’s Easy Answers, Huffington Post, September 2, 2014

The Truth About Trayvon, New York Times, July 15, 2013

Why Government is Virtuous, Huffington Post, July 4, 2013

Electoral fairness held prisoner, Albany Times Union, May 17, 2011 (with Leonard Kohen)