

## SHANI M. KING

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Professor of Law  
University Term Professor  
University of Florida Levin College of Law  
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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW, Gainesville, FL  
*Director, Center on Children and Families* 2015–Present  
Co-Director, Center on Children and Families 2009–2015  
University of Florida Research Foundation Professor of Law 2015–2018  
*Professor of Law* 2013–Present  
*Associate Professor* 2010–2013  
*Assistant Professor* 2007–2010

UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW, Center for American Law Studies, Warsaw, Poland  
*Visiting Professor* May–June 2009  
Course on U.S. family law.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, MA  
*Teaching Fellow, Children and Their Social Worlds (Social Analysis 56)* Spring 1999  
Teaching fellow for course offered in the social analysis section of the undergraduate core curriculum, which considered the social problems facing children in the context of contemporary cultural, historical, legal and psychological knowledge.

### PRACTICE

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LEGAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, INC., San Francisco, CA  
*Staff Attorney* 2004–2007

MORVILLO, ABRAMOWITZ, GRAND, IASON & SILBERBERG, New York, NY  
*Litigation Associate* 2003–2004

FRIED, FRANK, HARRIS, SHRIVER & JACOBSON, New York, NY  
*Associate, White-Collar Criminal Defense, Securities Litigation* 2000–2003

EDUCA, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
*Harvard Sheldon Knox Traveling Fellow* 1999–2000

### RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

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Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA  
*Research Assistant to Professor Charles Ogletree* Summer 2000

## EDUCATION

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University of Oxford, MSt., International Human Rights Law July 2012

Harvard Law School, J.D. June 1999

Activities:

*Co-Chair*, Community Service Committee,

Harvard Black Law Students Association (HBLSA)

*Director*, Mentoring Program Initiative, HBLSA

*Teacher's Aid/Tutor*, The Bell Foundation

*Cross-Registration at Harvard Graduate School of Education:*

School Law, Informing Educational Policy in Developing Countries

*Cross-Registration at Harvard:* Spanish

Thesis:

“Education as a Fundamental Constitutional Right”

Thesis Advisor, Professor Martha Minow

Brown University, B.A., Public Policy and the Law May 1995

Activities:

Varsity Football

1991–1993

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS, COMMITTEE SERVICE, & BRIEFS

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Teaching and research interests in international human rights, children’s rights and family law; the role of children’s counsel in various contexts; family autonomy in traditionally underserved populations; immigration law and legal ethics.

Committee Service: Promotion & Tenure; Appointments; Search, Assistant Dean for Admissions; Adjunct Teaching; Faculty Development; Strategic Planning; Diversity & Admissions Task Force; Facilities & Technology.

Author and co-author of appellate briefs in the Florida District Courts of Appeal, the Florida Supreme Court, and the U.S. Supreme Court on adoption, custody, and juvenile justice.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### ARTICLES

*Contextualizing (Children’s) Immigration in Law, History, Theory and Politics*, MICH. ST. L. REV. (forthcoming 2021).

*Cooperative Federalism and SIJS*, 61 B.C. L. REV. 8 (2020) (with Nicole Silvestri Hall)

*Unaccompanied Minors, Statutory Interpretation, and Due Process*, 108 CALIF. L. REV. (2020) (with Nicole Silvestri Hall).

*Child Migrants and America's Evolving Immigration Mission*, 32 HARV. HUM. RTS. J. 59 (2019).

*Immigration, Adoption and Our National Identity*, 26 DUKE J. GENDER L. & POL'Y 85 (2019) (focus of a symposium at Duke Law School for which the discussants were Dean Kerry Abrams and Prof. Katheryn Bradley).

*The Intersection of Juvenile Justice and Early Childhood: How to Maximize Family Engagement*, FLA. L. REV. FORUM (2019) (Shani King, Hannah Ayasse, Alyssa Mikytuck, Rachel F Barr, Jennifer F. Woolard, and Terry HARRAK) (invited).

*Life-Changing Decisions: Exploring Proximal and Distal Motivations Behind Why American Parents Adopt Domestically or Internationally*, 18 GLOBAL J. HUM. SOC. SCI. 1 (2018) (Yu Zhang, Victor W. Harris, David Diehl, Shani M. King, Alison Schmeer, & Kyra Speegle).

*Lessons from the Baby Elmo Project: Fostering the Relationships Between Incarcerated Teen Parents and Their Young Children*, 93 N.C.L. REV. 1381 (2015) (with Jennifer Woolard & Rachel Barr) (invited).

*The Hague Convention and Domestic Violence: Proposals for Balancing the Policies of Discouraging Child Abduction and Protecting Children from Domestic Violence*, 38 FAM. L.Q. 299 (2013).

*Alone and Unrepresented: A Call to Congress to Provide Counsel for Unaccompanied Minors*, 50 HARV. J. ON LEGIS. 331 (2013) (selected by the Immigration and Nationality Law Review as one of the best immigration articles published in 2013 and reprinted in the Immigration and Nationality Law Review; recognized by Jotwell as one of the best recent works of recent scholarship relating to family law and reviewed at <http://family.jotwell.com/representing-child-migrants-in-the-midst-of-our-border-crisis/>).

*Owning Laura Silsby's Shame: How The Haitian Child Trafficking Scheme Embodies The Western Disregard for the Integrity of Poor Families*, 25 HARV. HUM. RTS. J. 1 (2012).

*The Family Law Canon in a (Post?) Racial Era*, 72 OHIO ST. L.J. 575 (2011).

*U.S. Immigration Law and the Traditional Nuclear Conception of Family: Toward a Functional Definition of Family That Protects Children's Fundamental Human Rights*, 41 COLUM. HUM. RTS. L. REV. 509 (2010).

*Challenging MonoHumanism: An Argument for Changing the Way We Think About Intercountry Adoption*, 30 MICH. J. INT'L L. 413 (2009).

*Race, Identity and Professional Responsibility: Why Legal Services Organizations Need African American Staff Attorneys*, 18 CORNELL J.L. & PUB. POL'Y 1 (2008).

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

“Education.”

“Family Engagement and the Constitution.”

“Autonomy, Authenticity and the Supreme Court.”

## **BOOKS**

THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF CHILDREN’S RIGHTS LAW (Oxford University Press) (Shani King & Jonathan Todres eds., 2020).

## **CHILDREN’S BOOKS**

HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU BLACK LIVES MATTER? (Tilbury House Publishers 2021)

HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU? (Tilbury House Publishers 2019) (award winning children’s book).

HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU? (Beaver’s Pond Press 2018) (award winning children’s book).

## **BOOK CHAPTERS/REPORTS/OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

*A Center on Children and Families for the Future*, in DAEDALUS (2019) (solicited).

*Latinas and Domestic Violence: Barriers to Institutional Resources*, in THE OXFORD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LATINO/A POLITICS, LAW AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS (Suzanne Oboler & Deena Gonzalez eds., 2016) (solicited).

LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN: A 2015 REPORT ON FLORIDA’S PATCHWORK SYSTEM (co-authored with Florida’s Children First).

*A New and Different Way of Looking at Family-Based Immigration Policy: A Review of Kerry Abrams’s Article “What Makes the Family Special?”* 80 U. CHI. L. REV. 7 (2013), JOTWELL (2014).

*Breaking the Silence: Prison, Child Welfare, and the Systemic Oppression of Black Women: A Review of Dorothy Roberts’s Article “Prison, Foster Care, and the Systemic Punishment of Black Mothers,”* 59 UCLA L. REV. 1474 (2012), JOTWELL (Oct. 2013).

LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN: A 2012 REPORT ON FLORIDA’S PATCHWORK SYSTEM (co-authored with Florida’s Children First).

*Competing Rights and Responsibilities in Intercountry Adoption: Understanding a Child’s Right to Grow up in the Context of her Family and Culture*, in TAKING RESPONSIBILITY, LAW AND THE CHANGING FAMILY (Craig Lind, Jo Bridgeman, & Heather Keating eds., 2011) (solicited).

*School Discipline 101: An Overview of Students' Due Process Rights in Expulsion Hearings*, CLEARINGHOUSE REV.: J. POVERTY L. & POL'Y 370 (Sept.-Oct. 2006) (co-authored with Melissa Frydman).

## PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

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**Presenter**, "Special Virtual Visit to First Graders at Garrison Elementary School," An Open Book Foundation Event: Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action (Washington, D.C., Feb. 2021).

**Paper**, "A Center on Children and Families for the Future," A discussion of Daedalus on Access to Justice by Kenneth C. Frazier, Martha Minow, David Rubenstein, and Rebecca Sandefur, Politics & Prose Bookstore (Washington, D.C., May 2019).

**Presenter**, "How to Write a Children's Book," The Gordon School of Beth David Congregation, Pre-K Class (Mar. 2019).

**Paper**, "Immigration, Adoption and Our National Identity," Duke Journal of Gender Law and Policy Symposium—Immigration, Adoption and Our National Identity (Feb. 2019) (symposium organized around this article; discussants included Dean Kerry Abrams and Prof. Katheryn Bradley).

**Paper**, "Fair Hearing, Due Process and Unaccompanied Minors," SEALS (Jan. 2018) (participated virtually).

**Moderator and Panelist**, "Careers and College," Harvard Alumni Association of Miami, at Breakthrough Miami, Ransom Everglades School (Apr. 2017).

**Panelist**, "Careers and College," Harvard Alumni Association of Miami, at Breakthrough Miami, Miami Country Day School (Apr. 2017).

**Panelist**, "Routable discussion: International collaboration," International Society of Family Law Regional Conference (Nov. 2014).

**Paper**, "Lessons from the Baby Elmo Project: Fostering the Relationships Between Incarcerated Teen Parents and Their Young Children," UNC School of Law (Oct. 2014) (invited).

**Panelist**, "Women, Work, and Family in the 2012 Presidential Campaign," University of Florida, Levin College of Law (Sept. 2012) (invited).

**Presenter**, "A Symposium on the Work of Dorothy Roberts," University of California Irvine (May 2012) (invited).

**Presenter**, Essential Ethics for Advocates: Avoiding the Unauthorized Practice of Law, Annual COPAA (Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates) Conference (Mar. 2012).

**Participant**, The Juvenile Justice Racial and Ethnic Disparities Vision for the Future meeting (Dec. 2011) (Co-sponsored by the Center on Children and Families and the W. Haywood Burns Inst.).

**Paper**, “Alone and Unrepresented: How the United States’ Failure to Provide Legal Counsel to Unaccompanied Minors Lags Behind Developing International and Regional Human Rights Standards,” University of San Francisco School of Law (Dec. 2011).

**Presenter**, 2011 Emory Public Interest Committee Conference on Child Law (Oct. 2011) (invited).

**Paper**, “Alone and Unrepresented: How the United States’ Failure to Provide Legal Counsel to Unaccompanied Minors Lags Behind Developing International and Regional Human Rights Standards,” 4th Annual Midwest Family Law Consortium (June 2011).

**Participant**, Workshop on Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System (Apr. 2011) (Co-sponsored by the Center on Children and Families and the W. Haywood Burns Inst.).

**Paper**, “Alone and Unrepresented: How the United States’ Failure to Provide Legal Counsel to Unaccompanied Minors Lags Behind Developing International and Regional Human Rights Standards,” Cumberland School of Law 2010-2011 Works in Progress Series (Apr. 2011) (invited).

**Paper**, “Owning Laura Silsby’s Shame: How the Haitian Child Trafficking Scheme Embodies the Western Disregard for the Integrity of Poor Families,” International Society of Family Law Regional Conference (Mar. 2011).

**Participant**, Invitation-Only Conference: Race and Child Welfare: Disproportionality, Disparity, Discrimination: Re-Assessing the Facts, Re-Thinking the Policy Options, Harvard Law School (Jan. 2011).

**Presenter**, The Ethics of Representing Children, Florida Bar Foundation, Children’s Legal Services Grantees Conference (Oct. 2010) (invited).

**Paper**, “The Family Law Canon in a (Post?) Racial Era,” Third National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, Seton Hall University School of Law (Sept. 2010) (invited).

**Lecture**, “Recent Approaches to Defining and Regulating the Family,” The University of Warsaw Common Law Society, University of Warsaw (May 2009) (invited).

**Presenter**, “Training Lawyers for the 21st Century,” panel, The Florida Chapter of the AFCC: Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Seventh Annual Conference (Feb. 2009).

**Paper**, “Challenging *MonoHumanism: An Argument for Changing the Way We Think About Intercountry Adoption*,” SEALS, New Scholars Workshop, Palm Beach, FL (Aug. 2008).

**Paper**, “Challenging *MonoHumanism: An Argument for Changing the Way We Think About Intercountry Adoption*,” Association for Cultural Studies Crossroads Conference, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica (July 2008).

**Paper**, “Challenging *MonoHumanism: An Argument for Changing the Way We Think About Intercountry Adoption*,” Gender, Family Responsibility and Legal Change Conference, Sussex Law School, Brighton, UK (July 2008).

**Moderator**, “Shifting Family Responsibilities and Legal Change” panel, Gender, Family Responsibility and Legal Change Conference, Sussex Law School, Brighton, UK (July 2008).

**Paper**, “Challenging *MonoHumanism: An Argument for Changing the Way We Think About Intercountry Adoption*,” Law and Society Annual Meeting, Quebec, Canada (June 2008).

**Panelist**, Careers in Child Advocacy, Harvard Law School, co-sponsored by the Child Advocacy Program and the Bernard Koteen Office of Public Interest Advising at Harvard Law School (Dec. 2007) (invited).

**Guest Lecturer**, *Child Advocacy Clinic*, University of San Francisco—School of Law, San Francisco, CA (Apr. 2006).

**Guest Lecturer**, *School Discipline Clinic*, University of California, Berkeley—Boalt Hall School of Law, Berkeley, CA (Mar. 2006).

**Presenter**, Advanced School Discipline and Special Education Training, Morrison & Foerster (Jan. 2006).

**Presenter**, Various School Discipline and Special Education Trainings, Legal Services for Children (2005-2006).

**Presenter**, Rights of San Francisco Children in School When Confronted by the Police, San Francisco Community Assessment and Referral Center (June 2005).

## **CHILDREN’S MEDIA AND APPEARANCES**

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### **HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU BLACK LIVES MATTER**

Interviewed and featured on Radio: *Shani Mahiri King*, SUNDAY MORNING MAGAZINE WITH RODNEY LEAR, Feb. 26, 2021.

Featured in: *'You Are Valued': 7 Books to Empower Black Children*, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE: DATEBOOK, Feb. 26, 2021.

Event Recap and featured in: *Dr. Shani King, Children's Rights Lawyer, Professor, and Author, Visits First Graders at Garrison Elementary School*, D.C. AREA EDUCATORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE: A PROJECT OF TEACHING FOR CHANGE, Feb. 24, 2021.

Interviewed and featured in: *Black Words Matter (Illustrated)*, THE DAILY HELLER: PRINT MAG, Feb. 17, 2021.

Featured in: *Looking for Books About Racism? Experts Suggest these Must-Read Titles for Adults and Kids*, USA TODAY, Feb. 9, 2021.

Interviewed and featured on Radio: *North Country Bookmarks: Beyond Romance*, NCPR NEWS, Feb. 5, 2021.

Featured in: *2 Picture Books Celebrate the Poetry and Promise of Black Lives*, THE NEW YORK TIMES, Feb. 5, 2021.

Featured on: *32 Books Bestselling Authors Recommend to Honor and Celebrate Black History*, TODAY.COM: NBC NEWS, Feb. 3, 2021.

Featured in: *Column: A List of Children's Books to Celebrate Black History Every Month, Not Just in February*, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, Feb. 2, 2021.

Featured in: *Nonfiction Reviews—Have I Ever Told You Black Lives Matter*, SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL, Feb. 1, 2021.

Interviewed and featured: *Episode 163: Have I Ever Told You Black Lives Matter? (Shani King)*, THE DTALKS PODCAST—DETOXING FROM LIFE, Feb. 1, 2021.

Interviewed and featured: *Kojo for Kids: Author Shani Mahiri King*, WAMU85—THE KOJO NNAMDI SHOW, Feb. 1, 2021.

Interviewed and featured: *Shani M. King Inspires Kids to Believe in Themselves*, STORY MONSTERS INK, Feb. 2021.

Featured in: *New Releases and More for January 19, 2021*, BOOK RIOT, Jan. 19, 2021.

Illustrator interviewed and featured: *This Gorgeous New Children's Book Celebrates Black Lives Matter*, FASTCOMPANY.COM, Jan. 19, 2021.

Interviewed and featured: *Speed Interview with Shani Mahiri King, Author of Have I Ever Told You Black Lives Matter?*, THE CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW, Jan. 18, 2021.



Interviewed and featured: *The Writers Life—Ilyasah Shabazz and Shani Mahiri King: Historical Truth*, SHELF AWARENESS, Jan. 15, 2021.

Interviewed and featured on Podcast: *Shani M. King, Have I Ever Told You Black Lives Matter*, MOMS DON'T HAVE TIME TO READ PODCAST, Jan. 7, 2021.

Interviewed and Feature Story: *A Picture Book Celebration of Black Lives*, PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, Jan. 5, 2021.

Featured in: *Round-Up: Best Books to Keep You Warm This January*, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY, Dec. 21, 2020.

Interviewed and featured: *Shani Mahiri King Author Interview—NCSS 2020 Virtual Booth*, PUBLISHER SPOTLIGHT, Nov. 24, 2020.

Featured in: *Round-Up: New and Forthcoming Social Justice Titles*, PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, Nov. 20, 2020.

## QUOTATION/REFERENCE

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Quoted in: *Inside America's Biggest Facility for Migrant Teens*, GUARDIAN, Mar. 7, 2019.

Quoted in: *Pinellas Case Highlights Questions Over Kids' Ability To Consent To Police Search*, TAMPA BAY TIMES, Dec. 19, 2016.

Quoted in: *Bondi's Opinion Fuels Debate Over Guns on School Campuses*, HERALD-TRIB., Nov. 26, 2014.

Quoted in: *Some Grand Jurors Critical of Own Report Hailing DCF Improvements*, MIAMI HERALD, Aug. 14, 2014.

## EDITORIAL BOARDS

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Editor, JOTWELL, Family Law Section.

Reviewer, Q. NAT'L SCH. JUDICIARY & PUB. PROSECUTION (Poland).

Reviewer, CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVS. REV.

## RECOGNITION

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2018 MOONBEAM SPIRIT AWARD from Jenkins Group in the category of Compassion, for dedication to children's books and literacy and for inspired writing, illustrating, and publishing. *Have I Ever Told You?* (Beaver's Pond Press 2018).

- 2018 INDIE NEXT GENERATION AWARD from Independent Book Publishing Professionals Group in the category of Children’s Picture Book 0-5 years, for most exceptional and independently published. *Have I Ever Told You?* (Beaver’s Pond Press 2018).
- 2018 NATIONAL INDIE EXCELLENCE AWARD from Independent Book Publishing Professionals Group in the category of Children’s Picture Book/Preschool for Book Cover Design. *Have I Ever Told You?* (Beaver’s Pond Press 2018).
- 2018 FINALIST FOR INDIE NEXT GENERATION AWARD in the category of Children’s Picture Book 6 years & up. *Have I Ever Told You?* (Beaver’s Pond Press 2018).
- 2018 FINALIST FOR INDIE NEXT GENERATION AWARD in the category of Best Overall Design Non-Fiction. *Have I Ever Told You?* (Beaver’s Pond Press 2018).
- 1999 Harvard Sheldon Knox Traveling Fellowship Recipient

**CIVIC ACTIVITIES: NON-PROFIT BOARDS**

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Florida Health Justice Project, Miami, FL	2017–present
Youth Law Center, San Francisco, CA	2015–2017
Advisory Board, Florida’s Children First	2010–2012

**BAR MEMBERSHIPS/APPOINTMENTS**

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Project on Access to Justice, Family Law Subcommittee– American Academy of Arts and Sciences	2019–present
American Constitution Society Speakers List (Immigration)	2018–present
Florida Bar Special Committee on Child and Parent Representation (governor appointment)	2017–2018
Admitted to The New York State Bar	1999
Admitted to The State Bar of California	2004