

Christine Alexandria Yared

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

Stetson University, St. Petersburg, FL, Juris Doctor, 1984

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, B.S., Business Administration with concentration in economics, 1981

LEGAL WORK

Christine A. Yared, PLC, *Attorney & Counselor at Law*, Grand Rapids, MI, established law practice specializing in LGBTQ+ law, civil rights, employment law, family law and criminal law; litigated civil and criminal cases in state and federal courts, 1987-present

Representative Cases

employment law - discrimination, sexual harassment, & retaliation based on sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, race, and ethnicity against police agencies, cities and corporations; one police officer retaliation case highlighted as one of Michigan's top ten cases of 2004 by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, January 24, 2005

family law - custody, separations and divorce specializing in LGBTQ+ cases; lesbian parenting rights cases covered nationally, 2015 case covered as groundbreaking by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*; represented children in parental abuse/neglect and delinquency cases

criminal law - represented criminal defendants in crimes based on HIV/AIDS status, police sting operations involving gay men, criminal sexual conduct, drug, embezzlement and violent crimes

Assistant City Attorney, City of Grand Rapids, MI, prosecuted domestic abuse, assault & battery and drunk driving cases; resolution of contract disputes, provided legal advice to city officials and Historic Preservation Commission, 1985-1987

Public Defender's Office, 6th Judicial Circuit of Florida, 1984 Special Assistant Public Defender, law school student, 1984

U.S. Department of Justice, United States Attorney's Office, Western District of Michigan, Grand Rapids, MI, 1983, law clerk, federal criminal & civil law cases

ACADEMIC WORK

Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI
Adjunct Professor & Assistant Professor, taught courses throughout the years since 1994 in Integrative, Religious, and Intercultural Studies, Women and Gender Studies, Criminal Justice and Business departments

Davenport College, Grand Rapids, MI, Adjunct Professor, taught Civil Procedure and Litigation, 1991-1992

Courses Taught

Sexual Orientation and the Law
Constitutional Law & Civil Liberties
Diversity in the United States
Voices of the Civil Rights Movement
Intercultural Competence & Communication
Criminal Law and Procedure, GVSU Police Academy
Civil Litigation
Business Law
Gender Studies (in Fall 2020)

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL PAPERS

Current Research

Private Love, Public School - Gay Teacher Under Fire, writing nonfiction book which tells the compelling and tragic story of how a Michigan public school, Byron Center, vilified one of their most talented teachers, Gerry Crane, after he was outed as being gay. The events took place in the mid-1990's. The story illustrates ways that homophobia and discrimination destroyed Gerry's life, and the affect it had on students and society at large. Gerry's story also illustrates what occurs when a public school fails to honor the separation between church and state. The book will be released in September 2020.

Publications

Yared, C. A. (2018, September). "Shirley Chisholm: Catalyst for Change," *The Political Bandwagon*, 35(4).

Yared, C. A. (2018, July). "Shirley Chisholm: Fearless & Feisty," *The Political Bandwagon*, 35(2).

Yared, C. A. (Summer 1997). Where Are the Civil Rights for Gay and Lesbian Teachers? *Human Rights*, American Bar Association, 24, 22-24. (cited in report prepared by Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, provided to U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor during hearings for The Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2009).

Yared, C. A. (2013). Father. *Living with Memory Loss*, anthology, The University of Michigan Medical School, anthology.

Yared, C. A. (2013). The Play. *Living with Memory Loss*, The University of Michigan Medical School, anthology.

Yared, C. A., & Crooks, M. M. (2002). Custody Games: You Are The Weakest Link. *Michigan Family Law Journal*, Alternative Dispute Resolution Special Edition: 39-41.

Yared, C. A. Prisons, Jails, and Reformatories. (2000). *Encyclopedia of Gay Histories and Cultures*. New York, NY: Garland Publishing, Inc.

Yared, C. A., & Crooks, M. M. (1999). Blended Families--When One Or More Of The Parents Are Lesbian Or Gay. *Michigan Family Law Journal*, Second Marriages Special Edition: 47-51.

Yared, C. A. (March 1994). Core Curriculum in Higher Education - Thoughts About the Journey, *Grand Valley Review*.

Conference Presentations

2000 Update: Sexual Orientation, Law and Policy Issues in Criminal Justice, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, New Orleans, LA. March 2000.

Gay and Lesbian Inmates in Prison and Jail, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Orlando, FL. March 1999.

Integrating Gay, Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Scholarship in Curricula, Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, and Transgender Colleges, Chicago, IL. February 21, 1998.

Criminal Sodomy Laws: Relic of the Past or Foundation for the Future?, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Albuquerque, NM. March 1998.

Integrating Sexual Orientation Issues Into Criminal Justice Curriculum, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Albuquerque, NM. March 1998.

The Impact of Same-Sex Marriage on the Constitutionality of Criminal Sodomy Laws, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Las Vegas, NV. March 1996.

Using History and Policy to Enhance Law Curriculum, American Association for Paralegal Education, Atlanta, GA. October 1996.

Disclosing to the Jury the Defendant's Election to Remain Silent: English and American Legal Considerations, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Boston, MA. March 1995.

Textbook Reviews

read and wrote textbook critiques prior to publication for West Publishing Company
A Practical Guide to Family Law, 1999
Women and the Law, 1996
Legal Research and Writing, 1996
Analysis and Writing for Legal Assistants, 1995
Legal Research, 1994

Curriculum Development

Sexual Orientation and the Law, formerly Sexual Orientation, Law and Policy, developed course addressing legal and policy issues including consensual sex between same-sex individuals, transgender rights, hate crimes, employment discrimination, discrimination against same-sex couples, parental rights, military service, laws criminalizing HIV status and international LGBTQ+ human rights, 1997-1998, taught course for several years

Voluntary Action and the Law, obtained grant from GVSU Center on Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, developed and taught course about role of social justice nonprofit organizations in the evolution of the law, included study of NAACP, ACLU and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, now National LGBTQ Task Force, 1994

Legal Studies Program, evaluated and revised curriculum, established Legal Studies Advisory Board, developed new courses for Program

American Association for Paralegal Education Task Force – worked on development of national model syllabi for two paralegal courses: Employment Law and Interviewing and Investigation, 1995

COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Healing Children of Conflict, founding member, non-profit organization formed to provide medical treatment for children injured in conflicts involving the United States and to educate others about root causes of the conflicts; to seek reconciliation and make restitution by treating innocent victims of United States' actions; to form relationships between those affected and people in West Michigan, organization includes faculty, students and graduates from GVSU and Calvin College, 2008 - 2018

Michigan Credentialed Poll Challenger, cohort of Michigan lawyers assigned to polling locations to ensure compliance with voting law during Presidential elections, 2008, 2012, and 2016

LGBTQ New Arrivals Coalition, West Michigan coalition addressing issues and solutions for LGBTQ refugees and immigrants, coalition included representatives from social service organizations, churches and LGBTQ community, 2016

West Michigan Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Chamber of Commerce, founding board member, 2014- 2015

HIV Criminalization Group - formed and led West Michigan working group to respond to media coverage and educate about Michigan law criminalizing HIV status; 2012-2013

American Civil Liberties Union, West Michigan Chapter, Lawyers' Committee, 2010-2013

Grand Rapids Response to Hate Coalition, coalition included representatives from East Hills Council of Neighbors, Grand Rapids NOW and LGBT community to address threats of rape and death made at the East Hills neighborhood's Gay Day celebration; coalition also addressed the police response at the event; 2012

Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), West Michigan Chapter Co-Chair and Board of Directors, several years, adult leader at national Camp GLSEN conferences for chapter leaders and high school students, Maine (2008), New York (2009)

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Coalition of West Michigan, coalition of LGBT groups to address issues in West Michigan, 2003

Grand Rapids Against Discrimination, co-chair, group formed to oppose "Citizens Voting YES for Equal Rights Not Special Rights" campaign to overturn City gay rights ordinance, 2000

Liaison to the Dean of Students Office for GLBT Issues, Grand Valley State University, 1998-2000

American Civil Liberties Union, West Michigan Chapter, served on board, 1997-1999

Lesbian & Gay Community Network of Western Michigan, President (1997-1998), Board of Directors (1995-1996)

Grand Rapids Civilian Appeal Board, appointed by Mayor, heard citizen appeals of decisions by Grand Rapids Police Department's Internal Affairs Unit, approximately 1998-1999

Michigan Campaign for Human Dignity, served as co-chair of Legal Committee, statewide organization formed to oppose anti-gay ballot measures, 1994

Michigan Bar Association

Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Committee, 2002-2003

Character & Fitness Committee, served on 3 person-panel to conduct hearings and make recommendations regarding candidates seeking to be licensed as attorneys in the State of Michigan, 1990's

Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Committee, 1998

Riverside Elementary School PTA, President, 1998-1999

Gay and Lesbian Parent-Child Group, 1995

Legal Aid Pro Se Divorce Clinic, Working Committee, 1994

Grand Rapids Bar Association

Diversity Committee

Program Committee, 1997-1998

Legislative Roundtable Committee, 1994-1997

Pro Bono Committee, 1986-1987

Legal Explorer's Post, 1987

Elementary Education Program, 1986

Young Lawyers Section, Executive Board, 1985-1986

West Michigan Women Lawyers Association, Board of Directors, 1986-1987

PUBLIC SPEAKING

"Confronting Sexual Harassment, Bullying and Other Harassment in the Workplace," seminar presenter for National Business Institute (NBI), November 7, 2018

"Legal Issues for the LGBTQ+ Community: A Panel Presentation," Fall 2017 Lyceum Lecture Series, Kalamazoo, panelist with Nathan Triplett, Equality Michigan Political Director; facilitator Frank Aiello, Professor of Law, WMU Cooley Law School, September 20, 2017

"Vigil of Remembrance for Children Whose Lives Were Lost in the Gaza War," one year commemoration, speaker, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, July 2017

Olivet College, guest speaker Sociology, October 28, 2016

"Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement," presenter, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, September 2015

"Vigil of Remembrance For Children Whose Lives Were Lost in the Gaza War," one year commemoration, speaker, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, July 21, 2015

"Gay Teacher," speaker, PFLAG Holland, Grace Episcopal Church, May 15, 2015

"Michigan for Marriage," panelist, Grand Rapids' Plymouth United Church of Christ, March 10, 2015

Marriage Equality panel discussion, sponsored by Plymouth United Church of Christ and Michigan Marriage, March 7, 2015

"*Events in Ferguson Did Not Occur In A Vacuum*," panel speaker, organized event sponsored by GVSU's "Black Lives Matter" programming, February 11, 2015

"Right to Free Speech: Free Speech Defined," speaker, NALS of Michigan's Continuing Legal Education for legal assistants, October 12, 2013

"Committed: Queer Phobias," panelist, Grand Rapids Community College, April 1, 2009

Grand Valley State University, Women and the Law, guest speaker for Dr. Joanne Ziembo-Vogl's criminal justice course, 2008

"Committed," panelist, Grand Rapids Community College, March 27, 2008

"A Look in the Mirror; Reflections on Intolerance," panelist, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, October 25, 2007

Mock Trials, conducted mock trials with elementary school students, Forest Hills Northern 5/6 (2003), Grand Rapids' Riverside Elementary School (1998)

"Domestic Partners: Benefits for Same Sex Partners?" panelist debating issue with American Family Association of Michigan President Gary Glenn, The Muskegon Forum, Muskegon Community College, February 15, 2001

"Lesbian and Gay Issues in K-12 Education," speaker, Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, GLSEN Grand Rapids Chapter, December 2, 2000

Domestic Partnership Benefits, speaker, GVSU Domestic Partnership Rally, November 17, 2000

"Grand Rapids Against Discrimination," speaker, Grand Rapids Gay Pride Festival, August 5, 2000

Muskegon Community College, guest speaker, political science, 2000

President's Advisory Committee on Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Issues, 1996-99

Faculty Advisor, Out 'N' About (formerly, Ten Percent of U & Friends), student LGBT organization, 1995-1999

"The Truth About Family Values," panelist, sponsored by Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Network of Western Michigan, Fountain Street Church, November 15, 1999

"Awareness Day on the Mall," speaker at Grand Rapids' Rosa Parks Circle public forum addressing lesbian and gay families, September 23, 1999

PFLAG (Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays), speaker, Grand Rapids Trinity Methodist Church, April 11, 1999

"Legal Issues for Lesbians," speaker, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community Network of Western Michigan, April 6, 1999

"The State of the State: GLBT Equality in Michigan," speaker at press conference organized by Triangle Foundation of Michigan, speaker, Michigan State Capitol, March 18, 1999

Grand Valley State University, Gay Literature, guest speaker for Dr. Milton Ford's course, January 26, 1999

"Lesbian and Gay Issues," speaker, Grand Rapids Plymouth Congregational Church, January 17, 1999

"Learning to Talk About Gay and Lesbian Issues," speaker, GVSU 1999 Leadership Summit, January 1999

LGBT Diversity Training, trainer, GVSU housing staff, January 1999

Grand Valley State University, Sociology, Dr. Herb Bellrichard-Perkins' course, December 3, 1998

"Mathew Shepard and Hate Crimes," speaker, rally sponsored by City of Grand Rapids' Community Relations Committee, October 28, 1998

Grand Valley State University, Diversity in the Workplace, for business course taught by Prof. Catherine Jones-Ridders, J.D., winter and fall 1998

"Promises We Don't Want Kept," panelist, forum regarding politics of Promise Keepers, sponsored by Coalition of Pro-Choice Organizations, August 19, 1998

"Your Community and Mine," speech, Grand Rapids' Gay Pride Celebration, June 13, 1998

"Sexual Orientation Issues for K-12 Teachers," speaker, Minority Teachers Association, GVSU Chapter, March 26, 1998

Spectrum Health, provided criminal law and procedure training to security officers for Michigan Private Security Guard licensing, April 6 & 20, 1998

"Recruiting, Hiring & Retaining Women Attorneys," moderated panel, Grand Rapids Bar Association's Diversity Summit, March 27, 1998

Gay and Lesbian Diversity, speaker, GVSU residence halls, February 3, 1998

Lesbian & Gay Community Network of Western Michigan, facilitator for Speakers' Bureau training, January 17, 1998

Women's & Gender Studies Executive Committee, 1996-1998

West Michigan Alliance for Human Rights in Post-Secondary Schools, 1995-1997

Gay and Lesbian Diversity, speaker, GVSU residence halls, October 23, 1997

Gay and Lesbian Diversity, speaker, GVSU residence halls, October 19, 1997

"Sexual Orientation and the Law," speaker, Lesbian and Gay Community Network of Western Michigan, November 6, 1997

LGBT Diversity Training, trainer, GVSU Resident Assistants, Multicultural Assistants and Security Staff, August 17, 1997

Grand Valley State University, Law Ethics and Social Welfare and Diversity in the Workplace, Prof. Emily Jean McFadden's social work course, July 15, 1997

West Michigan Gay Pride Celebration, speaker, June 14, 1997

"Law and Morality," debated proposed laws regarding sexual orientation and family rights, at Grand Rapids Bar Association's Law Day Youth Conference for High School Students, Dominican Center, May 1, 1997

Human Rights Alliance Campus 2000 Workshop, organized & co-facilitated workshop held at GVSU regarding issues relevant to lesbians and gay men in higher education; participants included faculty and staff from GVSU, Grand Rapids Community College, Hope College, Calvin College and Aquinas College and students, April 5, 1997

"Obscenity Laws and National Endowment of the Arts Funding," panelist, sponsored by Urban Institute of Contemporary Arts, April 4, 1997

"Celebrating Sexuality," speaker, GVSU Women's Festival, March 17, 1997

Kent County Healthy Start, trainer for family support workers regarding cultural and legal issues for lesbian and gay families, March 5, 1997 & June 19, 1996

"Obscenity Laws and National Endowment of the Arts," panelist, organized by *The Grand Rapids Press*, February 28, 1997

"Homosexuality and Religion," moderator, panel discussion with clergy from Christian Reformed, Catholic, Reformed and Methodist denominations, sponsored by GVSU Allies & Advocates and Dean of Students Office, February 11, 1997

Western Michigan University, graduate counseling course, October 1996

Michigan State University, graduate communication course, August 13, 1996

"Gay Marriage," speaker, Second Annual Liberation Celebration, sponsored by student group, Ten Percent of U & Friends, April 3, 1996

Spectrum Health, provided criminal law and procedure training to security officers for Michigan Private Security Guard licensing, Winter 1996

Gay and Lesbian Task Force, task force established by President Lubbers to study lesbian and gay issues at GVSU; assisted with drafting final report to President recommending actions relating to students, staff, faculty and curriculum, 1994-1995

"Effective Use of Paralegals," organized & moderated Grand Rapids Bar Association's continuing legal education seminar, October 10, 1995

Spectrum Health, provided criminal law and procedure training to security officers for Michigan Private Security Guard licensing, Summer 1995

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Bostock v Clayton County, interviewed by WOOD TV, NBC affiliate, "Kent County SCOTUS ruling 25 years too late for ousted w Michigan teacher," June 16, 2020, <https://www.woodtv.com/news/kent-county/scotus-ruling-25-years-too-late-for-ousted-w-mi-teacher/>

"No Review for Denial Of Post-*Obergefell* Equitable Parent Claim," *The Family Law Reporter*, Bloomberg Bureau of National Affairs, interview, August 9, 2016

"Part-time Health - State's Medical Chief Holds Post in Violation of Health Code," interview by investigative journalist Todd Heywood reporting about Flint water crisis, *Lansing City Pulse*, February 10, 2016

"A New Frontier," *The Grand Rapids Press*, interview, lesbian custody case, December 6, 2015

Obergefell v Hodges, interviewed by WZZM, WXMI and *The Grand Rapids Press* regarding United States Supreme Court marriage equality decision, June 26, 27, 2015

"Gay Teacher: Gerry Crane's Story," *Between the Lines*, interviewed by Carol Tanis, June 18, 2015
<http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=71990>

Transgender nondiscrimination policy, WOOD Radio interview, regarding Midland Planet Fitness' Judgement Free Zone & discontinuation of membership & transgender woman using locker room, Steve Kelly, March 10, 2015

"Story of Gay High School Teacher," interview, *Stateside with Cynthia Canty*, Michigan Public Radio, December 17, 2014
<http://michiganradio.org/post/story-gay-high-school-teacher-illustrate-lack-civil-rights-protections>

"Lesbian is Equitable Parent of Her Non-biological Child," *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, interviewed by Traci R. Gentilozzi, December 12, 2014

<http://milawyersweekly.com/news/2014/12/12/lesbian-is-equitable-parent-of-her-non-biological-child/#ixzz3dzWNmVbW>

"HIV Disclosure Laws Contested in Several States," interview, *Washington Blade*, March 6, 2013

"Benefits for Same-Sex Employees," interview, *The Grand Rapids Press*, July 2, 2000

"Group Falls Short in Bid to Overturn Gay Rights Law," interview, *The Grand Rapids Press*, August 10, 2000

"Gays Broaden Base in Battle for Rights," interview, *The Grand Rapids Press*, interview, May 17, 1998

"The State of GLBT Equality in Michigan," *Between the Lines*, March 25-31, 1999

"Activist Group Addresses Civil Rights Demands at Capital," interview, *The State News*, March 19, 1999

"Hate Crimes in West Michigan," panelist, WGVU Radio, October 26, 1998

"Sexual Harassment of Gay Employees," United States Supreme Court decision, *Oncale v Sundowner Offshore Services*, WGVU radio interview, March 1998

"Promises...Promises..Is There A Hidden Agenda to the Promise Keepers' Mission?," interview, *The Paper*, August 13-20, 1998

"Not On My Block, 30 Years After the Fair Housing Act, Minorities in Grand Rapids Are Still Locked Out," interview, *The Paper*, April 9, 1998

"Where Gays Stand One Year After Gerry Crane's Death," interview, *Freeman Magazine*, January 1998

Between the Lines, named as a 1997 Newsmaker, January, 1998

"Michigan Hate Crime Law," panelist, WGVU radio program discussing bill to add lesbian and gay protections to Michigan hate crime law, November, 7, 1997

"Gay Issues," interview, WCKS Radio Program *Bookworm*, October 31, 1997

"Domestic Partnership Benefits at Colleges & Universities," interview, Michigan bill to penalize schools which grant domestic partnership benefits, *Holland Sentinel*, September 22, 1997

"Gays in Education," interviewed by WOOD TV, NBC affiliate, Grand Rapids, January 1997

"Michigan Code of Judicial Ethics," interview, by WZZM, ABC affiliate, Grand Rapids, May 1996

"*People v O.J. Simpson*," interview WZZM, ABC affiliate, Grand Rapids, Fall 1995

Documentaries

"People's History of the LGBTQ Community in Grand Rapids," interviewed for documentary produced by the Grand Rapids Institute for Information Democracy, with support of the GVSU Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center, <https://grandrapidslgbthistory.org/> (2012)

"Representation of Arabs and Muslims in American Film," interviewed for documentary, *Tell Me Who I Am - Race Representation in Film*, by Grand Rapids Institute for Information Democracy, February 2003

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Michigan Bar Association
Authors Guild
Alliance of Independent Authors
Nonfiction Authors Association