

Amy Laura Cahn

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia, PA

J.D., *magna cum laude*, May 2009

Honors: Toll Public Interest Scholar; Legal Research and Writing Honors; Philadelphia Bar Association award for outstanding pro bono work

Activities: Organizer, 27th Annual Edward V. Sparer Symposium, *Redefining Aggregate Welfare: Revitalizing a City in Pursuit of Economic Justice*; Founder, Penn Law Environmental Law Project; Executive Board, Lambda Law; Member, Penn Law Immigration Clinic; Senior Editor, *Journal of Law and Social Change*

Legal Externships and Clerkships: Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Justice Section (New York, NY); Advocates for Environmental Human Rights (New Orleans, LA); Transnational Legal Clinic (University of Pennsylvania Law School); Delaware Riverkeeper Network River Resources Law Clinic (Bristol, PA); Equality Advocates Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)

Hunter College, New York, NY

B.A., *summa cum laude*, Urban Studies, September 2004

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Attorney and Interim Director

2018 to present

Healthy Communities and Environmental Justice Program

Environmental Justice and Energy Staff Attorney

2017 to 2018

Conservation Law Foundation, Boston, MA

- Managed a regional team of advocates to identify and implement legal and policy solutions to environmental, climate, food, and transportation justice challenges throughout New England.
- Developed and launched a community lawyering program to center the lives of and co-powering with environmental justice communities.
- Led advocacy for civil rights compliance in energy facilities siting, equitable approaches to energy transition planning and energy efficiency, and the next generation of environmental, climate, and civil rights legislation for Massachusetts.
- Provided leadership organization-wide on racial and economic equity through strategic planning and in support of multiple programs and state offices.
- Expanded the program budget to exceed one million dollars and the program's advocacy team to the equivalent of over thirteen full time employees working in six states.

Staff Attorney and Director, Garden Justice Legal Initiative 2013 to 2017
Skadden Fellow 2011 to 2013

The Public Interest Law Center, Philadelphia, PA

- Used law, policy, education, and organizing to support community-based clients, with a focus on environmental, climate, food, and land justice.
- Represented parents in litigation ensuring that the Pennsylvania Department of Education abides by its regulatory responsibility to investigate allegations of curriculum deficiencies in public schools.
- Lead counsel for five years to residents advocating for the rights and health of an environmental justice floodplain community and site of the largest urban renewal project in history.
- Launched the nation's first urban agriculture law clinic to provide legal, policy, education, and organizing support to community gardens and market farms.

Community Organizer for Eastern Pennsylvania 2004 to 2006

American Civil Liberties Union of PA, Philadelphia, PA

- Organized Students' Constitutional Rights Institute on LGBTQ rights and the law.
- Spearheaded statewide PATRIOT Act reform coalition.

Campaign Researcher 2002 to 2004

Pratt Area Community Council, Brooklyn, NY

- Developed community-based participatory research project to test homes for lead hazards.
- Co-authored report of findings utilized to overturn New York City's lead laws.

Founding Collective Member 1999 to 2002

Bluestockings Women's Bookstore, New York, NY

- Founding member/owner of collectively run bookstore and community space committed to fostering the voices of and empowering people of marginalized genders.
- Bluestockings remains one of thirteen remaining feminist bookstores in North America.

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

Honorable Michael M. Baylson, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania

2010–2011, Philadelphia, PA.

Honorable Stephen Skillman, Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division

2009–2010, Trenton, NJ.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Our "Rights Are Not Cast In Stone:" Post-Katrina Environmental Red-Lining and the Need for a Broad-Based Human Right Lawyering Movement, 12 U. PA. J. L. & SOC. CHANGE 42 (2009).

Visiting Professor

Acting Director, Environmental Justice Clinic, Spring and Summer 2021

Vermont Law School

Lecturer

Climate Change Planning, Policy, and Action, Spring 2021

Tufts University, Departments of Urban & Environmental Policy and Planning and Environmental Studies

Co-Lecturer

Green New Deal Superstudio, Fall 2020

University of Pennsylvania, Urban Studies Department

Arthur Littleton and H. Clayton Louderback Legal Writing Fellow, Fall 2008

University of Pennsylvania Law School

Guest Lectures

Guest Lecturer on urban agriculture and food justice for Food Justice Seminar, Professor Julian Agyeman, Tufts University, October 6, 2020.

Guest Lecturer on environmental and climate justice for Land Use Law and Policy, Provost Wendell Pritchett, University of Pennsylvania Law School, April 3, 2020.

Guest Lecturer on urban agriculture and food justice for Food Justice Seminar, Professor Julian Agyeman, Tufts University, October 1, 2019.

Guest Lecturer on just transition lawyering for Law and Social Movements: Race, Place, and Climate Change, Professor Abigail Reyes, UCI School of Law, April 3, 2019.

Guest Lecturer on urban agriculture and food justice for Food Justice Seminar, Professor Julian Agyeman, Tufts University, October 2, 2018.

Guest Lecturer on movement building, urban agriculture, and environmental justice for Community and Economic Development Practice, Professor Domenic Vitiello, Department of City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania, March 29, 2016.

Guest Lecturer on urban agriculture and data for Geography and the Environment, Professor Peleg Kremer, Villanova University Law School, March 29, 2016.

Guest Lecturer on urban planning, policy, and agriculture for Food Systems Planning, Professor Mahbubur R. Meenar, Department of Community and Regional Planning, Temple University, October 19, 2015.

Guest Lecturer on environmental justice for Fundamentals of Environmental Health, Professor Pouné Saberi, Jefferson University College of Population Health, May 12, 2015.

Guest Lecturer on community lawyering and urban agriculture, Social Justice Lawyering Clinical Seminar, Professor Jennifer Lee, Temple Law School, November 10, 2014.

Guest Lecturer on urban agriculture and movement building, Social Justice Institute, Professor Andrew Lamas, University of Pennsylvania, July 12, 2013.

Guest Lecturer on urban agriculture policy, Environmental Law and Justice, Professor Heather L. Demirjian, Rutgers-Camden Urban Studies Department, April 19, 2012.

PUBLICATIONS

Massachusetts Environmental Justice Blog Series, CLF Blog (May-June 2020)
<https://www.clf.org/blog/tag/ma-environmental-justice-bill-series>.

What Eastwick Wants? in Megan Haberle and Heidi Kurniawan, ed. *Strategies for Health Justice: Lessons from the Field*, Poverty & Race Research Action Council (2018)
https://rosefdn.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/12/health_justice_rpt1.pdf.

(with Paula Z. Segal), *You Can't Common What You Can't See*, 1 FORDHAM URB. L. J. 43 (2016).

(with Paula Z. Segal), *There Are 596 Acres Of Vacant Public Land In Brooklyn Alone and Other Strategies For Making the Potential Commons Visible and Actionable*, presented at the International Association for the Study of the Commons Conference, Bologna, Italy, November 6, 2015.

(as Grounded in Philly) *Vacant Land 215 Toolkit* (2015) available at https://www.pubintlaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/land_toolkit_webrev.pdf.

Supporting Our Land Stewards: Building a Constituency to Change Policy and Preserve Philadelphia's Gardens, 8 CITIES & THE ENVIRONMENT (2015).

Lessons from the Philadelphia Land Bank, LA Open Acres Blog (April 3, 2014) available at <http://blog.laopenacres.org/lessons-from-the-philadelphia-land-bank/>.

On Retiring Blight as Policy and Making Eastwick Whole, 49 HARV. C.R.-C.L. L. REV. 450 (2014).

(with Mahbubur R. Meenar, Jeffrey P. Featherstone, Ph.D., and Julia McCabe) *Urban Agriculture in Post-Industrial Landscape: A Case for Community-Generated Urban Design*, presented at the International Society of City and Regional Planners Congress (2012).

Pennhurst: The Road to Civil Rights for People with Intellectual Disabilities, (2009) (video documentary).

Our "Rights Are Not Cast In Stone:" Post-Katrina Environmental Red-Lining and the Need for a Broad-Based Human Right Lanyering Movement, 12 U. PA. J. L. & SOC. CHANGE 42 (2009).

(with Gabriel Thompson) *The Politics of Poison: Why One Out of Three Bedford-Stuyvesant Children are Growing Up in Housing that Impair Their Cognitive Development*, Pratt Area Community Council (2003).

CONFERENCE TALKS AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

Environmental and Climate Law, Policy, and Justice

Invited Panelist, *Imagining the Just Transition to a Fossil-Free Future*, A Tipping Point: Harvard Civil Rights Civil Liberties 55th Anniversary Conference, March 7, 2020.

Invited Panelist, *Civil Rights and the Environment*, Suffolk University Law School, October 1, 2019.

Invited Panelist, *Municipal Organizing for Environmental Justice*, *Rebellious Lawyering*, Yale Law School, February 16, 2019.

Panelist, *Democratizing Research for Environmental Justice and Health*, *Frontiers of Democracy*, Tufts University, June 20, 2019.

Invited Speaker, *What would a Massachusetts Green New Deal Look Like*, March 13, 2019.

Invited Panelist, *In a Just City Closing the Gaps: Addressing Racial and Economic Inequalities in Greater Boston-Transportation* Kitty and Michael Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy, Northeastern University, October 19, 2018.

Invited Speaker, *Cumulative Effects of Exposure*, *Environmental Health and Environmental Justice in Pennsylvania: Where Do We Go From Here?* University of Pennsylvania, September 30, 2014.

Invited Presenter, *Taking Back Our Place by Greening Our Space*, United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 Beyond Translation Initiative, May 16, 2013.

Land Use, Access, Preservation, and Sovereignty

Paper Presentation, *You Can't Common What You Can't See*, 4th Annual International & Comparative Urban Law Conference, Cape Town, South Africa, July 17, 2017.

Invited Panelist, *Land Conservation Opportunities*, *Homes Within Reach* Conference, November 17, 2015.

Paper Presentation, *"There Are 596 Acres of Vacant Public Land In Brooklyn Alone," And Other Strategies For Making The Potential Commons Visible And Actionable*, International Association for the Study of the Commons Conference, Bologna, Italy, November 6, 2015.

Invited Panelist, *Land in the City: Access and Development*, Massachusetts Urban Farming Conference, March 28, 2015.

Facilitator, *Law and Policy Tools to Access Land & Grow Food in the City*, Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture Farming for the Future Conference, Pennsylvania State University, February 4, 2015.

Invited Moderator, *Secure Land for Urban Agriculture* Symposium, Equity Trust, December 12, 2014.

Facilitator, *Food for the People: Tactics to Claim Land and Increase Food Sovereignty*, Growing Power Conference, November 8, 2014.

Conference Organizer and Moderator, *Developing Models for Predictable Land Tenure*, Turning Vacant Acres Into Community Resources, The New School, April 23, 2014.

Invited Panelist, *Tierra y Libertad, Land and Liberty*, Allied Media Conference, Wayne State University, June 19, 2013.

Panelist, *Transformative Tactics to Increase Land Tenure Equity*, Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society, Michigan State University, June 18, 2013.

Workshop Facilitator, *Food for the People: Tactics to Claim Land and Increase Food Sovereignty*, Just Food Conference, March 30, 2013.

Panelist, *Transformative Tactics for Land Tenure: Promoting Food Sovereignty through Connecting Communities to Vacant Land*, Toronto Urban Agriculture Summit, 2012

Presenter, *Building Land Tenure for Philadelphia Gardeners and Farmers*, Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development Annual Conference, St. Joseph's University, February 24, 2012.

Food and Agriculture Policy and Justice

Presenter and Facilitator, *Building Solidarity for Food and Land Sovereignty*, Facing Race Conference, November 11, 2016.

Invited Presenter, *Pennsylvania Local Food Issues*, Agricultural Law Forum, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, November 4, 2016.

Invited Panelist, *Food Justice Panel*, International Federation of Library Associations Conference Food Justice, Philadelphia Free Library, August 11, 2016.

Invited Presenter discussing Philadelphia Mayor's Food Policy Advisory Council, Urban Sustainability Directors Network Webinar, July 27, 2016.

Invited Panelist, *Food Justice Panel*, Youth Action Assembly, Urban Creators, July 27, 2016.

Keynote, West Virginia Farm and Food Coalition Conference, September 18, 2015.

Invited Presenter, *Community Gardens & Market Farms: Dismantling Barriers Through Organizing, Education, Policy, and Partnership*, Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference, May 7, 2015.

Invited Speaker, *Seed Sovereignty*, Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture Farming for the Future Conference, Pennsylvania State University, February 4, 2015.

Invited Tour Leader, *Community Gardens And Urban Agriculture*, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, October 31, 2014.

Presenter and Facilitator, *Community-Based Urban Agriculture Law & Policy*, Urban Agriculture Law Conference, University of Maryland Law School, September 19, 2014.

Invited Panelist, *Food: Sustainability & Access*, New Directions in Environmental Law Conference, Yale Law School, February 25, 2012.

Data and Technology

Invited Panelist, *#Change: The Role of Online Activism in Social and Political Movements*, Law 2.0: Progress and Challenges for Justice in the Digital Age, Edward V. Sparer Symposium, University of Pennsylvania Law School, November 14, 2014.

Invited Panelist, *Mapping the Sustainable City*, Temple University Office of Sustainability, October 23, 2014.

Invited Panelist, *How Technology Influences Local Food Practices*, Philly Tech Week, April 11, 2014.

Invited Presenter, *Civic Hacks of 2013 Demo Night*, Technical.ly Philly, December 6, 2013.

Planning and Design

Invited Panelist, *Pop Ups, Preservation and Permanence: The New Frontier for Gardens and Open Space in Philadelphia*, Design Advocacy Group, Philadelphia Center for Architecture, August 4, 2016.

Invited Panelist and Facilitator, *Strengthening Design Through Community*, American Institute of Architects National Convention, May 18, 2016.

Invited Speaker, *Urban Agriculture in Ecological Cities: Form, Landscape, Community, and Zoning*, Sustainability Lecture Series, Temple University, March 15, 2012.

Lawyering

Invited Plenary Speaker, *Community Lawyering in Philadelphia: Exploring the Role of Lawyers in Building Stronger Movements for Social Change*, Public Interest Law Day CLE Program, Philadelphia Bar Association, December 8, 2016.

Invited Panelist, *Innovative Lawyering Strategies*, Skadden Fellows Symposium, May 20, 2016.

Invited Panelist, *Empowering, Not Dominating: Organizing, Training, and Partnering with Low Income Communities on Food Access*, Just Food? Forum on Justice in the Food System, Harvard University Law School, March 28, 2015.

Community Development

Invited Presenter, *Stabilizing Neighborhoods through Vacant & Abandoned Property Initiatives*, Penn State Extension Land Use Webinar Series, April 13, 2016.

Invited Panelist, *Land Banks, Urban Agriculture and Other Greening Initiatives*, Environmental Law Forum, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, April 8, 2015.

Invited Panelist, *Turning Ugly Ducklings into Swans: Converting Vacant Municipal Properties into Urban Gardens and Farms*, ABA Section of State and Local Government Law 2015 Spring Meeting, April 23, 2015.

Panelist, *Philadelphia Urban Ag: Movement Building and Moving Past Interim Use*, Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference, May 21, 2015.

Invited Panelist, *Sustainable City: Urban Development in Philadelphia*, National Lawyer's Guild Drexel Law School Chapter, January 30, 2014.

Invited Panelist, *A Conversation on Land Banking: Is it a New Tool for Land Preservation?* Pennsylvania GreenSpace Coordinating Committee, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, November 6, 2013.

Conference Organizer and Moderator, *Land Use & Economic Development*, Public Interest Law Center Symposium on Privatization: Looking Out For The Public Good, University of Pennsylvania Law School, September 12, 2013.

Economic Justice

Invited Speaker, *Advancing the Solidarity Economy Movement: Connecting Cities and Regions for Economic Justice*, United States Social Forum, June 27, 2015.

Conference Organizer, *Redefining Aggregate Welfare: Revitalizing a City in Pursuit of Economic Justice*, 27th Annual Edward V. Sparer Symposium, University of Pennsylvania Law School, March 21, 2008.

Community Workshops

Presenter/Facilitator, *Into the Weeds: Vacant Land 215*, Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations, November 1, 2016.

Presenter/Facilitator, Land Access and Seed Workshop, Free Library of Philadelphia, October 29, 2016.

Presenter/Facilitator, Land Access, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, April 18, 2016.

Presenter/Facilitator, Land Access, Nicetown Community Development Corporation, July 23, 2015.

Presenter/Facilitator, Land Access, New Kensington Community Development Corporation, March 10, 2015.

Presenter/Facilitator, Land Access, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, December 2, 2014.

Presenter, Land Bank and City Council Testimony Training, Take Back Vacant Land Coalition, October 13, 2014,

Invited Moderator, *Making It Work: Challenges and Benefits in Urban Farming*, Urban County Fair, North Philly Peace Park, September 14, 2014.

Presenter/Facilitator, Land Access, Philadelphia Free Library, June 10, 2014.

Invited Presenter, *Tools & Tactics for Community Land Access*, Citizens Planning Institute, Philadelphia City Planning Commission, November 13, 2013.

Event Organizer and Presenter, Growing Healthy Communities, Overbrook Environmental Education Center, November 16, 2013.

Presenter/Facilitator, Land Access, Philly Farm & Food Festival, April 14, 2013.

Presenter/Facilitator, Land Access, Norris Square Civic Association, April 1, 2013.

Presenter/Facilitator, Land Access, United Communities, February 1, 2013.

Presenter/Facilitator, Land Access, Congresso, February 1, 2013.

Public Testimony

General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, briefing on civil rights legislation for Massachusetts legislators and staff, January 28, 2020.

General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, briefing on zero emission vehicle legislation for Massachusetts legislators and staff, September 17, 2019.

General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Hearing of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, regarding environmental justice legislation, June 4, 2019.

General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, briefing on environmental justice legislation for Massachusetts legislators and staff, May 7, 2019.

General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Hearing of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, regarding H. 437, An Act Relative to Consumer Access to Residential Energy Information, May 2, 2018.

Philadelphia City Council Committee on the Environment on Urban Agriculture on behalf of Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council, September 21, 2016.

Philadelphia City Council Committee on Commerce & Economic Development regarding the implementation of the Abandoned and Blighted Property Conservatorship Act of Pennsylvania, September 19, 2016.

Philadelphia City Council Committee on Finance regarding stormwater fee exemption for community gardens, on behalf of Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council, June 2, 2016.

Philadelphia City Council Committee on the Environment on the State of the Environment, March 18, 2015.

Philadelphia City Council Committee on Public Property and Public Works in support of the Philadelphia Land Bank five-year strategic plan, December 1, 2014.

Philadelphia City Council members and staff on litigation against Pennsylvania Department of Education alleging violation of legal obligation to investigate allegations of curriculum deficiencies in public schools, November 5, 2014.

Philadelphia City Council Committee on Law and Government in support of charter change to create Office of Sustainability, April 28, 2014.

Philadelphia City Council Committee on Law and Government in support of publishing regulations online, April 28, 2014.

Philadelphia City Council Committee on Public Health and Human Services regarding the implementation of the Abandoned and Blighted Property Conservatorship Act of Pennsylvania, March 4, 2014.

Philadelphia City Council Committee of the Whole in support of the creation of the Philadelphia Land Bank, November 21, 2013.

Philadelphia City Council Committee on Public Property and Public Works in support of the creation of the Philadelphia Land Bank, October 28, 2013.

Philadelphia City Council Committee of the Whole on zoning proposal to eliminate community gardens and market farms from commercial mixed use zones, January 24, 2013.

Philadelphia City Council Committee on Rules on zoning proposal to eliminate community gardens and market farms from commercial mixed use zones, December 4, 2012.

Philadelphia City Council Committee on Rules regarding environmental justice implications for rezoning proposal for Southwest Philadelphia neighborhood of Eastwick, June 12, 2012.

Philadelphia City Council Committee on Transportation and Public Utilities regarding flooding in the Southwest Philadelphia neighborhood of Eastwick, October 9, 2012.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Recognized with a Citation from Philadelphia City Councilman Kenyatta Johnson for “love, time, and talents directed to the growth and wholeness of others and the betterment of the Eastwick community” (2018)

Honored by the Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition in recognition of service, leadership, and commitment to humanity and community activism in Eastwick (2018)

Recognized with the passage of a Resolution by the Philadelphia City Council for substantial contributions to the city of Philadelphia, as well as dedication to the empowerment of communities through community control of land, sustainable and equitable urban gardening and farming, and the pursuit of environmental justice (2017)

Young Alumni Award, University of Pennsylvania Law School Law Alumni Society (2015)

Environmental Justice Trailblazer Award, Bread and Roses Community Fund (2015)

One of Grid Magazine's 10 Philadelphians Making Change by Empowering Others (2015)

Community Partner Award, HIAS Pennsylvania (2014)

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Alumni Advisory Board Member and Co-Chair of Curriculum Committee (2019 to present), *University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School Office of Inclusion and Engagement*

Member designee for Conservation Law Foundation (2018 to 2020), *Massachusetts Zero Emission Vehicle Commission*.

Board Member (2012 to 2017), *Neighborhood Gardens Trust*, Philadelphia, PA

Advisory Board Member (2013 to 2017), *595 Acres*, Brooklyn, NY

Member (2016 to 2017), *Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Urban Agriculture Working Group*

Expert Resource (2015 to 2017), Eastwick Lower Darby Creek Area Community Advisory Group, *United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 3*, Philadelphia, PA

Co-Chair (2015 to 2017), Urban Agriculture Subcommittee Chair (2012 to 2015), Appointed Member (2012 to 2017), Urban Agriculture and Governance and Membership Subcommittees Member (2011 to 2017), *Philadelphia Mayor's Food Policy Advisory Council*, Philadelphia, PA

Board Co-chair (2012 to 2017), Board Member (2011 to 2017), *Bread and Roses Community Fund*, Philadelphia, PA

Inaugural Advisory Board Member (2010 to 2015), *Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative*, New Orleans, LA

SELECTED TRAINING

Emerging Leaders Program, Center for Collaborative Leadership, University of Massachusetts Boston (2018-2019)

R. Nicholas Gimbel Trial Advocacy Training Program (2016)

Chesapeake Region Food Policy Leadership Training Institute (2014)

Human Rights Institute, Urban Justice Center Human Rights Project (2013)

Anti-Racism Training, People's Institute for Survival and Beyond (1998)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania (2009), New Jersey (2009), District of New Jersey (2009)