

## ALEXANDER L. CHEN

Founding Director, Harvard Law School LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic  
Senior Clinical Instructor and Lecturer on Law  
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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, MA

*Founding Director*, Harvard Law School LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic (2020-present)

*Senior Clinical Instructor*, Harvard Law School (2025-present)

*Clinical Instructor* (2020-present)

*Lecturer on Law*, Harvard Law School (2020-present)

Founded award-winning clinical program that has achieved landmark impact litigation victories, written and passed first-in-the-nation plural domestic partnership and non-discrimination laws, and published influential amicus briefs, regulatory comments, and white papers. Grown program to four staff and twenty students annually. Partnered with over thirty civil rights organizations. One of three faculty members chosen by the 2023 Harvard Law School graduating class to give a “Last Lecture.”

*Founding Faculty Affiliate*, Carr Center for Human Rights Global LGBTQI+ Program, Harvard Kennedy School of Government (2024–present)

### EDUCATION

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, J.D., *cum laude* (2015)

*Harvard Law Review*, Articles Editor

Co-Founder, Harvard Labor and Employment Action Project

Co-Founder, Harvard Queer & Trans People of Color

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, M.A., English and Comparative Literature (2012)

Thesis: *Poverty as a Structuring Principle in Piers Plowman*

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, B.A., *First Class Honours*, English Language and Literature (2009)

Wadham College Prize (outstanding performance in final-year examinations)

### PUBLICATIONS

*Transgender Body Politics*, 125 MICH. L. REV. (forthcoming 2027) (reviewing Carolyn Wolf-Gould et al.’s *A History of Transgender Medicine in the United States* and Oliver Baez Bendorf’s *Consider the Rooster*)

*Queer Collective Rights*, 115 GEO. L.J. (forthcoming 2026)

*Parafamily*, 105 B.U. L. REV. 385 (2025) (with Christina Mulligan)

- Reviewed by Elizabeth F. Emens, *Mainstreaming Parafamily*, 105 B.U. L. REV. 443 (2025)

*Advancing Transgender Health Amid Rising Policy Threats*, 392 N. ENG. J. MED. 1041 (2025) (with David R.A. Coelho & Alex S. Keuroghlian)

Book Chapter, *Legal and Policy Considerations for Transgender, Non-Binary, and Gender Expansive People in Mental Health*, in GENDER-AFFIRMING PSYCHIATRIC CARE FOR TRANSGENDER & GENDER DIVERSE

PEOPLE (Teddy G. Goetz & Alex S. Keuroghlian eds., Am. Psychol. Ass'n, 2024) (with Mason Dunn & Seran Gee)

*Legislation Restricting Gender-Affirming Care for Transgender Youth: Politics Eclipse Health Care*, 3 CELL REP. MED. 100719 (2022) (with Katherine L. Kraschel, Jack L. Turban, & I. Glenn Cohen)

Symposium, *Transgender Health Equity and the Law: Editors' Introduction*, 50 J.L. MED. & ETHICS 401 (2022) (with Heather Walter-McCabe)

Note, *Social Security Administration Eliminates Surgical Requirement for Changing Trans Individuals' Gender Markers*, 127 HARV. L. REV. 1863 (2014)

Note, *The Supreme Court 2013 Term, Leading Case: Federal Jurisdiction and Procedure—Daimler AG v. Bauman*, 128 HARV. L. REV. 311 (2014)

## CLERKSHIPS

HON. M. MARGARET MCKEOWN, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT (2016–17)

HON. GONZALO P. CURIEL, U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA (2015–16)

## LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LGBTQ RIGHTS, San Francisco, CA

Equal Justice Works Fellow (sponsored by Salesforce & Baker McKenzie) (2017–19)

Conducted national LGBTQ+ civil rights impact litigation, legislative and policy advocacy, and public education. Litigated landmark federal appellate cases involving the first transgender military ban and transgender prisoner health care access. Co-drafted CA AB 2119, a first-in-the-nation bill guaranteeing transition-related health care access for trans youth in foster care.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION, Washington, DC

Legal Intern, Educational Opportunities Section (Summer 2014)

Drafted briefs, reviewed depositions, and prepared witnesses for desegregation hearings. Reviewed Department of Education Title IX sexual violence guidelines and Title IX complaints.

ADVOCATES FOR TRANSGENDER EQUALITY, Washington, DC

Law Fellow (Summer 2014)

Drafted policy guidance for federal agencies and performed legal research on employment, criminal, administrative, and education issues involving transgender people.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION, New York, NY

Legal Intern, Jon L. Stryker and Slobodan Randjelović LGBTQ & HIV Project (Summer 2013)

Conducted legal research for LGBTQ+ civil rights impact litigation, including on marriage equality, family law, HIV decriminalization, health care access, and transgender rights.

## SHORTER WORKS

*The Assault on Transgender Students*, L. & POL. ECON. PROJECT BLOG (Mar. 27, 2025) (with Dallas Estes) (cross-published in ACADEME)

*The Trans Youth Handbook* (3rd ed. 2025; 2nd ed. 2024; 1st ed. 2020 (with Asaf Orr))

Opinion, *Polyamorous Relationships Are a Good Thing*, THE BOSTON GLOBE (Sep. 27, 2024) (with Christina Mulligan)

*Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance: Sex-Related Eligibility Criteria for Male and Female Athletic Teams* (May 15, 2023) (with Anne Lieberman & Shayna Medley)

*How Federal Agencies Can Ensure Nondiscrimination and Advance Equity for Nonbinary and Gender Nonconforming People* (Aug. 15, 2022) (with Caspian Nash)

Opinion, *Gender-Affirming Care Doesn't Just Help Trans Youth Survive. It Allows Them to Flourish*, SLATE (Apr. 7, 2021)

Opinion, *Gay Rights and Trans Rights Are Indivisible. SCOTUS Just Showed Why*, SLATE (June 18, 2020)

Opinion, *The Supreme Court Doesn't Understand Transgender People*, SLATE (Oct. 18, 2019)

### **HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS**

Trans Alumni of the Year, Harvard University (2023) (inaugural awardee)

Harvard AAPI/APIDA Affinity Faculty Award (2023) (awarded to one faculty member per year University-wide for outstanding support of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American students)

Best Under 40, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (2023)

Best Under 40, National LGBTQ+ Bar Association (2019)

*Forbes* 30 Under 30, Law and Policy (2018)

Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans (2014) (1 of 30 nationwide)

### **SERVICE & AFFILIATIONS**

#### **External**

Consultant, MacArthur Fellowship (2025–present)

Co-founder, Polyamory Legal Advocacy Coalition (2020–present)

Co-founder, National Trans Bar Association (2016–present)

Emeritus Board Member (2024–present)

Board Member (2016-2023)

Co-organizer, Transgender Law Institute (2015-2022)

Co-organizer, Mentorship Summit (2019)

Co-organizer, Polyamory Legal Roundtable, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law (Nov. 2024)

Co-organizer, Trans Rights Convening (Nov. 2023)

Chair, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education LGBTQ+ Law Update (2020)

#### **Internal**

Selection Committee, Wasserstein Public Interest Fellows Program (2024–present)

Faculty Advisor, Harvard Law School Queer & Trans People of Color (2023–present)

Selection Committee, *Harvard Law Review* Public Interest Fellowship (2018)

### **SELECT ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

### *Queer Collective Rights*

West Coast Sexuality, Gender & the Law Conference, UC Irvine School of Law (Mar. 2026)  
Health Law, Policy, Bioethics, & Biotechnology Workshop, Harvard Law School (Oct. 2025)  
Nonmarriage & the Law Roundtable, Cardozo Law School (Sep. 2025)  
Queer Legal Scholarship Symposium, Lavender Law (Jul. 2025)  
Family Law Scholars & Teachers Conference, Drexel Kline School of Law (June 2025)  
Health Law Professors Conference, Boston University School of Law (June 2025)  
Law and Society Association Annual Meeting (May 2025)  
Law and the Interloper Workshop, American Bar Foundation (May 2025)  
Climenko Fellows' Workshop, Harvard Law School (Apr. 2025)  
Junior Scholars Conference, Northeastern University School of Law (Mar. 2025)  
Gender Law & Policy Colloquium, Boston University School of Law (Oct. 2024)  
Clinical Law Review Workshop, NYU School of Law (Sep. 2024)

### *Advancing Transgender Health Amid Rising Policy Threats*

Fenway Institute Poster Session (May 2025) (awarded Outstanding Policy or Advocacy Poster)

### *The Right to Detransition* (forthcoming)

West Coast Sexuality, Gender & the Law Conference, UC Irvine School of Law (Feb. 2025)

### *Parafamily*

Nonmarriage & the Law Roundtable, University of Virginia School of Law (Sep. 2024)  
West Coast Sexuality, Gender & the Law Conference, Loyola Law School (Mar. 2024)

## **SELECT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

### **Keynotes**

Nicholas Papadopoulos Lecture, Harvard College (Apr. 2025)  
LGBTQIA+ Leadership in Higher Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education (Mar. 2025)  
Advancing Excellence in Transgender Health Conference, Harvard Medical School/Fenway Institute (Oct. 2024)  
*Living a Good Life as a Socially Conscious Lawyer*, Harvard Law School "Last Lecture" Series (Apr. 2023)  
(1 of 3 professors chosen by graduating class)  
*Advancing LGBTIQ+ Rights Through Impact Litigation*, Mexican Supreme Court of Justice (July 2021)  
Harvard Gender & Sexuality Caucus Annual Commencement (May 2021)

### **Plenaries**

*The Impact of Trump 2.0 on Family Life and Family Law—and Strategies for Resistance*, Family Law Scholars & Teachers Conference, Drexel Kline School of Law (June 2025)  
*State of the Union(s): The Future of Relationships*, The Boston Globe Summit (Oct. 2024)  
*Gender Equality and the Rights of Transgender Athletes*, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Convention (Nov. 2023)  
*Issues Facing the Transgender Community: Progress, Backlash, and Paths Forward*, John F. Kennedy Forum, Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics (Sep. 2022)  
*Gender Diversity and Equal Justice: Transgender Litigants and Lawyers in Our Courtrooms*, National Workshop for U.S. Magistrate Judges, Federal Judicial Center (Apr. 2022)  
*Transgender Day of Visibility: Visibility, Resilience, & Movement*, U.S. Agency for International Development (Mar. 2021)

*Trans Justice: Preparing for Upcoming Legislative Attacks and Litigation Efforts*, National LGBT Litigators' Roundtable (Dec. 2020)  
*Title VII and Beyond: The Scope of Civil Rights Protections in the Aftermath of Bostock/Stephens/Zarda*, Lavender Law (Aug. 2020)

#### **SELECT INTERVIEWS & MEDIA APPEARANCES**

*How Trump Uses Language to Attack the Idea of Transgender Identity*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 11, 2025)  
*If Trump Wins the Election, This is What's at Stake*, THE GUARDIAN (Sep. 24, 2024)  
*Polyamory is Getting Slivers of Legal Recognition in America*, THE ECONOMIST (Jan. 12, 2023)  
*Suing New York, Over and Over, for Transgender Rights*, N.Y. TIMES (July 4, 2022)

#### **BAR ADMISSIONS & CERTIFICATIONS**

Admitted to the California and New York Bars. Admitted to practice in the Supreme Court; the Second, Third, and Tenth Circuits; and in the Northern, Central, and Southern Districts of California.

Trained in executive management and leadership development by Keystone Partners (Dec. 2023-July 2024).