

LESLIE BERMAN

ATTORNEY AT LAW

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE IN NEW YORK (1994), LOUISIANA (2002)

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EDUCATION

INTENSIVE TRIAL SKILLS TRAINING FOR THE EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION OF BATTERED WOMEN IN CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS, LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF NORTHERN NEW YORK, Albany, NY. March 2011.

DEMOCRACY FOR AMERICA CAMPAIGN TRAINING, Houston, TX. March 2007, Baton Rouge, LA June 2007 and WELLSTONE ACTION CAMPAIGN TRAINING, Long Beach, CA. December 2007.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR TRIAL ADVOCACY, New Orleans, LA. January 2004. Intensive trial advocacy training.

TULANE UNIVERSITY, NEWCOMB COLLEGE CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN, New Orleans, LA. 2001 – 2002. Visiting Scholar, Delivered paper in scholars' symposium series.

NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD UNIVERSITY, Oxford, England. 1993 – 1999. Faculty of Law, D.Phil. candidate. Dissertation: *Practical Theories/Theoretical Practices: Competing Feminisms And Their Implications For Legal Reform As Found In Efforts To Create And Implement Homicide Defenses For Battered Women In England, Louisiana, And New York*. Activities: Editor, *Oxford J. of Int'l Relations*; Treasurer, Middle Common Room; Representative, Grad. Law Students Group

CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW, YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, New York, NY. J.D. 1993. 3.35 GPA Top 15-20% Honors: Senior Editor, Law Review (Article: "In Memory of John D. Appel" 14 CARDOZO LAW REVIEW 247 (1992)); Dr. Samuel Belkin Scholarship. Law Review Note: *H, O, P Spells Trouble for Foreign Performing Artists: A Proposal to Correct the Anomalous Awarding of Temporary Employment Visas to Non-Employees*. Activities: Mediation Clinic; Intensive Trial Advocacy Program; 2L Student Senator; Editor-in-Chief, 1992 Yearbook

REGENTS COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, Albany, NY, B.A. June 1990. 3.83 GPA Majors in English Literature and Journalism

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

HILLARY CLINTON FOR PRESIDENT, Texas, Mississippi, Washington, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Montana. February 2008 – June 2008. *Montana Legal Team Recruitment Director, Legal Team Volunteer*. Recruited attorneys statewide for Montana election protection with special emphasis on Indian and tribal attorneys; researched and resolved primary day issues on site, in state, and by phone.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE KATHLEEN KAY, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, Lake Charles, Louisiana. December 2007 – February 2008. *Judicial Law Clerk*. Assisted transition to new magistrate judge, training chambers staff and performing administrative and law clerk duties.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE ALONZO P. WILSON, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, Lake Charles, Louisiana. January 2007 – December 2007. *Judicial Law Clerk*. Researched issues and drafted reports and recommendations, memorandum rulings, orders, motions and other documents for Federal magistrate judge.

MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY (UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA), COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT, MARKETING & GENERAL BUSINESS, August 2007 – December 2007 and WOMEN'S STUDIES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, January 2001 – May 2001, Lake Charles, Louisiana. *Visiting Lecturer*. Taught "Legal Environment of Business" and developed and taught "Women and the Law." Created syllabi, assigned and graded class presentations, research papers, and final examination.

LAW OFFICE OF LESLIE BERMAN, Lake Charles and New Orleans, Louisiana; Hoboken, New Jersey; Woodmere, Woodstock and East Setauket, New York. September 1995 – December 2006, January 2010 – Present. *Solo Practitioner*. Federal Public Defender panel (CJA indigent defense) W.D.LA, November 2002 – December 2006. Practice focused on arts and entertainment practitioners, businesses and non-profits, transactions and intellectual property, elder law and general practice.

HERZING COLLEGE, Kenner, Louisiana. January 2002 – October 2002. *Faculty*. Developed law courses in paralegal program, including Criminal Law, Law Office Practice, Legal Ethics and Professionalism, Legal Research and Writing.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE (continued)

JUDGE JAMES T. TRIMBLE, JR., UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, Lake Charles, Louisiana. August 2000 – August 2001. *Judicial Law Clerk*. Researched issues and drafted memoranda, memorandum rulings, orders, jury instructions, opinions, motions, and miscellaneous documents for Federal trial judge.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY, Oxford, England. October 1994 – August 1999. *Tutor and Lecturer*. Department of Continuing Education, Washington International Studies Council (WISC), Oxford Program for Undergraduate Students (OPUS), and Bridgewater State University visiting student programs. Created and taught “Women and the Law,” “Sex, Drugs, and Rock ‘n Roll: Teenagers’ Civil Rights and Obligations,” “Feminist Legal Philosophy,” “Philosophy of Law,” “Public International Law,” “Comparative Constitutionalism,” “Introduction to English Common Law,” “Intellectual Property Law,” “Introduction to Legal Research and Method,” “European Community Law,” and “Legal Environment of Business.” Created syllabi, wrote and delivered lectures, assigned and graded essays, final projects, and examinations. Also created courses for visiting foreign students on non-legal subjects including “Global Media,” “Comparative UK and US Media,” “Media and Government,” “Women and Media,” and “Feminist Theory for the 21st Century.”

LAW OFFICE OF MARK ARNOLD, Hoboken, New Jersey. December 1994 – Summer 1995. *Associate to Solo Practitioner*. Conducted client interviews and reviewed discovery documents, wrote memoranda and drafted interrogatories for commercial litigation client.

CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW, New York, NY. Summer 1991 – Spring 1993. *Senior Research Assistant to Professor Drucilla Cornell*. Researched citations for feminist legal philosopher; *Teaching Assistant, Legal Writing Program*, to Adjunct Professor Catherine Minuse, Esq., 2nd Circuit Pro Se Division. Prepared/graded assignments and library research skills course.

ACLU REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM PROJECT and CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE LAW AND POLICY, New York, NY. Autumn 1991 – Autumn 1992. *Research Assistant and Intern*. Researched and drafted footnotes, checked citations and copy-edited symposium articles and amici brief.

GORDON ALTMAN BUTOWSKY WEITZEN SHALOV & WEIN, New York, NY. Summer 1992. *Summer Associate*. Rotations in corporate, litigation, and tax departments, and in pool of bankruptcy, real estate, and trusts and estates attorneys. Researched and wrote legal memoranda, conducted due diligence, outlined deposition strategy.

BROOKLYN MEDIATION CENTER, Brooklyn, NY. Autumn 1991 – Autumn 1992. *Mediator*. Facilitated more than 40 landlord-tenant, employment, business, and interpersonal disputes. Framed issues, negotiated settlements, drafted agreements.

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, New York, NY. Summer 1991. *Intern*. Researched and drafted report to Governor Mario Cuomo on use of expert testimony on battered woman syndrome by defendants in spousal homicide cases, published as Michael G. Dowd, *Battered Women: A Perspective on Injustice*, 1 CARDOZO WOMEN'S LAW JOURNAL 1 (1993-1994).

PROFESSIONAL ARTS & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS EXPERIENCE

ITINERANT THEATRE, LLC, Lake Charles, LA. November 2011 – Present. *Founding Board Member, Board Secretary, Organization's Legal Counsel, Music Technical Advisor and Producer*. Advise on all legal matters for non-profit theatre organization, create musical programs for theatre productions, acquire relevant permissions and rights.

ALTEREGO PRODUCTIONS, Lake Charles, LA. November 2009 – December 2011. *Principal*. Produce and direct arts and culture projects, including creating theatre touring companies and promoting concerts. In May – November 2010, produced traveling tours of *Louisiana Women: Originals and Visionaries*, by Carolyn Woosley, throughout Louisiana.

CAMP FIRE USA SWLA COUNCIL, Lake Charles, Louisiana. March 2009 – August 2009. *Executive Director (Interim)*. Assisted non-profit in executive director search, major source fundraising, supervised staff, budget.

ARTS ADMINISTRATOR, New York and Poughkeepsie, NY. 1978 – 1984. *Long Island Jewish Arts Festival, Festival of Soviet Jewish Traditions, Jewish Ethnic Music Festival, From Barcelona to Baghdad: A Cultural Tour of Sephardic and Oriental Jewry, Great Hudson River Revival, Phil Ochs Songwriters' Workshops*. Planned and created multi-cultural festivals, multi-media theatrical tours, workshops, artists' professional program; programmed stages, drafted artists contracts, raised and allocated budgets, trained/directed board, staff, and volunteers; organized scholars' symposium; generated press and funding.

TOMATO RECORDS, New York, NY. 1978. *Publicity Assistant, Office Manager*. Maintained contacts with press and artists, supervised relocation of company offices, organized events, managed office and staff.

PROFESSIONAL ARTS & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS EXPERIENCE (continued)

J.C.GEEVER, INC., New York, NY. 1977 – 1978. *Staff Writer, Personal Assistant.* Drafted grant proposals and funding requests; managed office, scheduled part-time employees for professional fundraising/grantsmanship company.

KAREN DECROW, ATTORNEY; PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN, Syracuse, NY. 1975 – 1977. *Personal Assistant.* Assisted attorney in her public duties as president of national feminist organization.

JOURNALISM AND EDITING EXPERIENCE

FREELANCE JOURNALIST, New York, London, Lake Charles, LA 1980 – present. *The Village Voice, New York Newsday, The New York Times, The Nation, Rolling Stone, City Limits (UK), American Press (Lake Charles), Times of SWLA (Lake Charles), The Jambalaya News (Lake Charles),* many others. Contribute essays, reviews, features, columns.

LIBERATION PUBLICATIONS, INC., Los Angeles, California. May 1999 – October 1999. *Editor-in-Chief.* Lifestyle Magazine Special 15th Anniversary Issue. Developed 162-page magazine and accompanying compact disc with publisher and art director. Supervised all staff, directed archiving, researched/wrote editorial content, advertising copy and publicity.

EDITOR, *New York and London.* 1984 – 2003. *Grass Roots International Folk Resource Directory* (three editions), *Beats, City Limits, National Lampoon,* others. Assigned, edited, and copy-edited articles and related artwork; wrote contracts and payroll for freelance writers, artists, and models; developed new format, columns, and pool of freelancers; reorganized production; contributed features, columns, reviews, researched and fact-checked content.

PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

PAPERS: “Battered Women, Homicide Defense, and Louisiana: Through a Feminist Lens, Dimly,” Newcomb College Center for Research on Women Lecture Series, Newcomb College, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 2002. “Family Law And Mediation: A Feminist Reevaluation,” Women’s Studies Network (UK) Association 10th International Conference: Women, Policy and Politics, Institute of Education, University of London, July 1997.

BOOK CHAPTERS: “Charmed Circle: From Singers to Writers to Rockers,” in *Trouble Girls: The Rolling Stone Book of Women in Rock* (Barbara O’Dair ed., New York: Random House 1997); “On The Trail of the Blues,” in *Rock She Wrote: Women Write About Rock, Pop, and Rap* (Evelyn McDonnell & Ann Powers eds., New York: Dell Publishing /Bantam Doubleday Dell 1995); “New Age Music?” in *Not Necessarily the New Age* (Robert Basil ed., Buffalo, New York: Prometheus Books 1988).

COMPACT DISC LINER NOTES: Young Tradition: *Oberlin 1968* (Fledg’ling 2013); Don McLean: *Tapestry*, Gordon Lightfoot: *A Sunday Concert*, Townes Van Zandt: *The Late, Great Townes Van Zandt/High Low and In Between* (Acoustic Highway Series, EMI Reissues 1996); *The Sound of Simon and Garfunkel* (SONY Legacy 1995 unreleased); *Watching The Dark: A History of Richard Thompson* (Hannibal/Rykodisc 1993) – NAIRD award Liner Notes; Peter Bellamy: *Both Sides Then* (Fledg’ling 1992); Pete Seeger: *The Complete Carnegie Hall Concert* (Columbia 1989); *Tim Hardin* (Columbia 1989); others.

SCREENPLAYS: *Goodwill Games*, with Keti Dolidze, 1990; *Jews of New York*, with Uri Fruchtmann, 1989; *Abraham's Children*, with Jacob Bender, 1983-1984.

RADIO: WFMU, East Orange, NJ. 1988 – 1990. *Disc jockey and producer-announcer.* Music programs and newsmagazine. BBC2, Birmingham and London, UK. 1984 – 1986. *Commentator.* “Folk On Two.”

TELEVISION: WSYR-TV, Syracuse, NY. 1975 – 1977. *Community Program Producer.* “Alive In Syracuse.” Wrote, produced, and directed segments of weekly women’s and minority affairs program, following production training on scholarship.

ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

New York State Bar Association § Louisiana State Bar Association § Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (New York)
 Recording Academy (GRAMMY Voting Member) § People’s Music Network (Steering Committee)
 International Folk Music and Dance Alliance (Past President)
 Itinerant Theatre, Inc. (Secretary) § Music Museum of Southwest Louisiana (President)
 Arts and Humanities Council of Southwest Louisiana (Past Vice President)
 Lake Charles Public Radio Association (Past President) § Lake Charles Little Theatre (Past Treasurer)