

DESSIE K. OTACHLISKA

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CURRENT POSITION

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, July 2024 – Present

Climenko Fellow and Lecturer on Law

Teaching: First-Year Legal Research and Writing

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA

Juris Doctor, May 2021, *cum laude*

Journal: *Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*, Managing Editor; Article Selection Board

Research Assistant: Professors Rosalind Dixon, Lawrence Lessig, and Ruth Okediji

Select Activities: HLS Mock Trial Association; Lambda Board Representative; Williams Moot Court

Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA

Bachelor of Arts, Economics, Philosophy, May 2012, *cum laude*

Honors: Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society for Economics
Washington Scholarship for Academic Excellence
Williams Investment Society
William Wells Chaffin Memorial Scholarship for Public Speaking, two-time recipient

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Constitutional Law; Civil Procedure; First Amendment; Torts; Professional Responsibility

PUBLICATIONS

The Shadow Editor: Editorial Entrenchment in Expressive Institutions, FLA. L. REV. (forthcoming 2027) (job talk paper)

Procedural Drift: How Judicial Restraint Enables Legalized Backsliding, 83 WASH. & LEE L. REV. 573 (2026) (noted as “Highly Recommended” on Lawrence Solum’s *Legal Theory Blog*)

Free Speech Post-Dobbs: The Constitutionality of State and Federal Restrictions on the Dissemination of Abortion-Related Information, N.Y.U. J. LEGIS. & PUB. POL’Y QUORUM (2023)

LEGAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, New York City, NY

Associate, July 2023 – July 2024

- Experience in complex commercial litigation, appellate litigation, Supreme Court litigation, securities litigation, white collar defense and investigations, and bankruptcy matters
- Drafted pleadings and briefing on matters involving constitutional structure, First Amendment, government accountability, and separation-of-powers claims
- Teaching Assistant, Columbia Law School Trial Practice Seminar (Spring 2024)
- Pride@Work member

Latham & Watkins, LLP, New York City, NY

Associate, September 2021 – July 2023

Summer Associate, Summer 2020

- Experience in complex commercial litigation, appellate litigation, securities litigation, white collar defense and investigations, and bankruptcy matters
- LGBTQ+ Lawyers Affinity Group member

Credit Suisse, New York City, NY

Summer Intern, Summer 2020 (secondment)

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP, Birmingham, AL

Summer Associate, Summer 2019, Summer 2020

PUBLIC WRITING

[*Mask Madness: When Freedom of Speech and Opinion Becomes Assaultive*](#), HLS PETRIE-FLOM CENTER (2021)

[*Criminal Jury Trials by Zoom: An Uneasy Bargain with the Constitution*](#), HLS PETRIE-FLOM CENTER (2021)

[*Access to Abortion in the Era of COVID-19*](#), HLS PETRIE-FLOM CENTER (2021)

[*America's Underinsurance Crisis in the Age of COVID-19*](#), HLS PETRIE-FLOM CENTER (2021)

[*The Constitutionality of Technology-Assisted Contact Tracing*](#), HLS PETRIE-FLOM CENTER (2020)

[*Election Litigation in the Era of COVID-19*](#), HLS PETRIE-FLOM CENTER (2020)

[*Travel Restrictions During Coronavirus*](#), HLS PETRIE-FLOM CENTER (2020)

[*COVID-19 Containment or Callous Political Play? Reflections on Trump's Pandemic-Era Restrictions on Immigration, Green Cards, and Asylum Claims*](#), HLS PETRIE-FLOM CENTER (2020)

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

The Shadow Editor: Editorial Entrenchment in Expressive Institutions (*Job Talk Paper*)

- 2026 National Conference of Constitutional Law Scholars, University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, Speech Panel, Presenter (March 2026)
- Faculty Workshop, Suffolk University Law School, Presenter (February 2026)
- Progressive Scholars Conference, Boston University School of Law, Presenter (April 2026)

Other Scholarly Workshops and Conferences

- Freedom of Expression Scholars Conference, Yale Law School, Discussant (April 2026)
- Fall 2025 Law Review Symposium, *The University and Democracy*, Boston University School of Law, Invited Participant (November 2025)
- Unpacking Relational Approaches to AI Accountability Workshop, Boston University School of Law, Washington University, and the Knight Foundation, Invited Participant (June 2025)

REPRESENTATIVE NON-LEGAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bloomberg, L.P., Washington, DC

Account Manager, Government Contracting, September 2017 – August 2018

- Strategically managed 300+ government and contractor clients by combining data informatics, procurement intelligence, and custom research; oversaw a team of five account managers and was responsible for the retention of high-risk strategic accounts
- BProud – Washington, DC chapter co-founder

Neustar, Inc., McLean, VA

Account Executive, Information Services and Analytics, January 2017 – September 2017

- Managed 230+ clients using consumer-data profiling, identity-resolution tools, custom research, and data-driven analytics across regulated and commercial sectors
- Neustar Corporate Social Responsibility Committee – co-founder and diversity officer
- Neustar LGBTQ Association member

Hanover Research, Arlington, VA

Associate Director and Account Manager, Client Solutions, March 2015 – January 2017

Senior Research Associate; Research Associate, August 2014 – March 2015

- Developed custom research reports, institutional analyses, and statistical projects for clients across sectors; translated quantitative and qualitative data into strategic recommendations for organizational decisionmakers
- Hanover Pride – co-founder

MEDIA COVERAGE

Why Speech Could Be a Target for the Anti-Abortion Movement in 2025, THE GUARDIAN (December 27, 2024)

BAR ADMISSION

Bar Admission: New York State Bar