

Crystal S. Yang

Contact Information

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Appointments

Bennett Boskey Professor of Law, Harvard Law School, 2022 – present
Affiliated Faculty, Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, 2019 – present
Affiliated Faculty, Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, 2021 – present
Professor of Law, Harvard Law School, 2019 – 2022
Assistant Professor of Law, Harvard Law School, 2014 – 2019

Visiting Appointments

Stephen Friedman Visiting Professor of Law, Columbia Law School, Fall 2018
Visiting Professor of Law, New York University School of Law, Fall 2017
Visiting Associate Research Scholar, Princeton University, Fall 2016

Professional Affiliations

Affiliate, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, 2024 – present
Co-Director, Crime Working Group, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2021 – present
Board of Editors, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 2019 – present
Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2019 – present
Advisory Committee, Causal Research on the Criminal Justice System, Arnold Ventures and Russell Sage Foundation, 2024 – present
Advisory Committee, Behavioral Science and Decision-Making in Context, Russell Sage Foundation, 2022 – 2024
Co-Editor, *Journal of Public Economics*, 2021 – 2024
Director, American Law and Economics Association, 2018 – 2021
Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2017 – 2019

Past Employment

Special Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts, 2014 – 2015
Olin Fellow and Instructor in Law, The University of Chicago Law School, 2013 – 2014
Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, Summer Associate, 2012
United States Attorney's Office Boston, Law Clerk, Criminal Appeals Division, 2011

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Harvard University, 2013
J.D., *magna cum laude*, Harvard Law School, 2013
A.M. in Statistics, Harvard University, 2008
A.B. in Economics, *summa cum laude*, Harvard University, 2008

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Changing Opportunity: Sociological Mechanisms Underlying Growing Class Gaps and Shrinking Race Gaps in Economic Mobility, with Raj Chetty, Will Dobbie, Benjamin Goldman, and Sonya Porter, accepted, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.
2. Can you Erase the Mark of a Criminal Record? Labor Market Impacts of Criminal Record Remediation, with Amanda Agan, Andrew Garin, Dmitri Koustas, and Alex Mas, conditionally accepted, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.
3. Algorithmic Recommendations and Human Discretion, with Victoria Angelova and Will Dobbie, accepted, *Review of Economic Studies*.
4. “Something Works” in U.S. Jails: Misconduct and Recidivism Effects of the IGNITE Program, with Marcella Alsan, Arkey Barnett, and Peter Hull, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 140(2): 1367-1415, 2025.
5. Labor Market Impacts of Reducing Felony Convictions, with Amanda Agan, Andrew Garin, Dmitri Koustas, and Alex Mas, *American Economic Review: Insights*, 6(3): 341-358, 2024.
6. Fear and the Safety Net: Evidence from Secure Communities, with Marcella Alsan, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 106(6): 1427-1441, 2024.
7. Health Care in U.S. Correctional Facilities - A Limited and Threatened Constitutional Right, with Marcella Alsan, James R. Jolin, Lucy Tu, and Josiah D. Rich, *New England Journal of Medicine*, 388: 847-852, 2023.
8. Judicial Politics and Sentencing Decisions, with Alma Cohen, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 11(1): 160-191, 2019.
9. Racial Bias in Bail Decisions, with David Arnold and Will Dobbie, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 133(4): 1885-1932, 2018.
10. The Effects of Pre-Trial Detention on Conviction, Future Crime, and Employment: Evidence from Randomly Assigned Judges, with Will Dobbie and Jacob Goldin, *American Economic Review*, 108(2): 201-240, 2018.
11. Consumer Bankruptcy and Financial Health, with Will Dobbie and Paul Goldsmith-Pinkham, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 99(5): 853-869, 2017.
12. Local Labor Markets and Criminal Recidivism, *Journal of Public Economics*, 147: 16-29, 2017.
13. Resource Constraints and the Criminal Justice System: Evidence from Judicial Vacancies, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 8(4): 289-332, 2016.
14. Free At Last? Judicial Discretion and Racial Disparities in Federal Sentencing, *Journal of Legal Studies*, 44(1): 75-111, 2015.

Law Review Publications and Other Publications

1. Algorithmic Recommendations When the Stakes Are High: Evidence from Judicial Elections, with Victoria Angelova and Will Dobbie, *American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings*, 114: 633-37, 2024.
2. The U.S. Pretrial System: Balancing Individual Rights and Public Interests, with Will Dobbie, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 35(4): 49-70, 2021.
3. The Economic Costs of Pretrial Detention, with Will Dobbie, *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 2021.
4. Equal Protection Under Algorithms: A New Statistical and Legal Framework, with Will Dobbie, *Michigan Law Review*, 119(2): 291-396, 2020.
5. Proposals for Improving the U.S. Pre-Trial System, with Will Dobbie, *The Hamilton Project*, March 2019.
6. Toward an Optimal Bail System, *New York University Law Review*, 92(5): 1399-1493, 2017.

7. Does Public Assistance Reduce Recidivism?, *American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings*, 107(5): 551-55, 2017.
8. Have Inter-Judge Sentencing Disparities Increased in an Advisory Guidelines Regime? Evidence From *Booker*, *New York University Law Review*, 89(4): 1268-1342, 2014.

Working Papers and Works in Progress

1. The Hidden Health Care Crisis Behind Bars: A Randomized Trial to Accredit U.S. Jails, with Marcella Alsan.
2. Are Two Heads More Lenient Than One?, with Marit Rehavi.
3. The Role of Beliefs in Driving Racial Discrimination: Experimental Evidence from the U.S. Pretrial System, with Will Dobbie.

Research Grants

1. Arnold Ventures: “Reducing Racial Disparities in Bail Decisions,” with Will Dobbie, 2024-2025
2. Arnold Ventures: “The Effects of Health Care Accreditation on the Health and Well-Being of Incarcerated Individuals,” with Marcella Alsan, 2023-2024
3. Arnold Ventures: “Something Works: Misconduct and Recidivism Effects of the IGNITE Program,” with Marcella Alsan, Arkey Barnett, and Peter Hull, 2023-2024
4. William T. Grant Foundation: “Improving Correctional Health Services to Advance Health Equity,” with Marcella Alsan, 2022-2023
5. Russell Sage Foundation: “Reducing Racial Health Care Gaps Via Physician Solidarity Signals,” with Marcella Alsan and Damon Jones, 2022-2023
6. J-PAL North America: “Identifying and Addressing Structural Racism,” with Marcella Alsan and Damon Jones, 2021-2022
7. Russell Sage Foundation: “Reducing Racial Disparities in Bail Decisions,” with Will Dobbie, 2021-2023
8. William T. Grant Foundation: “Reducing Racial Disparities in Bail Decisions: An Experiment on Public Accountability and Feedback in Texas,” with Will Dobbie, 2020-2021
9. J-PAL North America: “Evaluating the Effect of NCCHC Accreditation on Health Care and Health Outcomes in US Jails,” with Marcella Alsan, 2020-2023
10. J-PAL North America: “Reducing Racial Disparities in Bail Decisions,” with Will Dobbie, 2019-2020
11. National Science Foundation: “Fear and the Safety Net: Evidence from Secure Communities,” with Marcella Alsan, 2019-2021

Awards, Honors, and Fellowships

- B. Jaye Anno Award of Excellence in Communication, 2025
- Albert M. Sacks-Paul A. Freund Award for Teaching Excellence, 2023
- American Law Institute Early Career Scholars Medal, 2023
- AEJ: Applied* Excellence in Refereeing Award, 2021
- John M. Olin Prize (co-winner for best paper in law and economics), 2013
- Terence M. Considine Fellowship, 2012-2013
- John M. Olin Fellowship, 2010-2012
- Harvard Law School Fellowship in Law and Graduate Studies (full tuition), 2010-2013
- NSF-IGERT Doctoral Fellowship, Program in Inequality and Social Policy, 2009-2012
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2008-2010

Phi Beta Kappa, 2008
Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize for Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis, 2008
United States Presidential Scholar, 2004

Judicial Citations

Have Inter-Judge Sentencing Disparities Increased in an Advisory Guidelines Regime? Evidence From *Booker*, *New York University Law Review*, 89(4): 1268-1342, 2014.

- *Molina-Martinez v. United States*, 136 S. Ct. 1338 (2016)
- *United States v. Mathurin*, 868 F.3d 921 (2017)
- *United States v. G.L.*, 305 F.R.D. 47 (2015)

Toward an Optimal Bail System, *New York University Law Review*, 92(5): 1399-1493, 2017.

- *United States v. Wiley*, 103 F.4th 565 (2024)
- *Mitchell v. Doherty*, 37 F.4th 1277 (2022)
- *People of the Virgin Islands v. Berthier*, 2021 VI SUPER 58U

Racial Bias in Bail Decisions, with David Arnold and Will Dobbie, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 133(4): 1885-1932, 2018.

- *United States v. Foakes*, 2023 WL 2823501 (2023)

Referee and Reviewer

Referee for *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *American Economic Review: Insights*, *American Economic Review*, *American Law and Economics Review*, *Criminology*, *Econometrica*, *Economic Inquiry*, *International Review of Law and Economics*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization*, *Journal of Legal Analysis*, *Journal of Legal Studies*, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Harvard Law Review*, *National Science Foundation*, *J-PAL North America*, *Conference on Empirical Legal Studies*, *American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting*

Bar Admissions

New York (2014), U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit (2014), U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts (2014)