

DANIEL J. CANON  
2301 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Louisville, KY 40208

CURRICULUM VITAE 2023  
(502)852-6378  
daniel.canon@louisville.edu

**RELEVANT WORK HISTORY:**

**2016 – 2023 UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE, LOUIS D. BRANDEIS SCHOOL OF LAW, *Professor of Law and Director of Externships***

- Faculty supervisor and director of student externships: supervised 25-50 student externs each semester in more than 20 different agencies and nonprofits; instituted a classroom component for the law school's externship program; organized and conducted CLE lectures for field supervisors (Fall 2020 – Present)
- Assistant professor of civil procedure (Fall 2023 – Present)
- Visiting professor of first-year legal skills (Fall 2017 – Spring 2019)
- Lecturer in civil rights and civil liberties (Fall 2016 – Present)
- Faculty advisor, American Constitution Society (2022 - Present)
- Faculty advisor, University of Louisville Law Review (2020 – 2022)
- Faculty advisor, Human Rights Advocacy Program (2020 – 2023)
- Faculty advisor, Journal of Animal and Environmental Law (2019 – 2020)
- Launched community mentor program (2020) and student mental health panel (2021)
- Initial faculty supervisor of the Brandeis Impact Litigation Practicum, a pilot project in which students draft and file amicus briefs in a variety of courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States (2017)
- Supervisor of independent study project in international law (2020), field supervisor for project on regulations within the Veterans' Administration (2022), and field/faculty supervisor for the Prison Legal Support Network (2022)
- Conducted hybrid and distance learning courses using a variety of platforms
- Author of several publications involving the criminal legal system, the development of civil rights, movement lawyering principles, and the role of the courts (see separate sections on publications below)

**2007 – 2023 CLAY DANIEL WALTON & ADAMS, PLC/SAEED & LITTLE, LLP, *Attorney***

- Trial and appellate experience in a wide variety of practice areas, including civil rights, employment discrimination, criminal appeals, Title IX litigation on behalf of survivors of sexual abuse, and general constitutional litigation

- Counsel of record and co-author of briefs in *Love v. Beshear* (more commonly known as *Obergefell v. Hodges*) the landmark civil rights case in which the U.S. Supreme Court held marriage equality to be a constitutional right for same-sex couples
- Counsel of record and author of briefs in *Nwanguma v. Trump*, a groundbreaking First Amendment case regarding incitement of violence
- Counsel of record and co-author of briefs in *Bourke v. Beshear* (a.k.a. the Kentucky marriage equality cases), the first federal district court opinion in the southern U.S. to recognize same-sex marriages; received \$1.1M fee awarded by the court
- Counsel of record and co-author of briefs in the highly publicized *Miller v. Davis* (as an ACLU of Kentucky cooperating attorney), in which Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis was successfully challenged for denying marriage licenses to qualified individuals following the *Obergefell* decision
- Counsel to Senator Elizabeth Warren in the case of *John Does v. Haaland, et al.*
- Counsel in a number of notable prisoners' rights, excessive force, wrongful conviction, and employment cases, including *Gentry v. Floyd Co.*, which resulted in a class action certification and \$1.2M settlement for plaintiffs subjected to unconstitutional conditions of confinement
- Extensive experience working as co-counsel with national and local civil rights organizations, along with federal and state administrative agencies
- Participated in hundreds of mediations and arbitrations, both as counsel and mediator; completed 40-hour mediation training through Just Solutions Mediation Services (Louisville, KY)
- Managed a staff including paralegals, runners, and junior lawyers; supervised firm's student internship program in coordination with regional law schools and undergraduate institutions
- Admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, the United States District Courts of the Eastern District of Kentucky, the Western District of Kentucky, the Southern District of Indiana, and all state courts in Indiana and Kentucky
- Argued numerous times before the Kentucky Supreme Court, the Kentucky Court of Appeals, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals
- Lecturer on numerous Continuing Legal Education (CLE) topics including civil rights law, employment & labor law, and government/municipal liability
- Lecturer on topics in constitutional litigation at numerous speaking engagements sponsored by various colleges, universities, bar associations, and other professional organizations
- Extensive experience in media management: quoted at length by national and international news media including the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall

Street Journal, and many other well-known outlets; appeared for live interviews on ABC's *Nightline* and *Good Morning America*, *CNN Tonight*, *Insider Justice*, *Al Jazeera America*, and more; subject of documentaries entitled *Love v. Kentucky* (Informavore Media) and *Lawyers Take On Trump's Travel Ban* (New York Times)

- Editor of the American Association for Justice Civil Rights Section Newsletter, 2015-16
- Built several websites, including information portals for class action members

#### **2017 – 2018 CANON FOR CONGRESS, Candidate**

- Conducted a highly publicized campaign for United States House of Representatives; managed a staff in three different offices throughout Indiana
- Oversaw one of the largest internships in the history of Indiana University; supervised door-to-door contact, phone banks, and voter registration drives
- Raised nearly half a million dollars (mostly from individual donors) within a nine-month period; developed a mailing list of around 30,000 people
- Received endorsements from and forged lasting relationships with regional and national groups including labor unions, environmental organizations, reproductive freedom organizations, and others

#### **BOOKS AND ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS:**

- *PLEADING OUT: How Plea Bargaining Creates a Permanent Criminal Class*, Basic Books/Hachette Publishing (March 8, 2022)
- *Keynote: Plea Bargaining as Union Busting*, Belmont Criminal Law Journal Symposium (forthcoming 2023)
- *The Ethics of Assisting Incarcerated People with Collective Action*, St. Louis Univ. Law Journal (forthcoming 2023)
- *We Told You So: Stories of Trump-era Incitement Litigation that Failed*, accepted as a chapter in *FIGHT LIKE HELL: Free Speech and Incitement in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, State University of New York Press (Dr. Eric T. Kasper, ed.) (forthcoming 2023)
- *The Language of Love v. Beshear: Balancing Client Needs and Advocacy Goals When Creating a Civil Rights Case Narrative*, Legal Communication and Rhetoric: JALWD, Vol. 17 (peer reviewed) (Fall 2020)
- *Marriage Equality and a Lawyer's Role in the Emergence of "New" Rights*, Indiana Journal of Law and Social Equality, Volume 7, Issue 2 (Fall 2019)
- *Challenges to the Residency Requirements of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act Under the Kentucky Constitution*, Brandeis Law Journal Volume 45, Issue 1, pp. 151-174 (2007)

## **OTHER NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS:**

- *On TV every defendant gets a trial. But in real life, trials are rare*, Washington Post (March 17, 2022)
- *Plea Bargains are a Tool of Racist Mass Incarceration*, Truthout (January 29, 2023)
- *The Plea Bargain Originated as a Means to Undermine Working-Class Solidarity*, Truthout (August 23, 2022)
- *Lawyers and Secondary Traumatic Stress, or: On the dispersal of brain matter in a Kentucky trailer*, Salon (January 22, 2022)
- *Under Assumption: Correcting automatic gender assignment in legal paperwork*, Bench and Bar (January/February 2020)
- *The Lessons of Love: Kentucky Litigators Recount the Fight for Marriage Equality*, Bench and Bar (May 2016)
- *That Could Have Been Us*, LOUISVILLE ANTHOLOGY, Belt Publishing (2020)
- *It's Time for Lawyers to Smell the Roses*, Above the Law (August 13, 2020)
- *The New 'In-House Counsel': Conference Calls With Kids, Pets, And A Rooster*, Above the Law (April 17, 2020)
- *Anxious About Law School Final Exams? Relax*, National Law Journal (December 11, 2019)
- *Why can't we talk about reparations? A congressional candidate broaches an unmentionable topic*, Salon (March 31, 2018)
- *A System Designed to Make People Disappear*, Slate (April 2, 2017)
- *What price can you put on a meaningful life?* LEO Weekly (February 1, 2017)
- *Everything I Need to Know About Being a Lawyer I Learned from Star Trek: An Open Letter to New Attorneys*, The Advocate (April/May 2014)
- *On Kindness in Litigation*, The Advocate (May/June 2013)
- *The Right to Enjoy Work*, The Advocate (January/February 2013)
- *The Emerging Field of Paramilitary Police/SWATT Litigation*, NBI CLE Blog (January 3, 2013)
- *The Roberts Court and the First Amendment: Implications for Trial Lawyers*, The Advocate (July/August 2011)
- *Keeping the Blame Off the Victim: Civil Rights Protections for Domestic Violence Survivors*, The Advocate (November/December 2009)

## **CONFERENCES, LECTURES, AND OTHER NOTABLE PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**

- *Keynote on Plea Bargaining*, Belmont Criminal Law Journal Symposium (March 24, 2023)

- *Keynote Address: Love is Love Banquet*, University of Kentucky, J. David Rosenberg College of Law, OUTLaw chapter, Lexington, KY (February 16, 2023)
- *Keynote Address: The Legacy of the Plea System*, Washington Defender Association, Seattle, WA (December 16, 2022)
- *Author Discussion on Plea Bargaining*, C-SPAN Book TV (October 15, 2022)
- *Broken Law Podcast Episode 69: An Unjust Bargain*, American Constitution Society (September 27, 2022)
- *Talk with Dan Canon, Attorney and Author: Pleading Out*, Morgenstern Books, Bloomington, IN (September 15, 2022)
- *Plea Bargains Creating a Criminal Underclass*, The Majority Report (August 11, 2022)
- *Dan Canon – Pleading Out: How Plea Bargaining Creates a Permanent Criminal Class*, Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College, City University of New York (May 16, 2022)
- *The Trial Penalty, Plea Bargains, and Saving the 6th Amendment Right to Trial*, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (webinar) (May 3, 2022)
- *Pleading Out: How Plea Bargaining Creates a Permanent Criminal Class*, CATO Institute Daily Podcast (April 1, 2022)
- *Carmichael's Bookstore Presents Civil Rights Lawyer and Professor Dan Canon*, Louisville Free Public Library (March 10, 2022)
- *LBB Presents ONLINE: Dan Canon with Adam Benforado - Pleading Out*, Left Bank Books, St. Louis, MO (March 8, 2022)
- *How Plea Bargaining Creates a Permanent Criminal Class*, The Takeaway, WNYC studios (March 8, 2022)
- *University of Louisville Law Review 2022 Symposium: Mental Health and the Legal Profession* (panelist) (February 26, 2022)
- Law & Crime Network (regular trial commentator) (2022 - present)
- *Public Interest Law Panel*, Elon University School of Law (panelist) (November 17, 2020)
- *Breonna Taylor Day-Long Symposium*, University of Kentucky, Rosenberg College of Law (panelist) (October 3, 2020)
- *Motion Practice for the Classroom*, LWI One Day Workshop, University of Toronto/Osgoode Hall Law School (presenter) (December 6, 2019)
- *Speaking Freely: Fighting for Rights in the Statehouse*, Indiana University (panelist) (April 3, 2019)
- *Civil Rights Litigation with Dan Canon*, Drake Law School (March 7, 2019)

- *Reflection of Justice and Peace*, Columbus Unitarian Universalist Congregation (February 25, 2018)
- *Landmark Lunch with Dan Canon*, Georgetown University Law Center (October 11, 2017)
- *The Language of Love v. Beshear: Building a Bridge Between Client Needs and Advocacy Goals When Creating a Civil Rights Case Narrative*, International Meeting on Law and Society (presenter) (Mexico City, June 2017)
- *The Long Road to Marriage Equality and Other Civil Rights Issues of Today*, Indiana University Southeast (April 10, 2017) (see <https://now.ius.edu/2017/04/influential-civil-rights-lawyer-dan-canon-to-speak-at-iu-southeast/>)
- *Employment Harassment and Discrimination*, National Business Institute (February 22, 2017)
- *On Hate Groups*, Clifton Unitarian Universalist Church (November 27, 2016)
- *LGBT Law Update*, Kentucky Bar Association (September 30, 2016)
- *LGBTQ Student Summit*, Jefferson County Public Schools (panelist) (August 6, 2016)
- *The Lynching: Donald v. United Klans of America*, Louisville Bar Association (June 28, 2016)
- *The Face of Equality: Past, Present and Future*, Southern Indiana Equality (keynote address) (April 20, 2016)
- *Symposium: Getting Inside Obergefell*, Brandeis School of Law (April 16, 2016)
- *The Lessons of Obergefell*, John Marshall Law School (March 25, 2016)
- *The Ninth Annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession*, Louisiana State Bar Association (panelist) (March 4, 2016)
- *Golden Keys and Stingrays: A KnowledgeNet Panel Discussion on Electronic Privacy and Mobile Devices*, International Association of Privacy Professionals (November 18, 2015)
- *Marriage Equality and the Emergence of New Rights*, Kentucky Justice Association/SeminarWeb (October 21, 2015)
- *Kentucky LGBT Rural Summit*, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (panelist) (August 12, 2015)
- *Employment Law: Comprehensive Update*, National Business Institute (June 9, 2015)
- *Retaliation under Kentucky Law*, The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Carl Institute on Labor and Employment Law (June 12, 2014)
- *Human Resources Law: What You Need to Know Now*, National Business Institute (June 11, 2014)
- *Legal Issues Facing Local Governments*, National Business Institute (October 11, 2012)
- *Emerging Topics in Employment Law*, Kentucky Justice Association (June 20, 2012)

- *Police Liability: Overview of 42 U.S.C. § 1983*, Lorman Educational Services (April 17, 2012)

### **NOTABLE OPINIONS:**

- *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 192 L. Ed. 2d 609, 2015 U.S. LEXIS 4250 (June 26, 2015)
- *Alph C. Kaufman, Inc., v. Cornerstone Industries Corp.*, 540 S.W.3d 803 (Ky. App. 2017)
- *Camm v. Faith*, No. 18-1440 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2019)
- *Nwanguma v. Trump*, 273 F.Supp.3d 719 (W.D. Ky. 2017)
- *Miller v. Davis*, 123 F. Supp. 3d 924, 929 (E.D. Ky. 2015)
- *Sietsema v. Adams*, Nos. 2013-CA-001159-MR, 2013-CA-001461-MR, 2015 Ky. App. LEXIS 116 (Aug. 14, 2015)
- *Bourke v. Beshear*, 996 F.Supp.2d 542 (W.D. Ky. Feb. 12, 2014)
- *Love v. Beshear*, 989 F.Supp.2d 536 (W.D. Ky. May 13, 2014)
- *King v. Taylor*, 694 F.3d 650 (6th Cir. 2012)
- *Allen v. Commonwealth*, 395 S.W.3d 451 (Ky. 2013)
- *Admin. Office of the Courts v. Vidaud*, No. 2013-CA-001881-MR, 2015 Ky. App. LEXIS 44 (2015)
- *Yoder v. Univ. of Louisville*, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 67241 (W.D. Ky. Aug. 3, 2009)
- *Bourke v. Beshear*, No. 3:13-CV-00750-CRS, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4064 (W.D. Ky. Jan. 13, 2016)
- *Martin v. O'Daniel*, 2011 Ky. App. Unpub. LEXIS 429 (Ky. Ct. App. May 20, 2011)
- *McKinney v. City of Paducah*, 2014 Ky. App. Unpub. LEXIS 138 (Ky. Ct. App. Feb. 14, 2014)

### **OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE:**

#### **2020 – 2023 I TAUGHT THE LAW, Co-founder and Editor**

- Editor of an online journal about law school and legal culture featuring dozens of contributors including high-profile lawyers and law professors; see [www.medium.com/i-taught-the-law](http://www.medium.com/i-taught-the-law)

#### **2018 – 2023 MIDWESTICISM, INC., Host and Producer**

- Host and Producer of short-form documentary series on social change in the American Midwest; see [www.midwesticism.org](http://www.midwesticism.org)

#### **2018 – 2023 AUTHOR AND COLUMNIST**

- Represented by Dunow, Carlson & Lerner Literary Agency; Author of trade books on criminal justice and the courts, including *PLEADING OUT* (Basic, 2022)
- Author of regular columns for regional publications focusing on politics and the law, reaching 200,000+ readers in two major media markets (See [https://www.leoweekly.com/leo\\_author/dan-canon/](https://www.leoweekly.com/leo_author/dan-canon/))
- Regular contributor to other regional and national publications, including *Salon*, *Slate*, and *Truthout*

**2014 – 2015 IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, *Adjunct Professor***

- Lecturer in criminal justice topics, including juvenile and restorative justice

**2015 – 2016 PARADE OF HORRIBLES PODCAST, *Host and Producer***

- Host and producer of monthly talk-show-format podcast on civil rights and the law

**2005 – 2006 LEGAL AID SOCIETY, *Law Clerk/Certified Long-Term Care Ombudsman***

- Provided support and resources for nursing home residents in Kentucky; oversaw practices pertaining to resident health and safety

**1997 – 2015 VARIOUS/SELF-EMPLOYED, *Music Instructor***

- Taught guitar, voice, mandolin, bass guitar, and other instruments to students ranging in age from 5-80+, in classroom and individual sessions

**1997 – 2004 NATIONAL GUITAR WORKSHOP, *Music Instructor***

## **EDUCATION:**

**2004 – 2007 LOUIS D. BRANDEIS SCHOOL OF LAW, *J.D. Cum Laude***

- Member, Brandeis Law Journal; Best Student Note (Hon. Mention) for *Challenges to the Residency Requirements of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act Under the Kentucky Constitution*, Brandeis Law Journal Volume 45, Issue 1, pp. 151-174 (2007)
- National Health Law Moot Court Team
- Member, Equal Justice Society; Lambda Law Caucus; Student Trial Lawyers' Association
- Partnered with Latin American Studies program to serve legal needs of refugees through Arcadia Community Center
- Columnist for *The Cardinal* campus newspaper

**2000 – 2003 UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE, *B.A. Summa Cum Laude, Humanities (Dual Concentration in Religious Studies and Modern Languages)***

- Spanish Minor



- President, Amnesty International
- Member, Woodcock Society
- Member, Golden Key Honor Society
- Member, Phi Kappa Phi Academic Fraternity
- Recipient of Louise Pennington Weiller Award for class of 2004 Outstanding Senior Paper in the Humanities for *Ethnic Boundaries and Religious Repression: A Comparative Study of Bahá'ism in Iran and Mormonism in the U.S.*

**1995 – 1996 MUSICIANS INSTITUTE OF LOS ANGELES, Certificate in Guitar Performance**

**PROFESSIONAL AND BOARD MEMBERSHIPS:**

- United Campus Workers, 2023 – present
- Louisville Bar Association Committee on Mental Health, 2021 - present
- Ivy Tech Legal Studies Advisory Board, 2020 - present
- Conflict Review Board, University of Louisville, 2020 - 2022
- Commissioner and Vice President, New Albany Commission on Human Rights (April 2020 – January 2023); developed a process for city residents to make formal complaints of housing and employment discrimination
- Law and Society Association, Feminist Legal Theory Collaborative Research Network Planning Committee, 2020 - 2021
- Indiana Trial Lawyers Association, 2021 - present
- National Lawyers Guild, 2021 - present
- Midwesticism, Inc. (CEO), 2019 - present
- Planned Parenthood Advocates of Indiana PAC (Board Member), 2019 - 2022
- Global Citizens Empowerment, Inc. (Board Member), 2019 - 2021
- American Federation of Musicians, Local 11-637 (Member), 2017 - present
- American Association for Justice, 2007 - present
- American Inns of Court, 2010-12
- New Albany Community Montessori School (Board Member), 2016-17
- Kentucky Justice Association, 2007 - present
- Kentucky Bar Association, 2007 - present
- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 2016 - present
- Kentucky Youth Law Project (Board Member), 2015 – present

## **NOTABLE AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- Faculty Favorite Award, 2020-21
- Freethought Hero Award, 2019
- Commendation by Louisville Metro City Council, 2015
- Champions of Fairness Award, 2015
- James R. Ramsey Equality Award, presented by the University of Louisville, 2015
- Honored as one of the “60 Faces of Liberty” by the American Civil Liberties Union, 2015
- Voted Top Attorney in the Area of Individual/Constitutional Rights by a panel of peers from within the region; Voted Top Attorney in Employment and Appellate Law (multiple times from 2012 - present)
- Thomson-Reuters Kentucky and Indiana “Super Lawyer,” 2013-2022

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Extensive volunteer experience (details available upon request)
- Proficient Spanish speaker, competent in several other languages
- Trained in domestic violence crisis counseling and family/divorce mediation
- Extensive experience as a performing musician and stage/film actor