

# Zahra Takhshid

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## CURRENT POSITION

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### Harvard Law School

The Lewis Fellow for Law Teaching & Lecturer on Law  
Harvard Law School Program in Islamic Law- Affiliate  
Harvard Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society- Affiliate

July 2019-Present  
August 2019- Present  
September 2020-Present

## EDUCATION

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### Fordham University School of Law

The Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.)

New York, N.Y.  
August 2015-May 2019

Dissertation: Negligence and the Judicial Review of Exculpatory Clauses, Supervisor: Benjamin C. Zipursky.

Activities: Fellow, Institute on Religion, Law & Lawyer's Work (2016-2019); Lecturer in Law, Fordham Legal English Institute (Fall 2018); Research Assistant for Professor Benjamin Zipursky (2019); Fordham S.J.D. Society: Founder and President; LL.M. Legal Writing & Plagiarism Workshop Instructor (2016, 2017); Sanctuary for Families Courtroom Advocates Project, Student Advocate; Legal Outreach, Inc., Debate Coach (2015-2016) -(2018-2019); Youth Law (Winter 2019).

### George Washington University Law School

Master of Laws (LL.M.)

Washington, D.C.  
August 2014

Honors: Recipient of full tuition Thomas Buergenthal Scholarship.

Activities: GW Street Law: Teaching the Bill of Rights at a Middle School, Recipient of GW Street Law Teacher of the Year Award (2014).

### University of Tehran, School of Law and Political Science

Master of Laws (LL.M.) (Private and Islamic Law)

Tehran, Iran  
June 2013

Honors: *Summa Cum Laude* (Top 5% of the class), Recognized as Outstanding Talent by University of Tehran. Member of Student Bar Association.

### University of Tehran, School of Law and Political Science

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Tehran, Iran  
June 2010

Honors: *Magna Cum Laude* (Top 10% of the class), Recognized as Outstanding Talent by University of Tehran; Recognized as an honor student by Iran's National Elite Organization.

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Primary: Torts, Contracts, Social Media & the Law, Islamic Law, Defamation & Privacy.

Secondary: Property, Comparative Law, Technology & the Law, Law & Religion, Professional Responsibility.

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

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### Articles & Essays

Assumption of Risk in Consumer Contracts and the Distraction of Unconscionability, CARDOZO L. REV. (Forthcoming 2021) (Job talk paper).

[Retrievable Images on Social Media Platforms: A Call for a New Privacy Tort](#), 68 BUFFALO L. REV. 1 2020.

[Nonessential Businesses and Liability Waivers in the Time of COVID-19](#), 105 MINNESOTA. L. REV. HEADNOTES 42-53, 2020.

Kidney, Money, and the *Shi'ab* Implementation of the Rule of Necessity, UCLA J. OF ISLAMIC & N. E. LAW (Forthcoming 2021).

Lessons from Regulating E-Cigarettes: A Case of Coercive Paternalism, Nudging, or Behaviorally Informed Boosting? JOURNAL OF BIOMEDICAL LAW AND ETHICS [Peer-Reviewed] (essay) 2020 (Forthcoming).

Defenses to the Tort of Negligence: A Comparative Study of the Iranian and the American Legal Systems (With Dr. Laya Joneydi) LEGAL RESEARCH QUARTERLY, SHAHID BEHESHTI U. L. REV. [Peer-Reviewed] [in Farsi] (Forthcoming 2021).

Denied Boarding and Overbooked Flights: A Comparative Study of Contracts of Carriage (with Dr. Izanloo and Mr. Shahin) SHIRAZ U. J. OF LEGAL STUDIES. [Peer-Reviewed] [in Farsi] (Forthcoming 2021).

[Defamation and the Concept of Public Figure in the Iranian Legal System](#), 23 COMPARATIVE LAW RESEARCH TARBIAT MODARES U. L. REV., No. 4, Winter 2020, 1-35. [Peer-Reviewed] [in Farsi].

[A Critical Study of the Methodology of Comparative U.S. Tort Law Research](#) (with Dr. Hassan Badini), 49 PRIVATE LAW STUDIES QUARTERLY, U. OF TEHRAN L. REV., No. 2, Summer 2019, 217-237. [Peer-Reviewed] [in Farsi].

International Protection of Child, A Case Study of Girl Child Labor in Bangladesh and Nigeria, (with Dr. Nassrin Mossafa), 6 WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL OF WOMEN'S STUDIES, No. 2, Fall 2014 [in Farsi].

### ***Other Writings***

[New Mexico v. Google LLC: Children's Privacy and the Promises of Big Tech](#), HARVARD J.L. & TECH. DIGEST, Mar. 2020.

[Organic Labeling: Reconciling Religious Freedom and Animal Welfare in the European Union](#), HARVARD PROGRAM IN ISLAMIC LAW BLOG, Nov. 13, 2019.

### **WORKING PAPERS**

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Disinformation and Online Defamation: a Tale from the Middle East.

Rethinking *Conception*, Consumer Protection, and Public Policy.

Online Youth Education and the Case Against Parental Consent.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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#### ***Harvard Law School***

Common Law and Privacy Torts, Spring 2021.

Comparative Digital Privacy, Teaching Fellow for Professor Urs Gasser, Experience with teaching via Zoom. Semester continued online halfway due to pandemic (sole instructor for the session on U.S. Privacy Torts, prepared class assignments and reviewed students' final papers), Winter/Spring 2020.

#### ***Fordham Law School***

Legal English, Legal English Institute (Course designed for prospective LL.M. students aimed at improving legal English language skills) Fall 2018.

The Islamic, Catholic and Jewish Laws of War, Economic Regulation and the Environment: A Comparative Approach, Guest lecturer on economic regulations in Islam, Nov. 2018. Nov. 2020.

### **New York University**

Legal and Ethical Approaches to Islam, Guest lecturer, Oct. 2017.

Legal and Ethical Approaches to Islam, Guest lecturer, Oct. 2016.

### **Other Teaching Experience**

Volunteered instructor at schools in Washington D.C. and New York City through programs including *Street Law, Inc.*, *Legal Outreach, Inc.*, and *Youth Law* (2013-2019).

### **OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE**

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#### **Mizan Legal Foundation**

Lawyer and Legal Advisor

Tehran, Iran  
April 2011-June 2013

#### **Joneydi & Associates Law Firm**

Summer Legal Intern

Tehran, Iran  
July 2012-August 2012

### **SELECTED SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS**

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Disinformation and the Global South, Yale Information Society Project, Yale Law School, via Zoom.us Feb. 25, 2021.

The Eighth Annual Freedom of Expression Scholars Conference, Paper Discussant, Yale Law School, via Zoom.us, Oct. 24-27, 2020.

The Nuts and Bolts of Getting Published at U.S. Law Reviews, Institute of Comparative Law, University of Tehran School of Law and Political Science, Online Workshop, Aug. 10, 2020.

Consumer Contracts and Assumption of Risk, Paul-André Crépeau Centre of Private and Comparative Law, McGill University, via Zoom.us, June 25, 2020.

Retrievable Images and Privacy Torts, Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, Harvard Law School, Feb. 26, 2020.

Disinformation, Defamation, and Islamic Values, Program in Islamic Law, Harvard Law School, Mar. 10, 2020.

Facebook and the Global South, Climenko Workshop, Harvard Law School, Dec. 4, 2019.

Rethinking Privacy Torts: The Tort of Unwanted Broadcasting, Climenko Workshop, Harvard Law School, July 17, 2019.

The Seventh Annual Freedom of Expression Scholars Conference, Presenter, Yale Law School, Apr. 25-27<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Justice in the Brave New World: Technology and the Role of the Law in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Presenter, Emory School of Law, Oct. 25-26

From Karbala to Myanmar: Fighting Injustice and Keeping Their Stories Alive, Fordham Law School, Speaker, Scheduled for Nov. 28, 2018.

Understanding President Trump's Executive Order on Immigration and Travel Ban, Fordham Law School, Moderator, Feb. 8, 2017.

A Separation: Movie Screening and Discussion, Speaker, Fordham Law School, Mar. 8, 2018.

Food, Blessings, and Piety: An Interfaith Dialog on the Importance of Food in Religion, Speaker, Mar. 23, 2017.

The First and Second National S.J.D. Roundtable, American University Washington College of Law, Respectively November 4-6, 2016, and Nov. 3, 2017.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Mid-Atlantic S.J.D. Roundtable, Georgetown University Law Center, Nov. 21, 2015.

I Am Your Protector: Promoting a Culture of Reconciliation in Pluralistic Societies, Speaker, Fordham Law School, Feb. 17, 2016.

## **POPULAR PUBLICATIONS**

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*The following publications are in Farsi.*

Harvard and MIT Sue to Protect International Students, Etemad Newspaper, July 21, 2020.

Contact Tracing Apps and Privacy, Etemad Newspaper, May. 26, 2020.

Coronavirus and Elections: Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, Etemad Newspaper, Apr. 12, 2020.

Public Policy and Echo Chambers, Etemad Newspaper, Mar. 16, 2020.

Why is Instagram Deleting Your Posts? Etemad Newspaper, Jan. 13, 2020.

Shrinking the Change, Etemad Newspaper, Dec. 11, 2019.

Legal Aspects of Political Ads on Facebook, Etemad Newspaper, Nov. 2, 2019.

Discrimination in Employment Based on Marital Status, Iran Asr Online Weekly Newspaper, Mar. 16, 2019.

Ladies Campaign Shoes: How Women Are Changing the Face of Politics, Etemad Newspaper, Jan 17, 2019.

Supreme Court Justice Confirmation Hearing and a Divided Society, Etemad Newspaper, Oct. 2018.

Women's Right to Divorce in Iran: Lessons from the Miranda Warning, Etemad Newspaper, Apr. 10, 2018.

The Possibilities of an Impeachment, Etemad Newspaper, Sept. 16, 2018.

Social Media: A threat or An Opportunity, Etemad Newspaper, Sept. 9, 2018.

Iranian Lawyers and National Security, Etemad Newspaper, Sept. 1, 2018.

#MeToo movement and Women: Through the Lens of Social Media, Iran Daily Newspaper, Mar. 19, 2018.

U.S. Elections and The Right to Bear Arms, Hambastegi Newspaper, Nov. 1, 2017.

Immigrants and Sanctuary Cities in the U.S., Hambastegi Newspaper, Oct. 17, 2017.

Freedom of Speech and the NFL, Etemad Newspaper, Oct. 16, 2017.

My Country vs. Our Country: Rights of Minorities, IR Diplomacy Op-Ed, June 11, 2017.

Civil Protest: the 2017 Style, Iran Newspaper, Mar. 7, 2017.

Public Protests in the Age of Facebook, Etemad Newspaper, Jan. 31, 2017.

American Muslim and Her New President, Etemad Newspaper, Jan. 23, 2017.

## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

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New York; Iran.

## **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

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Farsi (Native); French (Proficient); Arabic (Conversant Speaking, Advanced Reading). Programing Languages: Swift and Python (Basic)