

PETER EDWARD LARSEN

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Iowa City, IA

Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies (ABD)

Expected Conferral 2026

Dissertation: *Ally: The Commodification of Allyship in Modern America*

Teaching: *Understanding American Cultures (AMST 1010)*, Teaching Assistant (Fall 2020)
Understanding American Cultures (AMST 1010), Instructor (Spring 2021)
Sport and the Media (AMST 3175), Teaching Assistant (Fall 2021)
Understanding American Cultures (AMST 1010), Instructor (Spring 2022)
Diversity in American Culture (AMST 2025), Instructor (Fall 2022)
Understanding American Cultures (AMST 1010), Instructor (Spring 2023)

DRAKE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

Des Moines, IA

J.D., *with honors*

May 2019

Certificates: Constitutional and Civil Rights Law, Environmental and Sustainability Law,
Food and Agricultural Law, Legislative Practice, and Public Service

Moot Court: C. Edwin Moore First Year Oral Advocacy Competition, *Semi-Finalist*

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Chicago, IL

M.A. in Social Sciences

August 2017

Thesis: The Green Book and the Historical Racial Inequality of Place and Space for African-Americans

AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY

Minneapolis, MN

B.A., *summa cum laude* in International Relations, Political Science, and Religion May 2013

Theses: The New Crusades: A Brief Overview of the Vatican's Political Influence in the United States

Little Flower, Big Legacy: A Study of the Leadership, Legacy, and Impact of Fiorello LaGuardia

“People Don’t Get What They Deserve.” An Analysis of Religious Belief and Unbelief in House M.D.

MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Minneapolis, MN

A.A. in Liberal Arts

August 2011

EXPERIENCE

MITCHELL HAMLINE SCHOOL OF LAW

Assistant Professor of Law

Saint Paul, MN

July 2024 – Present

Tenure-track with service appointments to the Curriculum, Wellness, and Bylaws Committees and teaching Constitutional Liberties and Constitutional Powers.

DRAKE LAW LEGISLATIVE PRACTICE CENTER

Secondary Investigator

Des Moines, IA

January 2024 – August 2024

Drafting of a state model law for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) involuntary treatment and commitment in extraordinary circumstances. Duties include commentary, structuring of peer-review process, background research focusing on social science and identity, and drafting of the model law and final report. Awarded through the Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA) from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

LARSEN LAW FIRM, PLLC

Owner and Attorney-at-law

Des Moines, IA

March 2021 – Present

Specializing in civil rights cases, including race-based discrimination, sexual harassment, workplace discrimination and hostile work environment, transgender rights, reparations, institutional change, investigations, and policy work.

IOWA SUPREME COURT

Law Clerk to Justice Brent Appel

Des Moines, IA

August 2019 – August 2020

Performed legal research, writing, and other duties as requested. Typical duties include preparation of bench memos, drafting opinions, editing and publishing opinions, and bailiff and general court duties.

INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE REFORM AND INNOVATION

Research Assistant to Hon. Mark Bennett (ret.)

Des Moines, IA

September 2018 – May 2019

Reviewed and drafted case summaries and policy questions; conducted legal and policy research and drafts details memorandums on issues related to implicit bias and innovations to the criminal and civil justice systems.

THE HARKIN INSTITUTE

Legal and Policy Research Assistant

Des Moines, IA

May 2018 – May 2019

Performed research on legal and public policy issues pertaining to the focus areas of the Harkin Institute.

Provided other support as necessary, including attending policy conferences and fact-checking reports.

Drafted policy and legal briefings for former Attorney General Eric Holder and former Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Marsha Ternus; completed special projects at the request of U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (ret.).

PROFESSOR JAMES ALBERT
Research Assistant and Law Clerk

Des Moines, IA
April 2018 – July 2019

Assisted in development of course curriculum for “Sexual Harassment and Modern Torts” and “Administrative Law;” assisted in personal legal practice, providing legal research in preparation for litigation and drafting of court filings.

IOWA-NEBRASKA NAACP
Legislative Intern to Professors David Walker and Russell Lovell

Des Moines, IA
January 2018 – January 2019

Assisted in research, drafting, and coordination on legislation and public policy concerns, particularly regarding discriminatory pre-textual traffic stops, and with proposed “ban the box” legislation, including conducting an all-counties survey of Iowa employment practices.

PROFESSOR JULIE SMITH
Research Assistant

Des Moines, IA
September 2017 – May 2019

Conducted research for law review articles and other projects related to lawyer-lobbyist ethics and historical state legislature partisan voting patterns.

IOWA STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER, WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS DIVISION
Policy Intern

Des Moines, IA
May 2017 – December 2018

Conducted research on legal and public policy concerns including especially post-conviction remedies, as well as drafting fiscal notes for pending legislation.

MINNEAPOLIS COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
Commissioner (Vice-Chair, 2012-2013)

Minneapolis, MN
September 2011 – August 2014

Youngest Commissioner ever appointed to the MCCR by the Minneapolis City Council, at the time.

Heard complaints of discrimination, decided EEOC appeals, provided oversight to the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights, and developed public policy recommendations related to civil rights issues, including assisting in the redrafting of Minneapolis City Ordinances to be more inclusive; considerable public relations responsibilities, including serving as primary social media content manager, engaging regularly in community outreach, planning and implementing the annual MLK Jr. essay competition and community member award, and served on the Civil Rights Act of 1964 50th Anniversary interagency event planning committee.

MINNEAPOLIS TELEVISION NETWORK
Board of Directors (Chairman of the Board, 2011-2014)

Minneapolis, MN
January 2009 – December 2014

Appointed by Minneapolis City Council and Mayor, youngest member ever at time of appointment, longest serving Chairman.

Provided direction and oversight for the Executive Director and general financial and employee oversight to organization; frequently met with stakeholders and community.

Significant accomplishments include: Leading the search and hire process for a new Executive Director; complete rebranding of the Network; transitioned to new, custom-built facilities; diversified funding sources; and overhaul of policies, bylaws, and handbook.

MINNESOTA SENATE

Legislative Intern to State Senator John Doll

Saint Paul, MN
January – May 2009

Served in Senator Doll's office for the entirety of the 2009 regular session. Assisted with constituent relations, drafting correspondence, authoring reports, and tabulating survey responses. Additionally, served as a special liaison to various groups.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES

– *Special Collections Independent Researcher* (Iowa City, IA) 2021 – 2024

1665 DAYTON AVENUE (4-UNIT APARTMENT COMPLEX)

– *Owner/Manager* (St. Paul, MN) 2012 – 2024

CROSS OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

– *Interim Parish Administrator* (Shakopee, MN) 2015

NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

– *Interim Director of Youth Ministry* (Minneapolis, MN) 2015

SCHOLARSHIP

ARTICLES

“Sundown Towns,” *The Prairie Progressive*, January 2023, pg. 3.

“[The Racial Impact and Rhetoric of Student Loan Forgiveness](#),” *University of Pittsburgh Center for Civil Rights and Racial Justice*, December 11, 2022.

“Iowa Worker Changes the Future of Arbitration,” in *The Iowa Trial Lawyer*, Issue 8, Volume 21 – June 2022, pg. 9.

“[Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossings](#),” in *Sustainable Development Code*, Chapter 4.3: Pedestrian Mobility, author Peter Larsen, eds. Charlie Cowell, Jonathan Rosenbloom & Tegan Jarchow (2019).

COMMENTARIES AND EDITORIALS

“[Gender Diversity is Crucial for Judges and for Those Who Pick Them](#),”
Guest Essay in the Des Moines Register, January 19, 2024 (digital and print).

“[Iowa Judicial Nominating Commission can help make Supreme Court more like Iowa](#),”
Guest Essay in the Des Moines Register, June 16, 2022 (digital and print).

AMICUS BRIEFS

Leonard Gregory, et. al., v. State of Iowa, et. al., No. 24-0885, Polk County No. CVCV005708
(Iowa Supreme Court, filed 4/2/25) for the Iowa ACLU.

Dr. Allen Dierks and Diane Holst v. Scott County, Iowa and Kerri Tompkins, No. 23-1729, Scott County No. EQCE136057 (Iowa Supreme Court, filed 12/12/23) for the Iowa Freedom of Information Council.

Polly Carver Kimm v. Kim Reynolds et al., No. 22-0005, Polk County No. LACL148599 (Iowa Supreme Court, filed 8/9/22) for the Iowa Association for Justice.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Born from Necessity: The Green Book and Traveling While Black, circa 1936-1966

An Impermissible Burden: Partisan Gerrymandering Under the First Amendment

Reframing Environmental Racism: New Approaches to a Persistent Problem

Juliana et al. v. United States: Setting the Template for Plaintiff Class in Climate Litigation

PRESENTATIONS

ACADEMIC

Presenter, *Natural and Protective Hairstyle Discrimination*, Council on the Status of Women, University of Iowa (July 8, 2022).

Presenter, *The Politics of Natural Hairstyles: A cultural and legal history*, Mobilizing the Intersections of Power and Justice, Iowa State University (April 2, 2022).

Paper Presenter, *CROWN-ing Achievement: Policing Natural Hair and the Recent Proliferation of Anti-Bias Legislation*, Iowa Human Rights Research Conference, Virtual Conference (April 16, 2021).

Paper Presenter, *Environmental Racism and the Law: Defining the Problem and Proposing Solutions*, Iowa Human Rights Research Conference, University of Iowa Law School, Iowa City, Iowa (April 13, 2019).

Paper Presenter, *Reconciliation or Retribution? A Comparison of Contemporary Approaches in International Justice*, Iowa Human Rights Research Conference, Central College, Pella, Iowa (April 14, 2018).

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE Co-Presenter, *Perspectives on Mental Health and Disability in the Profession*, Mitchell Hamline, with Natalie Netzel (May 5, 2025).

CLE Co-Presenter, *Navigating Therapeutic Services as Attorneys*, Mitchell Hamline, with Miriam Itzkowitz (March 11, 2025).

CLE Co-Presenter, *Homeless Encampments: A Multilayered Perspective*, Minnesota State Bar Association, with Cathy ten Broeke, Michael Spindler-Krage, and Enrique Velázquez, (November 21, 2024).

CLE Co-Presenter, *Preparing Your Appeals Brief*, Iowa Association for Justice, with Annie Reser-Moorehead, (November 10, 2023).

CLE Presenter, *Developments in Surveillance and Privacy: Changing technologies and their effects on your legal practice*, Iowa Association for Justice (national, AAJ/TrialSmith), (February 2, 2023).

CLE Presenter, *Privacy and Surveillance: Recent technological developments and considerations in legal practice*, Iowa Supreme Court, (January 27, 2023).

CLE Presenter, *Police and Privacy*, Iowa Association for Justice, (November 22, 2022).

PROFESSIONAL

Presenter, *From Compliance to Equity: The Shift from Legal Minimums to a Culture of Inclusion in Higher Education*, Minnesota Association for Higher Education and Disability (June 4, 2025).

Co-Presenter, *Criminalization of Homelessness*, Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (June 4, 2025).

Presenter, *Integrating NextGen Bar Assessments into the Curriculum*, Mitchell Hamline (May 28, 2025).

Panelist, *Peace Scholars Alumni Panel*, Nobel Peace Prize Forum Scholar Conference (April 11, 2025)

Co-Presenter, *Student Town Hall on Trump Presidency*, Mitchell Hamline (March 7, 2025).

Presenter, *Intro to AI*, Mitchell Hamline, (March 5, 2025).

Co-Presenter, *Law School for Legislators*, Minnesota Association for Justice (February 14, 2025).

Presenter, *U.S. Supreme Court Term Review*, Mitchell Hamline, (October 2, 2024).

Presenter, *Surveillance and Privacy*, Iowa Paralegal Association, (April 21, 2023).

Panelist, *(In)Visible Disabilities at Work*, University of Chicago, Mind Your Career Series (May 11, 2022).

Presenter, *A Sea of Danger: "The Green Book" and African-American Travel, circa 1936-1966*, American Mensa Annual Gathering, Indianapolis, Indiana (July 4, 2018).

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & LICENSES

BAR ADMISSIONS

U.S. Supreme Court (2023-Present, Active)
Iowa (2019-Present, Active)

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES

Minnesota Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch – *Member* (2025-Present)

Transformation and Reentry through Education and Community (TREC) Academic and Cultural Worker Advisory Committee (Mellon Grant) – *Member* (2025-Present)

American Constitution Society—Minnesota Lawyers’ Chapter – *Board Member* (2025-Present)

Infinity Project – *Board Member* (2025-Present)

TruthTeeTold – *Advisory Board Member* (2023-Present)

Reproductive Justice Working Group, University of Iowa – *Member* (2022-2024)

Iowa Association of Justice – *Board of Governors Member, Amicus Brief Committee Member* (2022-2024)

Drake Recent Alumni Engagement Board – *Board Member* (2022-2024)

LifeServe Blood Center – *Blood donor* (2022-2023)

Boys and Girls Club of Central Iowa – *Speaker, Mentor* (2022)

Iowa State Bar Association – *Solo & Small Firm Section Council* (2023-2024); *Bail Reform Committee Member* (2021-2022)

Council on the Status of Women, University of Iowa – *Member* (2021-2022); *Voting Member* (2022-2024)

University of Iowa Graduate Student Senate – *Senator* (2021-2023)

Iowa-Nebraska NAACP – *Legal Redress Committee Member* (2021-2024)

University of Iowa Homerathon – *Reader* (2021)

Drake University Law School – *Mentor* (2022-2023; 2024-); *Moot Court, First Year Oral Argument, & C. Edwin Moore Judge* (2019-2020); *Environmental Law Moot Court Prep* (2019-2020; 2024); *Lanier Lunchable Speaker* (2024)

Drake University Law School Student Bar Association (SBA) – *Diversity Representative* (2018-2019)

Capital Improvement Program Advisory Committee, Ramsey County, MN – *Committee Member* (2015)

Domestic Abuse Project, Minneapolis, MN – *Board of Directors; Public Affairs Committee* (2015)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Churchwide Organization – *Study and Reform Committee, Chair* (2008-2009), *Business Process Committee, Chair* (2009), *LYO*

Restructuring Committee (2009-2011), LYO Writing Team, Chair (2009-2011), LYO Finance Committee, Chair (2010)

Minneapolis Area Synod – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) –
Reference and Counsel Committee (2013-2015), Governing Documents Review Task Force (2013-2014), Synod Council Member (2007-2009, 2010-2014), Executive Committee Member (2012-2013), Constitution Revision Committee (2006-2016), Leadership Table, Chair (2009-2014), Mission Table (2009-2014); Synod Team for Youth Leadership and Empowerment, Chair (2008-2012)

Minneapolis South High School Alumni Panels – *Panelist (2012-2018)*

Minnesota Women's Consortium – *Board of Directors; Public Policy Committee, Chair (2014-2015)*

Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church – *Endowment Board, Secretary (2010-2012), Constitution Revision Committee (2006-2007), Welcoming Committee (2008-2013); 75th Anniversary Committee (2002-2004); Youth Ministry Committee (2014-2015); Hiring Committee (2014-2015)*

Our Justice – *Board of Directors; Finance Committee, Audit Committee (2013-2015)*

Youth Leadership Academy of Elgin, IL – *Consultant (Pro-Bono), (2011)*

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

CURRENT

American Bar Association, *Member*
American Constitution Society, *Member*
American Mensa, *Life Member*
Iowa Association of Justice, *Member*
Iowa State Bar Association, *Member*
NAACP, *Life Member*
Society of American Law Teachers, *Member*

PAST

Iowa National Bar Association, *Member*
Iowa Inns of Mediation, *Student Member*
National Bar Association, *Member*
National Eagle Scout Association, *Member*
Polk County Bar Association, *Member*

CERTIFICATIONS

CIRTL (*Associate 2021*)
Engaging Across Cultures (*2021*)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

HONORS & AWARDS

AWARDS

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (2022) – Awarded for excellence in teaching by the University of Iowa’s Council on Teaching.

Drake Law Student Bar Association President’s Student Service Award (2019) – Awarded as the highest recognition for leadership and service contributions to Drake Law School.

Drake Law School Award for Equity & Inclusion (2019) – Awarded to “acknowledge and honor outstanding contributions to promoting understanding and appreciation of diversity, and to achieving and advancing diversity of gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, age, or disability within the Law School community.”

Drake Law Student Bar Association Events Committee Member of the Year (2019) – Awarded to recognize outstanding service contribution to the Events Committee.

ABA National Student Haiku Competition, Runner-Up (2016) – Annual competition for haikus based on recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

Rose Rees Peace Award (2008) – Awarded by the National Council of Jewish Women for “outstanding commitment towards international relations and world peace.”

Eagle Scout (2008) – The highest rank available in Boy Scouts, earned by only 6% of Boy Scouts (as of 2008).

ACADEMIC HONORS

CALI Award (highest grade) in State Constitutional Law (Spring 2019)

CALI Award (highest grade) in International Trade (Spring 2019)

Drake University Law School (2016-2019) – Dean’s List (four semesters); Graduated with honors

Augsburg University (2011-2013) – Dean’s List (all semesters); Summa cum laude

FINANCIAL AWARDS & GRANTS

Graduate College Iowa Recruitment Fellow (2020-2024) – Awarded to the University of Iowa’s “most accomplished new Ph.D. students,” providing additional financial support for research and study.

Alexander Kern Professional Travel Award (2023) – Awarded by the University of Iowa’s Department of American Studies for academic-related expenses.

Predoctoral Research Fellow, University of Iowa Public Policy Center (2021) – A six-month appointment at the Public Policy Center at the University of Iowa, including research support and cohort seminars.

Dean’s Scholarship (2016-2019) – A financial award covering law school tuition at Drake Law School.

Christensen Scholar (2012-2013) – A nomination-based financial award paired with participation in cohort seminar around vocation and theology.

Nobel Peace Prize Forum Scholar (2012) – A nomination-based award which included a fully paid summer research scholarship to study at the Nobel Peace Institute in Oslo, Norway while attending cohort seminars and courses at the University of Oslo.

INTERVIEWS AND PRESS

“AJT v. Osseo Schools Decision,” Drivetime with DeRusha, WCCO (radio and podcast), June 13, 2025.

“[Supreme Court sides with disabled Maple Grove teen, opening door to more school district lawsuits](#),” Star Tribune (print and web), June 13, 2025.

“[Trump v. Rule of Law is a case that is riveting lawyers, judges and legal experts](#),” MinnPost (web), May 5, 2025.

“[How Cutting Education Department Could Harm Jewish Students](#),” Newsweek (print and web), March 24, 2025.

“[Disabled Maple Grove teen takes school district discrimination case to U.S. Supreme Court](#),” Star Tribune (print and web), March 16, 2025.

“[Federal Law Requires Minneapolis Fed to Diversify Workforce. Could Trump’s DEI Order Change That?](#),” Star Tribune (print and web), February 4, 2025.

“[Legal Battle Over Shakopee House Seat May Not Be Over](#),” KSTP (television and web), January 17, 2025.

“[Minnesota Courts May Get Final Say in Government’s Constitutional Clash](#),” Minnesota Public Radio (radio and web), January 16, 2025.

“[Peter Larsen seeks to inspire students to use the law to help others](#),” Mitchell Hamline, September 20, 2024

“[Drake Legislative Practice Center Awarded Sub-Grant to Develop Model State Drug Law](#),” Drake University, June 10, 2024.

“[Financial boycott bill introduced into legislature](#),” KCRG-TV9, January 25, 2023.

[“November 2022 My Museum Monday: Peter Larsen,”](#) Des Moines Art Center, December 5, 2022.

[“The Link—Peter Larsen,”](#) interview with the Project Success Podcast, April 17, 2020.

[“MTN deals with \\$90,000 budget cut, network’s executive director to resign in March,”](#) interview with The Minnesota Daily, January 18, 2012.

OTHER INTERESTS

Watching documentaries, cooking (and learning how to prepare new dishes), taking long walks (particularly on cold days), reading books of all types, and visiting museums.

References available upon request.