

# CHIKA O. OKAFOR

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## CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

<b>Harvard Law School</b> <i>Lecturer on Law</i> <i>(Inaugural) Fellow in Law &amp; Political Economy</i>	Cambridge, MA Starting 2023 2022 – present
<b>National Bureau of Economic Research</b> <i>Fellow in Aging &amp; Health Economics</i>	Cambridge, MA 2021 – present

## PAST APPOINTMENTS

<b>Harvard Law School</b> <i>Reginald F. Lewis Fellow in Law Teaching</i>	Cambridge, MA 2021 – 2022
<b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</b> <i>Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics</i>	Cambridge, MA 2021 – 2022

## EDUCATION

<b>Harvard University</b> <i>Ph.D. in Economics</i>	Cambridge, MA Expected 2024
<b>Harvard University</b> <i>M.A. in Economics</i>	Cambridge, MA 2021
<b>Yale Law School</b> <i>Juris Doctor (J.D.)</i>	New Haven, CT 2015
<b>Stanford University</b> <i>B.A. in Economics (with Honors)</i>	Stanford, CA 2007

## SECONDARY AFFILIATIONS

Affiliate, Program in Criminal Justice Policy & Mgmt, Harvard Kennedy School	2022 – present
Affiliate, Harvard Environmental Economics Program (HEEP)	2021 – present
Affiliate, Center for American Political Studies (CAPS) at Harvard	2021 – present
Affiliate, Opportunity Insights, Harvard University	2019 – present
Affiliate, Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS), Harvard University	2019 – present
(Senior) Resident Tutor, Leverett House, Harvard College	2018 – present
Mentee, Pipeline Mentoring Program, American Economic Association	2017 – present

## RESEARCH

## WORKING PAPERS:

- “Prosecutor Politics: The Impact of Election Cycles on Criminal Sentencing in the Era of Rising Incarceration.”
  - Featured article in the *Harvard Gazette*:  
<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2021/12/looking-at-role-of-prosecutors-politics-in-mass-incarceration/>
  - Harvard Horizons talk: <https://gsas.harvard.edu/profiles/chika-okafor>
  - Pre-publication version: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.09169>
- “Seeing Through Colorblindness: Social Networks as a Mechanism for Discrimination.”
  - “Best Paper with Student Presenter” Award (MD4SG 2020 Conference)
  - Pre-publication version: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2006.15988>

## PUBLICATIONS:

- Okafor, C. "Returning to Eden: Toward a Faith-Based Framing of the Environmental Movement." *Vill. Envtl. LJ* 26 (2015): 215.

## WORKS-IN-PROGRESS:

- “Understanding and Motivating U.S. Climate Action.”

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<b>Harvard Law School</b> <i>Lecturer on Law</i>	Cambridge, MA 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Course Title: “<i>Wielding Impact: Economics as Tool for Justice</i>”</li> <li>➤ Description: <a href="https://hls.harvard.edu/courses/wielding-impact-economics-as-tool-for-justice/">https://hls.harvard.edu/courses/wielding-impact-economics-as-tool-for-justice/</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Harvard University</b> <i>Teaching Fellow for ECON 1123 (Introduction to Econometrics)</i>	Cambridge, MA 2019
<b>American Economic Association (AEA) Summer Program</b> <i>Teaching Fellow for ECSP 818 (Econometrics), Prof. Jeffrey Wooldridge</i>	East Lansing, MI 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ “Outstanding June Teaching Fellow” Award (prize for top teaching evaluations)</li> </ul>	

## POLICY EXPERIENCE

## ◆ LOCAL POLICY:

<b>Chicago Public Schools</b> <i>Education Pioneers Fellow (Developed first district-wide College Persistence Toolkit)</i>	Chicago, IL 2014
<b>Chicago Public Schools</b> <i>Project Manager, “Culture of Calm” (Violence Prevention Initiative)</i>	Chicago, IL 2009 – 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>The New York Times</i> profile (<a href="#">link</a>); NPR story (<a href="#">link</a>)</li> </ul>	

## ◆ U.S. POLICY:

<b>NAACP Legal Defense &amp; Educational Fund (LDF)</b> <i>Legal Intern</i>	Washington, DC 2012
<b>Capitol Hill, Office of U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin</b> <i>Appropriations Subcommittee Intern</i>	Washington, DC 2009

## ◆ INTERNATIONAL POLICY:

<b>United States Holocaust Memorial Museum</b> <i>Tom &amp; Andi Bernstein Human Rights Fellow</i>	Washington, DC 2016 – 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Yale Law School profile (<a href="#">link</a>); Museum profile (<a href="#">link</a>)</li> </ul>	
<b>Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, Yale Law School</b> <i>Team Member</i>	New Haven, CT 2014 – 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amicus brief (<a href="#">link</a>)</li> </ul>	
<b>European Court of Human Rights</b> <i>Kirby Simon Human Rights Fellow</i>	Strasbourg, France 2012
<b>Peking University (北京大学)</b> <i>Exchange Student</i>	Beijing, China 2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Martin Luther King in China (<a href="#">link</a>)</li> </ul>	

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

<b>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher &amp; Flom (UK) LLP</b> <i>Attorney</i>	London, England 2015 – 2016
<b>McKinsey &amp; Company</b> <i>Management &amp; Strategy Consultant</i>	Chicago, IL 2007 – 2009

## SELECTED HONORS

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY (PH.D. STUDENT)**

2022	Pre-Doctoral Fellowship on Carbon Pricing and Alternative Instruments in Future U.S. Energy and Climate Policy
2022	Harvard Horizons (1 of 8 Harvard PhD students selected)
2021	Dwight D. Eisenhower/Clifford Roberts Fellowship
2021	Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Dissertation Prize
2021	NSF-CJARS (Criminal Justice Administrative Records System) Fellowship
2021	Machine Learning and Economics Summer Institute (MLESI), University of Chicago

- 2020 Mechanism Design for Social Good (MD4SG) 2020 Conference  
 ▪ Award: Best Paper with Student Presenter
- 2019 – 2023 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellow
- 2019 – 2023 James M. & Cathleen D. Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration, Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy, Harvard University
- 2019 – 2023 Terence M. Considine Fellow in Law and Economics, Harvard Law School
- 2019 Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics
- 2019 Price Theory Summer Camp, Becker Friedman Institute at the University of Chicago
- 2019 Partnering in Education Research (PIER) Fellowship (*declined*)
- 2018 Teaching Fellow, American Economic Association (AEA) Summer Program  
 ▪ Award: Outstanding June Teaching Fellow (*prize for top teaching evaluations*)
- 2018 Harvard Graduate School Leadership Institute (HGSLI) Fellow
- 2017 Samuel L. Myers, Jr., Award, AEA Summer Program (*prize for best research project*)

**YALE LAW SCHOOL (J.D. STUDENT)**

- 2016 – 2017 Tom & Andi Bernstein Human Rights Fellow, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
- 2014 Education Pioneers Fellow
- 2012 Kirby Simon Human Rights Fellowship, Yale Law School
- 2011 – 2014 Earl Warren Legal Training Scholarship
- 2011 – 2014 ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship

**STANFORD UNIVERSITY (COLLEGE STUDENT)**

- 2007 Rhodes Scholarship (*finalist*)
- 2007 Graduation Speaker, Stanford Black Graduation Ceremony
- 2007 Firestone Medal, Stanford University (*prize for best undergraduate theses*)
- 2005 Chappell Lougee Research Scholarship, Stanford University

**GRANTS**

- 2021 – 2022 Center for American Political Studies (CAPS) Seed Grant  
 Chae Family Economics Research Fund Grant
- 2020 – 2021 Center for American Political Studies (CAPS) Seed Grant  
 William R. Waters Research Grant  
 Gorilla Grant – Diamond Tier Awardee (Top Tier)  
 Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Engaged Student Grant

	Foundations of Human Behavior (FHB) Research Grant
2019 – 2020	Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Engaged Summer Grant Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS) Research Grant Lab for Economic Applications and Policy (LEAP) Grant AEA/National Science Foundation (NSF) Travel Grant
2018 – 2019	Harvard Initiative for Learning and Teaching (HILT) Pilot Fund Grant IQSS Travel Grant AEA/NSF Travel Grant
2017 – 2018	AEA/NSF Travel Grant

### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

<b>2022 – 2023:</b>	The University of Texas at Austin School of Law (forthcoming) Georgetown University Law Center Notre Dame Law School George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School John Chambers College of Business and Economics, West Virginia University
<b>2021 – 2022:</b>	Conference of Empirical Legal Studies (CELS) ( <i>virtual</i> ) American Law & Economics Association (ALEA) Annual Meeting ( <i>virtual</i> ) ACM Conference in Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO 2021) ( <i>virtual</i> )
<b>2020 – 2021:</b>	Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Seminar ( <i>Chicago, IL</i> ) – <i>invited</i> Stanford Graduate School of Business Rising Scholars Conference ( <i>virtual</i> ) Conference of Ford Foundation Fellows ( <i>virtual</i> ) University of Chicago Law School Work-In-Progress Seminar ( <i>Chicago, IL</i> ) – <i>invited</i> Law and Economics Seminar, Harvard Law School ( <i>Cambridge, MA</i> ) – <i>invited</i> Mechanism Design for Social Good 2020 Conference (MD4SG '20) ( <i>virtual</i> )
<b>2019 – 2020:</b>	American Law & Economics Association Annual Meeting ( <i>Chicago, IL</i> ) ( <i>conference cancelled</i> ) Workshop in Empirical Law & Economics, Harvard Law ( <i>Cambridge, MA</i> ) – <i>invited</i> Law and Economics Seminar, Harvard Law School ( <i>Cambridge, MA</i> ) – <i>invited</i> Conference of Ford Foundation Fellows ( <i>San Juan, Puerto Rico</i> )

University of Chicago HCEO Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality (*Bergen, Norway*)

**2018 – 2019:** Stanford University Black Alumni Summit (*Los Angeles, CA*) – *invited*

**2017 – 2018:** American Economic Association Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference (*East Lansing, MI*)

**2016 – 2017:** United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (*Washington, DC*) – *invited*

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**REFEREE:** *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

**MEMBERSHIP:** American Economic Association, American Law & Economics Association, Society for Empirical Legal Studies

**CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP:** Area Organizer, American Law & Economics Association (ALEA) 2022 Annual Meeting; Program Committee, Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization 2021 Conference (EAAMO '21)

**SERVICE:** Co-Leader, Mechanism Design for Social Good (MD4SG) Inequality Working Group (2021–2022); Panelist, National Collegiate Research Conference (2021), Harvard Economics Department Peer Mentor (2018–2019), Greener Scott Scholars Mentor, Harvard University (2021–2022)

**BAR:** State of New York (*current status: Active*), State of Illinois (*current status: Inactive*)