

Melina Constantine Bell

Washington and Lee University
Department of Philosophy
Baker Hall 222
204 West Washington Street
Lexington, VA 24450-2116

bellm@wlu.edu
(540) 458-8899

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D. Philosophy

May 2005

Socializing Children for Autonomy: Expanding the Legal Institution of Family and Mandating Autonomy-Enabling Education seeks to establish that a state's moral obligation to protect and promote the welfare of its child members includes a duty to ensure children's future autonomy. Like John Stuart Mill, I argue that autonomy and individuality are centrally important to living a good life. Because the inculcation of gender norms in early childhood is a significant constraint on children's future freedom, a liberal democratic state should endorse a diversity of family structures beyond the traditional model of married opposite-sex couples, and should both require and provide autonomy-enabling education for children.

Committee: Samuel Freeman (Chair), Karen Detlefsen, and Kok-Chor Tan

Tufts University

M.A. Philosophy

May 1999

Boston University School of Public Health

M.P.H. (Master of Public Health)

January 1995

Boston University School of Law

J.D. *cum laude*

May 1994

American Journal of Law & Medicine

ASLME Developments Editor

Symposium Coordinator 1992-1993

Edward F. Hennessey Distinguished Scholar; third-year class rank 12/429

Paul J. Liacos Scholar; top 25% of second-year class

Lawyers Cooperative Publishing Jurisprudence Award for Trial Advocacy

Hofstra University

B.A. Philosophy, *magna cum laude*

December 1990

Phi Beta Kappa (Omega Chapter of New York, Spring 1991)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION: Political and Social Philosophy, Philosophy of Law

AREAS OF COMPETENCE: Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Education,
Philosophy of Sport, Ethical Theory, Applied Ethics

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Washington and Lee University

Associate Professor of Philosophy 2005–
Faculty Affiliate, Women's and Gender Studies Program
Faculty Affiliate, Shepherd Program for the Interdisciplinary
Study of Poverty and Human Capability
Lecturer in Philosophy and Law

University of Pennsylvania

Philosophy, Politics and Economics Graduate Advisor 2005
Graduate Instructor 2002–2004
Graduate Teaching Assistant 2000–2004

Tufts University

Graduate Teaching Assistant 1998–1999

LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Shapiro & Associates, Boston, MA

Associate Attorney 1997–1998

Hutchins, Wheeler & Dittmar, P.C., Boston, MA

Associate Attorney 1995–1997

Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine, Boston, MA

Summer Legal Intern 1993

Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, Boston, MA

Summer Legal Intern 1992

PUBLICATIONS

- "Children Are People: Liberty, Opportunity, and Just Parenthood," *Review Journal of Political Philosophy* (forthcoming).
- "Is Women's Bodybuilding Unfeminine?" in *Philosophical Reflections on Physical Strength: Does a Strong Mind Need a Strong Body?*, ed. Mark A. Holowchak and Terry Todd (Edwin Mellon Press, 2010), pp. 179-198.

- “Valuing All Families,” *Law, Culture and the Humanities*, 2009, 5, 288-316.
- “Strength in Muscle and Beauty in Integrity: Building a Body for Her,” *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, 2008, 35, 43-62.
- Regulating Transfer and Use of Fetal Tissue in Transplantation Procedures: The Ethical Dimensions, 20 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF LAW & MEDICINE 277 (1994).

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed Conference Presentations

- “Liberty, Equal Opportunity, and Justice Between Generations,” Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, University of California at Berkeley, March 28-29, 2008.
- “Liberty, Opportunity and Capacity: A Critique of the Lexical Priority of Rawls’s First Principle,” Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, Georgetown University Law Center, March 23-24, 2007.
- “Strength in Muscle and Beauty in Integrity: Building a Body for Her,” Associated Colleges of the South Women’s/Gender Studies Conference, Centenary College, March 24-25, 2006.
- “Perpetuating Patriarchy: The Public Promotion of Traditional Marriage-Based Family”
 - University of Pennsylvania Graduate Humanities Forum, March 27, 2004.
 - Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, University of Connecticut, March 12, 2004.
 - Geis Student Research on Women Conference, University of Delaware, March 8, 2003. Second Place, Graduate Division, Geis Conference Paper Competition.
- “Multiculturalism and Freedom from Unfair Class-Based Discrimination,” Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, University of Pennsylvania Law School, March 9, 2002.

Invited Presentations

Comment, Tina Rulli’s “Expanding the Circle of Concern: May We Prefer Our ‘Own’ Children?” Virginia Philosophical Association annual meeting at Marymount University, October 22-23, 2010.

Comment, Simon Cabulea May’s “Liberal Neutrality and Marriage Equality,” Virginia Philosophical Association annual meeting at Roanoke College, October 24-25, 2008.

"Should Inheritance Be Abolished?" Southern Virginia University Philosophy Club, Friday, November 2, 2007.

"The Bad Boy, The Nice Guy: What Women Want," Knowledge Empowering Women Leaders Discussion Forum, Washington and Lee University, February 15, 2007.

"Be Comfortable in Your Genes" panelist, Washington and Lee University, March 13, 2006, sponsored by Panhellenic Council and LIFE (discussing Sylvia K. Blood's *Body Work: A Social Construction of Women's Body Image*).

"Strength in Muscle and Beauty in Integrity: Building a Body for Her," Washington and Lee University's Women's Studies Lunch Colloquium, February 22, 2006.

"John Rawls on Distributive Justice," guest lecture in Art Goldsmith's Interdepartmental 423, Poverty: A Research Seminar, Washington and Lee University, January 13, 2006.

"Feminist Activism in the Academy," Knowledge Empowering Women Leaders (KEWL) Student-Faculty Dinner, November 8, 2005.

Comment, Allen Thompson's "Neurathian Ethical Naturalism," Virginia Philosophical Association annual meeting at Virginia Wesleyan University, October 28-29, 2005.

"Rawls on Family and Education: The Limits of Political Liberalism," Dissertation Seminar, University of Pennsylvania Department of Philosophy, September 13, 2004.

"Martha Nussbaum on Objectification," University of Pennsylvania Graduate Humanities Forum, Friday, January 23, 2004.

"Reforming the Gendered Family: A Critique of Political Liberalism," Dissertation Seminar, University of Pennsylvania Department of Philosophy, November 17, 2003.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Lenfest Summer Fellowships for 2010 and 2011 to support work on "Children Are People: Liberty, Opportunity, and Just Parenthood."

Lenfest Summer Fellowship for 2009 to support work on "Children's Rights and Adults' Responsibilities."

Academic Life Course Development Grant from the Provost to develop a course entitled "Philosophies of Life" that will be offered Spring 2010.

John M. Glenn Grants from The College at Washington and Lee University, awarded June-July 2007 and June-July 2008 to work on "Liberty, Opportunity, and Capacity: A Critique of the Lexical Priority of Rawls's First Principle of Justice."

John M. Glenn Grant from The College at Washington and Lee University. Awarded to work on "Strength in Muscle and Beauty in Integrity: Building a Body for Her," June and July, 2006.

University Fellowship from the Graduate Division of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, September 1999-May 2004.

REGULAR COURSES

Law 340: Jurisprudence
Philosophy 101: Problems of Philosophy
Philosophy 242: Social Inequality and Fair Opportunity
Philosophy 244: Feminist Social and Political Philosophy
Philosophy 246: Philosophy of Sex
Philosophy 250: (Spring): Philosophies of Life
Philosophy 252: Philosophy of Law
Philosophy 254: Philosophy of the Family
Philosophy 354: Distributive Justice
Philosophy 473/493: Senior/Honors Thesis Seminar
Women's and Gender Studies 120: Introduction to Feminist Theory

TOPICAL SEMINARS

Philosophy 295A (Spring 2009): Utopia
Philosophy 395A (Spring 2007)/295A (Fall 2009) : John Stuart Mill
Women's and Gender Studies 296A (Fall 2009): Sexual Assault Prevention Workshop
Women's Studies 396 (capstone, Fall 2006): Marriage and Family

COMMITTEE WORK AND SERVICE

Faculty Advisor to END IT, 2010-
Faculty Advisor to Generals Interested in Legal Studies, 2010-
Pre-law Advisor, 2010-
Violence Intervention Program, 2010-
University Athletic Committee, 2006-2012
Discrimination Policy Advisor, 2009-2011
Philosophy Department Senior Thesis Program Coordinator, 2007-2011
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee for a Course on Respect and Responsibility, 2010-2011
Women's Studies Advisory Committee, 2006-2011
Student Financial Aid Committee, 2006-2011
Student Affairs Committee, 2007-2010

University Ombuds Search Committee, 2009
Decade Award Selection Committee, 2007-2008
CAIR Representative, 2006-2007
KEWL Mentoring Program, 2006-2007

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Philosophical Association
Society for Analytical Feminism
Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities
Women Administrators and Faculty Group
Virginia Philosophical Association
Phi Beta Kappa, Gamma Chapter of Virginia