

KAREN M. TANI

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, PA

Ph.D. Candidate, American History

M.A., American History, 2007

Dissertation: “Securing a Right to Welfare: Public Assistance Administration and the Rule of Law, 1938-1960”

Honors: School of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Scholar, 2008-2009 (presented annually to twenty students who exhibit “exceptional academic performance and intellectual promise”)

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL, Philadelphia, PA

J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2007

Honors: Order of the Coif
Fred. G. Leebron Memorial Prize (Best Paper in Constitutional Law)
Legal Writing Honors

Activities: *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, Senior Editor
Asian Pacific Americans Law Student Association

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, Hanover, NH

B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2002

History (with high honors)

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa
Pan-Asian Coalition Thesis Prize
Presidential Scholar

Activities: Writing Tutor for the Dartmouth College Composition Center
Research Assistant for Professor Annelise Orleck
Varsity Women’s Soccer

EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL, Philadelphia, PA (2008 - present)

George Sharswood Fellow in Law and History

Courses taught: Employment Discrimination Law, Social Welfare Law.

Research interests: American legal history, American welfare state development, administrative law, poverty law, the discourse of rights.

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS, SECOND CIRCUIT, New Haven, CT (2007-2008)

Law Clerk to the Honorable Guido Calabresi

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, PA

Teaching Assistant

American Legal History, Professor Mary Frances Berry (Fall 2006)

U.S. War and Diplomacy, Professor Bruce Kuklick (Spring 2006)

American Capitalism, Professor Walter Licht (Fall 2005)

Research Assistant

American legal and political history, Professor Thomas Sugrue (Summer 2004)

Art and museum law, Professor Steven Urice

(Summer 2004)

DECHERT, LLP, Philadelphia, PA
Summer Associate

(Summers 2005, 2006)

PUBLICATIONS

“Where Law Meets Poverty,” in BLACKWELL COMPANION TO AMERICAN LEGAL HISTORY (Sally Hadden and Alfred Brophy, eds.) (forthcoming 2010) (with Felicia Kornbluh).

“The House that ‘Equality’ Built: The Asian American Movement and the Legacy of Community Action,” in THE WAR ON POVERTY AND STRUGGLES FOR RACIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE: VIEWS FROM THE GRASSROOTS (Annelise Orleck and Lisa Hazirjian, eds.) (under contract with University of Georgia Press, due 2010).

Flemming v. Nestor: *Anticommunism, the Welfare State, and the Making of ‘New Property,’* 26 LAW & HIST. REV. 379 (2008).

Review, *Champion of Civil Rights: Judge John Minor Wisdom* (2009), LAW & HIST. REV. (forthcoming 2010).

Review, *A People’s History of Poverty in America* (2008), 15 J. CHILDREN & POVERTY (2009).

Goldberg v. Kelly, 397 U.S. 254 (1970), in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES (Macmillan/Gale, 2008).

Lalli v. Lalli, 439 U.S.259 (1978), in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES (Macmillan/Gale, 2008).

Mathews v. Eldridge, 424 U.S. 319 (1976), in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES (Macmillan/Gale, 2008).

**SELECTED
CONFERENCES**

Annual Meeting of the American Society for Legal History, November 2009. Presented “Administering ‘Welfare Rights’: ‘Fair Hearings’ in Public Assistance in the 1940s.”

Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, May 2009. Presented “Cold War ‘Security’ and the Welfare State: Dashed Hopes and New Opportunities.”

Annual Meeting of the American Society for Legal History, November 2006. Presented “*Flemming v. Nestor*: Anticommunism, the Welfare State, and the Making of ‘New Property.’”

University of Pennsylvania Humanities Forum, March 2005. Presented “‘Harlem On My Mind’ and the Dreams of a ‘Limousine Liberal.’”

War on Poverty Conference, Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton University, November 2003. Presented “Asian Americans and the Community-Based Development Movement.”

**SERVICE,
PRIZES, &
AWARDS**

American Society for Legal History, Director (elected graduate student representative), 2008-2011.

Legal History Fellow, Hurst Summer Institute in Legal History, 2009.

American Society for Legal History Kathryn T. Preyer Scholar, 2006.

**ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION**

Completed the University of Pennsylvania Center for Teaching and Learning Teaching Certificate.

Granted Top Secret security clearance by the U.S. Department of Justice, based on a full field background investigation completed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation

Enjoys long-distance running (completed six marathons).