

NATHAN S. LEE

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate, New York University Wilf Family Department of Politics

Awards: Downs Prize for Political Science Research
Identities and Ideologies Grant

J.D., New York University School of Law (2024)

Awards: Natalie and Steven Maksin Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship

Activities: Unemployment Action Center, Co-Chair
Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, Public Interest Co-Chair

B.S. in Symbolic Systems, Stanford University (2020)

Honors Thesis: "Universal Basic Participation: Reforming Campaign Finance by Expanding Political Influence" <https://purl.stanford.edu/kt190kx9080>

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Volunteer Lawyer, 2025

Created statistical analysis of changes in Asian American voting age population across Texas in support of an amicus brief filed in opposition to redistricting in the state. Assisted with client meetings and preparation for an immigration matter.

ACLU of Hawai'i

Fellow, 2024-2025

- Legal: Authored a letter to the Department of Justice and Hawai'i's congressional delegation raising federal and state constitutional arguments against Hawai'i's private prison practice. Drafted a legal memo and factual analysis exploring potential First Amendment litigation related to local government sweeps of the property of unhoused people.
- Policy: Drafted legislation and amendments, sent public information requests to state agencies, gave public testimony, and wrote several [op-eds](#) in major state publications on issues including pretrial fairness, immigration, mental health policy, and police accountability.
- Immigration: Authored a legal memo on 287(g) agreements and the anti-commandeering doctrine, sent to Hawai'i's counties and local police departments. Created and presented a [Know Your Rights immigration training](#) for Hawai'i teachers. Held initial client meetings and created an exploratory litigation memo regarding marriage restrictions in immigration detention.
- Spearheaded a data scraping and analysis project to visualize prison and jail data.

NDS Harlem, Police Accountability Clinic

2023-2024

Represented clients in 50-H police accountability proceedings, doing in depth legal research and factual discovery on potential claims and client interviews. Conducted a know-your-rights training with unhoused youth and community members.

NYU Civil Rights Clinic

2021-2022

Under the direction of Professor Deborah Archer, developed advocacy campaigns and litigation strategies related to discrimination in infrastructure and housing. [Significantly modified](#) the "Crime Free" housing program in Tampa, Florida and removed the "crime free" lease provision in Oak Park, IL. Developed legal strategy and engaged in community organizing in South Carolina, ultimately filing a Title VI complaint and appeal to the Federal Highway Administration regarding highway projects that threaten historic Black communities. Co-led drafting of an amicus brief in support of defendants in *SFA v.*

Harvard College and part of the academic amicus working group. Conducted data analysis on discriminatory police stops in support of potential legal action.

Guarini Center on Environmental, Energy and Land Use Law

Legal Researcher, May 2022-August 2022

Co-authored a brief outlining energy performance standards promulgated at the state and local level, exploring ways to better incentivize efficient energy usage. Also responsible for updating the Center's litigation tracker on plastic waste litigation. Brief can be found here: [Following the Money: The Role of Penalties in Encouraging Compliance with Building Performance Standards \(2022\)](#)

NYU-Yale American Indian Sovereignty Project

Research Assistant for the Native Amicus Briefing Project, February 2022-May 2022

Created a research report detailing the history of the Violence Against Women Act and the implications of its 2013 reauthorization for issues of tribal sovereignty and jurisdiction. The research was done in support of an amicus brief to the Supreme Court for *Oklahoma v Castro-Huerta*.

New York City Campaign Finance Board, New York, NY

Legal Intern, June 2020 - September 2020

Worked on the Campaign Finance Board's legal team. Drafted a series of research memos regarding service and non-profit donations and applied this research to assist legal actions taken by the board.

Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, San Mateo, CA

Tech Lead on Public Charge, July 2018 - June 2020

Programmed an online screening tool on public charge, the first of its kind nationally, to help users understand which government benefits they were eligible for without threatening immigration status. The resource was designed to combat misinformation and increase access to legal knowledge.

PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH PROJECTS

Adversarial or Cooperative: Randomizing Legal Strategy in Demand Letters to Municipal Governments (with Bryant Moy, work in progress)

Your Money's No Good Here: Evaluating Anti-Asian Discrimination in Housing Markets Due to Alien Land Legislation (work in progress)

Law as Reparations, Cornell Law Review (forthcoming, Fall 2026)

Bad Tenants: Public Trust and the Constitutional Duty to Closely Re-Examine U.S. Military Presence in Hawai'i, CUNY Law Review and Hawai'i State Bar Journal (Winter 2025).

Data Sanctuary: Can Limiting Information Further Justice and Preserve Federalism?, Cardozo Journal of Equal Rights and Social Justice (forthcoming)

Should Central Park Have Standing?, Arizona Journal of Environmental Law and Policy 15 (2025)

Antidiscrimination Laws Are Not Takings, NYU Journal of Legislation and Public Policy 27 (2024)

Cultural Zoning as Reparations: Providing Power to Asian American Communities, UCLA Asian Pacific American Law Journal 27 (2023)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Power and Politics, NYU

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2025

Responsible for grading and teaching recitation sessions to two sections of undergraduates. Course content included applying game theory models and regression analysis to American Politics.

Democracy Knowledge and Equality, NYU

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2023

Taught two sections of twenty students each for a core undergraduate political theory class, responsible for grading and teaching course concepts.

Juvenile Justice, NYU

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2022

Led a weekly section for Law and Society undergraduate students, focusing on issues of youth involvement in the criminal justice system.

Law and Society, NYU

Adjunct Professor, Summer 2022

The instructor of record for this undergraduate course, teaching all classes and creating the syllabus. Introduced students to key legal concepts and in understanding how law and society influence each other. Overall student course evaluation: Course 4.8/5 and Instructor 5/5.

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

The Reparations Blackbox, presented at Midwestern Political Science Association 2026 Conference, Princeton Conference on Identity & Inequality, and Directions of Polarization, Social Norms & Trust in Societies, MIT (December 2025)

Adversarial or Cooperative: Randomizing Legal Strategy in Demand Letters to Municipal Governments, Arnold Ventures Criminal Justice PhD Workshop (October 2025)

Property Law as Colonial Forerunner, Legal History Colloquium, American Society for Legal History and Notre Dame Law (September 2025)

Data Sanctuaries: Rethinking Technological Progress to Preserve Federalism, Conference of Asian Pacific American Law Faculty and Western Law Teachers of Color (July 2025)

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Historical Research for Professor Deborah Archer

Research Assistant, November 2021 - May 2022

Compiled and analyzed a history of African American mobility following the Civil War, and identifying the policies, official and unofficial, that were used to stop the free movement of these individuals.

Undergraduate Research

Conducted quantitative research for the Center for Poverty and Inequality and Political Psychology Research Group. Conducted qualitative research projects with Professor David Broockman, the Stanford Law and Policy Lab, and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. Tracked legal challenges to voting rights related to Covid-19 for the Stanford-MIT Healthy Elections Project.

BAR MEMBERSHIP

Member of the State Bar of New York

Member of the New York State Bar Association and the Asian American Bar Association of New York