

Kaimipono David Wenger (Kaimi)

California Western School of Law
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND LEGAL EXPERIENCE

California Western School of Law, San Diego
Associate Professor of Law, 2026 – present

Courses taught: Legal Skills I, Legal Skills II

Inner City Law Center, Los Angeles
Supervising Attorney, Tenant Defense Project, 2022-2026
Senior Staff Attorney, Tenant Defense Project, 2018-2022.

As a Tenant Defense Project attorney, I represented hundreds of low-income tenants in eviction court, taking many cases to trial. I participated in all aspects of the case: Client intake; assessing strategy; settlement negotiations; pre-trial motions where appropriate; evaluating evidence; trial preparation and trial; and some post-trial work.

As Supervising Attorney at the Tenant Defense Project, I supervised the work of junior attorneys on their cases, including mentoring attorneys at trial, reviewing drafts of motions and other filings and giving feedback, assigning cases and reviewing workload, arranging coverage, and making sure that all case documents were done correctly.

Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles.
Adjunct Professor and Director of the Eviction Defense Clinic, January 2022 to May 2026

I created the Eviction Defense Clinic at Southwestern Law School in Spring 2022 and taught every semester until Spring 2026. I taught and supervised clinical students, many of whom subsequently became eviction defense attorneys themselves. Students worked on Answer filings, motion work, discovery, client interaction, and whatever else their cases needed.

Thomas Jefferson School of Law, San Diego, California. Assistant Professor of Law, 2005-2010, Associate Professor of Law (with tenure), 2010-2018. Director, Center for Law and Social Justice, 2015-2018. Emeritus Professor, 2018-present

Courses Taught Include: Business Associations, Wills and Trusts, Critical Race Theory, Scholarly Legal Writing. Honors include Professor of the Year, 2010 and 2015.

University of California, Berkeley. Fellow, Civil Justice Research Initiative. 2021-present

University of San Diego School of Law. Visiting Professor, Spring 2015.

University of Nice (France). Visiting Professor, Summer 2016.

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP

Jack B. Weinstein, Eastern District of New York, 2001-2002.

EDUCATION

Columbia University School of Law, New York, New York, J.D., 2001.

James Kent Scholar 1998-1999; Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar 1999-2000; Articles Editor,
Columbia Law Review

Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona. B.A., Spanish, 1998, *cum laude*

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Flattening the Eviction Curve: Lessons from Los Angeles About Tenant Defense During a Pandemic. 2 *Loyola Interdisciplinary Journal of Public Interest Law* 1 (2025).

Civil Remedies for Racial Trauma. White paper, Civil Justice Research Initiative (University of California, Berkeley), with Lucas Bainbridge. October 2023.

1200 Dollars and a Mule: COVID-19, the CARES Act, and Reparations for Slavery, 68 *UCLA L.Rev. Discourse* 204 (2020).

Environmental Justice Reparations for Jeju Island, 7 *World Env. & Island Studies* 95 (2018)
(with Kath Rogers)

“The Unconscionable Impossibility of Reparations for Slavery; or, Why the Master’s Mules will Never Dismantle the Master’s House,” in *INJURY AND INJUSTICE: THE CULTURAL POLITICS OF HARM AND REDRESS* (Cambridge University Press 2017) (Anne Bloom, David Engel & Michael McCann eds.)

“40 Acres and a Lawsuit: Legal Claims for Reparations,” in *RACE, ETHNICITY AND LAW* (Elsevier 2016) (Sociology of Crime, Law and Deviance series)

“The Divine Institution of Marriage”: A Short Overview of LDS Statements Regarding Proposition 8, 26 *J. Civ. Rts & Econ. Dev.* 705 (2012).

From Radical to Practical (and Back Again?): Reparations, Rhetoric, and Revolution, Journal of Civil Rights & Economic Development (2011)

Too Big to Remedy? Rethinking Restitution for Slavery and Jim Crow, 43 Loyola L.A. L. Rev. 177 (2010)

Apology Lite: Truths, Doubts, and Reconciliations in the Senate's Guarded Apology for Slavery, 42 Connecticut Law Review CONNtemplations 1 (2009)

Reparations Within the Rule of Law, 29 Thomas Jefferson Law Review 231 (2007).

Causation and Attenuation in the Slavery Reparations Debate, 40 University of San Francisco Law Review 279 (2006).

Nullificatory Juries, 2004 Wisconsin Law Review 1115 (2004) (with David A. Hoffman)

Slavery as a Takings Clause Violation, 53 American University Law Review 191 (2003)

SELECTED LEGAL PRESENTATIONS

Beyond the Flames: Housing Justice and Rebuilding after the Wildfires. Loyola Law School Panel, Loyola Interdisciplinary Journal of Public Interest Law, April 4, 2025.

The Master's Tools and the Tenant's House. Tulane Law School, Racial Capitalism Symposium. February 22, 2025.

The Master's Tools and the Tenant's House. Chapman Law School panel, How Legal Decisions Affect Intersectionality: Anti-capitalist and Decolonial Perspectives (Diversity and Social Justice Forum 2024). Orange, California, February 1, 2024.

Tenant Defense and Right to Counsel: Lessons from Los Angeles. RAND/Berkeley conference, The Civil Legal Aid Crisis in Eviction Cases: Options and Opportunities. Washington, D.C., June 23, 2023.

Roundtable participant, Roundtable on Legal Remedies for Racial Trauma, Civil Justice Research Initiative, University of California School of Law, Berkeley, California, January 31, 2020.

Microreparations, Jeju 4.3 Conference, University of North Carolina, Panel: Theoretical Issues of Reparations and Reconciliation (with Al Brophy and Carlton Waterhouse), May 22, 2017.

Reparations for Slavery: New Developments and Perspectives, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, June 3rd, 2016 (with Atiba Ellis, Carlton Waterhouse, and Mitch Crusto).

Racial Disparities in Criminal Law, Alliant University, San Diego, December 11, 2015.

Reparations Braintrust, Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference, September 26, 2014 (invited panelist).

In Defense of Law Review Affirmative Action, LatCrit Conference, October 4, 2013. Chicago. (Panel topic Diversity Crisis: Danger and Opportunity for Legal Education, with Juan Perea, Vinay Harpalani, and Dagmar Rita Myslinska).

The Intersection of Race and Law: Response to Trayvon Martin Tragedy and Zimmerman Not Guilty Verdict, San Diego Foundation, August 9, 2013 (with Scott Lewis, Lei-Chala Wilson, Reuben Cahn, and Marjorie Cohn).

Law Review Affirmative Action. Law and Society Association Annual Meeting. Boston. May 30, 2013.

Toward Microreparations. Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, May 30, 2011.

Hawaiian by Law, UCLA Law School, 5th Annual Critical Race Studies Symposium, April 2nd, 2011.

University Microreparations. Slavery and the University Conference. February 5, 2011. Emory University.

“The Divine Institution of Marriage”: LDS Use of Legal Arguments in the Proposition 8 Campaign. St. John’s Law School Symposium on Legal, Secular, and Religious Perspectives on Marriage Equality, Marriage Protection, and Same-Sex Marriage. November 12, 2010.

Apology, Microreparations, and the Reparations Movement. Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference, “H.R. 40: Creating a Dialogue on the Legacy of Slavery” panel, Washington, D.C., September 17, 2010. (Invited panelist).

Rethinking Restitution for Slavery and Jim Crow. 2010 Civil Justice Symposium at Loyola Law School, “Rethinking Remedies” panel, Los Angeles, California, March 26, 2010 (invited panelist) (with Jason Solomon, Stephen Munzer, and Doug NeJaime).

Forty Acres at the Intersection: The Role of Slavery Reparations in Addressing the Subordination of Multiply-Marginalized People. UCLA Law School, 4th Annual Critical Race Studies Symposium, “Intersectional Critiques of Legal Doctrine” panel, Los Angeles, California, March 11, 2010 (panelist and moderator) (with K.J. Greene, William “Chip” Carter Jr., and Joseph Morrissey).

Radical Reparations. Southern California Junior Faculty Conference, Southwestern University Law School, Los Angeles, California, May 2009.

Towards Microreparations. University of Utah works-in-progress series, Salt Lake City, Utah, March 2009.

Reinventing Reparations. LaVerne Law School works in progress series, Orange, California, February 2009.

Legal Claims for Reparations. Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference, “Reparations for Slavery” panel, Washington, D.C., October 2006 (invited panelist) (with Katrina Browne and Eric J. Miller).

Organizer and Moderator, *Taking Reparations Seriously* conference. Thomas Jefferson School of Law, San Diego, California, March 2006.

Reparations within the Rule of Law. *Taking Reparations Seriously* conference, “Why Reparations Matter” panel, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, San Diego, California, March 2006 (with Jack Greenberg, Roy L. Brooks, and Robert Westley).

Causation and Attenuation in the Slavery Reparations Debate. Brooklyn-Cardozo Mass Tort series, Cardozo Law School, New York, New York, 2004.

SELECTED WORKSHOPS AND STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

“Housing Rights Through an Intersectional Lens.” Southwestern Law School, March 2, 2023.

Guest Speaker, Community Lawyering Clinic, Southwestern Law School, November 17, 2021.

Guest Speaker for Class, UCLA Law School, Epstein Program. September 14, 2020.

Workshop presenter, National Lawyer’s Guild/Eviction Defense Network Tenant Rights Workshop (“Ask an Attorney / Covid-19 Legal Rights”). Over a dozen workshop appearances, April 2020 to present.

Workshop Presenter, Inner City Law Center, “On the Ground: Inside the Fight for Housing and Justice.” May 11, 2021.

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

Quoted in David Wagner & Yurza Farzan, *The LA Fires Raise Many Questions for Renters. LAist Has Answers.* LAist.com, Jan. 21, 2025, <https://laist.com/news/housing-homelessness/los-angeles-fires-renters-rights-guide>

Quoted in Paloma Esquivel, *Risk of Being Evicted Grows in L.A., Filings Rise, Though not as Much as Feared, as New Protections Replace Moratoriums*, Los Angeles Times, Dec. 28, 2023.

Quoted in Lisa Deaderick, *Reparations Necessary to Begin Repairing Harm Caused by Slavery*, San Diego Union-Tribune, Oct. 11, 2020.

“No, You Don’t Go to Jail for Not Paying Rent,” JURIST Academic Commentary, April 14, 2020, <https://www.jurist.org/commentary/2020/04/Kaimipono-david-wenger-debtors-prison/>

"License to Discriminate" or "Gay Mafia"? Religious Liberty Bills, LGBT Rights and Anti-Discrimination Law, JURIST, April 10, 2016.

The Daily Beast, “We Need More Ferguson-Style Grand Juries,” November 30, 2014, at <http://www.thedailybeast.com/we-need-more-ferguson-style-grand-juries>

Quoted in Chris Nichols & Elizabeth Aguilera, *Official Petitions to Halt Same-Sex Marriages*, San Diego Union-Tribune, July 10, 2013.

Quoted in Joseph Walker, *Mormon Apologists Gather, but They Won’t Be Apologizing*, Deseret Morning news, Aug. 2, 2012.

Religious Intolerance is Never Welcome, Op-Ed, San Diego Union-Tribune, October 28, 2011.

KSWB-TV, “Proposition 8 Appeal,” television interview in connection with Proposition 8 appeal and Maine election result. Morning news, November 4, 2009.

KUSI-TV, “Proposition 8 Forum,” television interview in connection with Proposition 8 litigation. Morning news, March 6, 2009.

Salt Lake Tribune, Op-Ed, “*Harsh immigration laws echo 19th century anti-Mormon legislation.*” February 25, 2008.

Quoted in Derek Kravitz, “State Debates Slavery Apology,” St. Louis Post-Dispatch, April 13, 2007.

INTERNET WRITING AND PUBLICATION

Concurring Opinions, <http://www.concurringopinions.com>, general-interest legal group blog. Founding member; contributor from 2005 to 2014.

Feminist Law Professors, <http://feministlawprofessors.com/>, feminist legal group blog. Contributor, 2010-2016.

SERVICE

Society of American Law Teachers (SALT)
Member of the Board of Governors, 2014-2018.

National Lawyers Guild, Los Angeles.
Member of the Board of Directors, 2018-2020.
Member, Housing Committee, 2018-2024.

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Spanish.