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| **Kristen Bell**  **Assistant Professor**  **the University Of Oregon School of Law** |
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# EDUCATION

**Stanford Law School, J.D.**, June 2013

Honors: Justice John Paul Stevens Fellowship

Judge Henderson Prize for Outstanding Performance in Supreme Court Clinic

Fellowship for the Study of Professional Ethics at Auschwitz

Journal: Stanford Law and Policy Review, Senior Editor, Articles Committee

**University of North Carolina, Ph.D., Philosophy**, August 2010

Dissertation: “Mercy and Criminal Justice”

Honors: University Fellowship; Robert Bryan Public Service Fellowship

**Stanford University, B.A., Philosophy**, June 2005

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, University Distinction, Honors in Ethics in Society, Robert M. Golden Medal for Excellence in Humanities, Mothershead Prize in Moral/Political Philosophy

# ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

**University of Oregon School of Law, Assistant Professor**, 2018-present

**University of Oregon Philosophy Department, Affiliate Faculty Member**, 2020-present

**Senior Liman Fellow and Lecturer, Yale Law School**, 2016 – 2018

# ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS: Articles and Book Chapters

*Legality, Dignity, and Discretion in Parole-Release Decisions*, in Oxford Handbook of Sentencing (in press, 2025)

*State Constitutional Prohibitions Against Unnecessary Rigor in Arrest and Confinement,*Tennessee Journal of Law and Policy, vol. 17, 124-246 (2025)

*Using Machine Learning to Scrutinize Parole Hearings,* Berkeley Technology Law Journal, vol. 40, 233-284 (2025) (co-author with Jenny Hong, Catalin Voss, Graham Todd, and AJ Alvero)

*The Forgotten Jurisprudence of Parole and State Constitutional Doctrines of Vagueness.* Cardozo Law Review, vol. 44, 1953-2023 (2023)

*Critical Mercy in Criminal Law.* Law and Philosophy, vol. 42, 351–378 (2023) [Peer-reviewed]

*The Recon Approach: A New Direction for Machine Learning in Criminal Law.* Berkeley Technology Law Journal, vol. 37, 821-859 (2022) (co-author with Jenny Hong, Nick McKeown, and Catalin Voss)

*A Normative Theory of Parole Grounded in Agency.*Philosophical Issues, vol. 31, Issue 1, 24-40 (2021)

*A Stone of Hope: Legal and Empirical Analysis of California Juvenile Lifer Parole Decisions*. Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review, vol. 54, 455-548 (2019)

*A Reparative Approach to Parole Release Decisions*, in Rethinking Punishment in the Era of Mass Incarceration (Chris W. Surprenant ed., Routledge 2018)

*Sentencing Inside Prisons: Efforts to Reduce Isolating Conditions*, UMKC Law Review (2018) (co-author with Judith Resnik)

*Prisoners as Patients: The Opioid Epidemic, Medication-Assisted Treatment, and the Eighth Amendment*, 46 The Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics 252 (2018) (co-author with Michael Linden, Sam Marullo, Curtis Bone, and Declan T. Barry)

*Our Ethical Obligation to Treat Opioid Use Disorder in Prisons: A Patient and Physician’s Perspective*,46 The Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics 268 (2018) (co-author with Curtis Bone , Lindsay Eysenbach, and Declan T. Barry)

# AMICUS BRIEFS AND EXPERT REPORTS

Amicus Brief of Law Scholars in Criminal, Administrative, and Constitutional Law, filed in *In re* *Palmer I* (California Supreme Court, Case No. S252145, 2019)

Amicus Brief of The Sentencing Project, filed in *In re Palmer II* (California Supreme Court, Case No. S256149, 2021)

Expert Report in *Ex Parte Jermaine Hicks* (Bexar County District Court, Texas, No. 96-CR-2086, 2023)(co-author with Greg Bell)

# OTHER PUBLICATIONS

*The Little-Known State Constitutional Prohibition Against ‘Unnecessary’ Criminal Punishments*, State Law Research Initiative Behind the Bench Newsletter (August, 2025)

*Policy Brief: A New Direction for Machine Learning in Criminal Law*, Stanford HAI(Human-Centered Aritfical Intelligence), co-author with Jenny Hong, Nick McKeown, and Catalin Voss (December 2021)

*Untitled Essay* in A Voice for Justice: Writings of David Schuman (Sharon J. Schuman, ed., Oregon State University Press 2021).

*Wisdom on Wheels,* Oregon Law Review Tribute to Judge David Schuman (2020).

*A Telling Lack of Justice*, The Register Guard (Jun 18, 2020, Op-Ed)

*More Integrity Behind Convictions*, The Register Guard (Sept 5, 2020, Op-Ed)

*California Parole Hearings Weighted Against People of Color, Those Without Private Attorneys,* Juvenile Justice Information Exchange (October 2019)

*Aiming to Reduce Time-in-Cell: Reports from Correctional Systems on the Numbers of Prisoners in Restricted Housing and on the Potential of Policy Changes to Bring About Reforms*, Association of State Correctional Administrators and the Arthur Liman Public Interest Program (2016) (co-author with Liman Center colleagues and students)

# PRESENTATIONS AND COMMENTS

*Executive Power and Parole: Empirical Analysis of California Governor Reversals of Parole-Release Decisions*, CrimFest 2025.

Panelist, *Symposium: State Constitutions & The Limits Of Criminal Punishments*, Rutgers Law School and State Law Research Initiative, 2024.

*Juvenile Lifer Parole in California, Ten Year Review*, Law and Society Conference, 2024; CrimFest 2024.

*Deploying Large Language Models to Monitor the Fairness of Parole Board Decisions*, ABA Criminal Justice Section Spring Institute on *Unlocking Justice: Navigating the Future of Law with Advances in Forensics, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence,* 2024

Comments on Alec Walen’s manuscript *Punishment, Penalty and Incapacitation*, Criminal Law Books Workshop at Villanova, 2024

Speaker and participant at *Deconstructing Punishment to Reconstruct Justice*, workshop hosted by Harvard Radcliffe Institute, 2024

*A Race, Tech, & Justice Salon: Exploring Machine Learning for a New Direction in Criminal law,* discussion hosted by NYU Law School’s Center on Race, Inequality and the Law, 2023

*State Constitutional Prohibitions Against “Unnecessary Rigor,”* CrimFest and Decarceration Law Professors Work in Progress Workshop 2023; UO Faculty Colloquium 2023

Commentson *What Imprisonment Is* by Hadassa Noorda, Legal Philosophy Workshop, 2023

*Using Machine Learning to Investigate the Role of Attorneys and Commissioners at Lifer Parole Hearings*, virtual workshop on parole research, 2023

*Legality, Dignity, and Discretion in Parole-Release Decisions,* UO Law Faculty Colloquium, 2023

*The Forgotten Jurisprudence of Parole and State Constitutional Doctrines of Vagueness,* AALS Criminal Law Section Works-in-Progress Workshop and American Constitution Society Junior Scholars Workshop

*The Forgotten Jurisprudence of Parole,* virtual workshop on parole research, 2022

*Analysis of Lifer Parole-Release Decisions in California,* American Society of Criminology, 2022

*The Forgotten Jurisprudence of Parole and the Void for Vagueness Doctrine,* Drexel Kline School of Law faculty colloquium, 2021

*Reconsidering Justice Behind Bars with Emerging Technology*, Work in Progress Presentation with Oregon Humanities Center, 2021.

*Theoretical Structure of Indeterminate Punishment,* workshop on parole research, 2021

*Forgotten Jurisprudence of Parole,* Rocky Mountain Junior Scholars Conference, 2020

*A Normative Theory of Parole,* Legal Philosophy Workshop, 2020

*Machine Learning in Law: Toward Technology that Reconsiders Discretion in Criminal Law*, University of Oregon Machine-Learning Group, 2019

*Two Concepts of Mercy,* University of Oregon Philosophy Department Colloquium, 2019

*Machine-Learning in Parole-Release Decisions*, Neuroscience, Ethics, and Law in an Era of Big Data, UO 2019

*A Stone of Hope: Legal and Empirical Analysis of California Juvenile Lifer Parole Decisions*, American Constitution Society Junior Scholars Workshop at AALS 2019

*Risk Assessments at Juvenile Lifer Parole Hearings*, American Psychology-Law Society, 2019

*Democratizing Mercy,* Amintaphil: Democracy, Populism, and Truth, Boston University, 2018

*Juvenile Lifers and the Possibility of Parole*, American Society of Criminology Meeting, 2018

*Should I Think You’re Dangerous?*, Experimental Jurisprudence Workshop, Yale Law, 2017

*A Meaningful Opportunity for Release?*, Conf. on Empirical Legal Studies, Cornell Law, 2017

*Discretion and Discrimination*, New Directions in Legal Philosophy, All Souls College, Oxford, 2017

*Limiting Discretion in Discretionary Release*, Chapel Hill Moral & Political Philosophy Workshop, 2017

*Reforming Criminal Law: Juvenile Sentencing and Non-Ideal Theory*, PPE Society Conf., 2017

*Incarceration as Transformative Experience*, Philosophy & Mass Incarceration Conf., Yale University, 2017

# GRANTS

**Russell Sage Foundation**, *Using Machine Learning to Analyze Equity in Parole-Release Decisions*, 2025

**Oregon Humanities Center Fellowship**, 2021

**State Law Research Initiative Grant**, 2020

**Soros Justice Fellowship, USC Post-Conviction Justice Project**, 2014 – 2016 (Los Angeles, CA)

Research, advocacy, and in-prison education for people serving life sentences for juvenile convictions. Host organization: USC Post-Conviction Justice Project

# TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**University of Oregon** (Fall 2018 – present)

Criminal Law

Advanced Appellate Advocacy

Sentencing and Corrections

Introduction to Criminal Law (Undergraduate)

Mercy and the Rule of Law (Undergraduate Inside-Out seminar taught in prison)

**Yale Law School** (2017-2018)

Imprisoned, with Judith Resnik, A.T. Wall, and Anna VanCleave

Rationing Access to Justice in Democracies: Fees, Fines, and Bail, with Judith Resnik and Anna VanCleave

**UNC-Chapel Hill** (2008-2009)

Morality and Law, introduction to philosophy of law, with units on equality and punishment

Bioethics, introduction to ethical theory, with units on abortion, euthanasia, research ethics

**In Prisons**

Co-taught seminar Stanford graduate students at San Quentin State Prison, Democracy and Incarceration, 2012, and International Perspectives on Mass Incarceration, 2013

Philosophy Discussion Group Leader, C.A. Dillon Youth Development Center, North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, 2007, 2009, 2010

# SERVICE ON ADACEMIC COMMITTEES

Legal Studies Committee, 2024 – present

Appointments Committee, 2022 – 2024

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, 2021-2022, 2018-2019

Curriculum Committee, 2019-2020

# LEGAL SERVICE AND EMPLOYMENT

**Commissioner, Oregon Law Commission**, 2024 – present

**Commissioner, Oregon Public Defense Services Commission**, 2019 – 2020 (Salem, OR)

**Pro bono attorney**, 2015-present

Amicus brief and appellate briefs on juvenile life sentences; direct representation at parole hearing

**Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court**, 2013 – 2014 (Boston, MA)

Law clerk for the Honorable Fernande Duffly, retired Associate Justice

**Sullivan & Cromwell, LLC**, June – July, 2013 (Palo Alto, CA)

Researched and drafted trial motion; wrote memos for pro bono project on immigration detention

**Southern Center for Human Rights**, June – August, 2012 (Atlanta, GA)

Wrote habeas corpus briefing, investigated jail conditions, represented client at parole hearing

**Center for Death Penalty Litigation**, June – August, 2011 (Durham, NC)

Wrote habeas corpus briefing, edited petition for writ of certiorari, interviewed jurors, visited clients

**Community Law Clinic**, January – March, 2013 (Stanford, CA)

Represented clients in criminal record expungement, eviction, and Social Security benefits hearing

**Three Strikes Project**, September – March, 2013 (Stanford, CA)

Represented client in re-sentencing under the Three Strikes Law

**Supreme Court Litigation Clinic**, September – March 2011 (Stanford, CA)

Researched and drafted petition for writ of certiorari, merits brief, and reply brief with team

# BAR MEMBERSHIP

California State Bar, 2014-present