

# KAIPONANEA T. MATSUMURA

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Loyola Law School, Loyola Marymount University  
*Associate Dean for Research*, 2026 - present  
*Professor of Law*, 2022 - present  
*William M. Rains Fellow*, 2022 - present

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University  
*Associate Professor of Law*, 2014 - 2022 (with tenure, 2019 - 2022;  
promoted to full professor effective Aug. 2022)

Stanford Law School  
*Thomas C. Grey Fellow and Lecturer in Law*, 2011 - 2014

## EDUCATION

UCLA School of Law  
Juris Doctor, Order of the Coif

Northwestern University  
Bachelor of Science, *magna cum laude*

## ARTICLES, ESSAYS & CHAPTERS

*Close Resemblances: The Legal Construction of the Asian American Family*,  
in RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON LAW AND RACE IN THE US (forthcoming  
2026, Guy-Uriel Charles & Aziza Ahmed eds.)

Reviewed by Naomi Cahn, *Strangers in a Family Law World?*,  
JOTWELL (June 24, 2026)

*Asian Americans and the Harm of Exceptionalized Inclusion*, 110 CORNELL  
LAW REVIEW 889 (2025) (with Erin Suzuki)

*The Illusion of Stability in Family Law*, 78 VANDERBILT LAW REVIEW 1133  
(2025)

*Unifying Status and Contract*, 56 U.C. DAVIS LAW REVIEW 1571 (2023)  
Reviewed by Aditi Bagchi, *Why Does Status Matter in Contract?*,  
JOTWELL (July 28, 2023)

Reprinted in LEGAL HANDBOOK FOR ARCHITECTS, ENG'RS, &  
CONTRACTORS (Clark Boardman Callaghan 2024)

*The Marital Habitus*, 99 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 2033  
(2022)

*Beyond Polygamy*, 107 IOWA LAW REVIEW 1903 (2022)

*Breaking Down Status*, 98 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 671 (2021)

Reviewed by Brian Bix, *A Status Breakdown*, JOTWELL (Nov. 3, 2020)

Reviewed by Aníbal Rosario Lebrón, *Rounding the Square Peg: Matsumura's Redefining of Status Regulatory Schemes*, JOTWELL (Nov. 3, 2020)

*Beyond Property: The Other Legal Consequences of Informal Relationships*, 51 ARIZONA STATE LAW JOURNAL 1325 (2019)

*The Integrity of Marriage*, 61 WILLIAM & MARY LAW REVIEW 453 (2019)

*Consent to Intimate Regulation*, 96 NORTH CAROLINA LAW REVIEW 1013 (2018)

Reprinted in 32 MINN. FAM. L.J. 23 (LexisNexis, Jan./Feb. 2019)

*Choosing Marriage*, 50 U.C. DAVIS LAW REVIEW 1999 (2017)

*A Right Not to Marry*, 84 FORDHAM LAW REVIEW 1509 (2016)

*Binding Future Selves*, 75 LOUISIANA LAW REVIEW 71 (2014)

"Download of the Week," Legal Theory Blog (Oct. 25, 2014)

*Public Policing of Intimate Agreements*, 25 YALE JOURNAL OF LAW & FEMINISM 159 (2013)

## CASEBOOK

CONTEMPORARY FAMILY LAW (6th ed. 2023) (with Douglas Abrams, Naomi Cahn, Linda McClain, Catherine Ross, and Jessica Dixon Weaver)

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

*American Alchemy: Mixed Families and the Japanese American Internment*

*Dysogamy*

*Colonizing Marriage*, in OXFORD HANDBOOK ON FAMILIES AND THE LAW (forthcoming 2028, Alice Margaria & Noam Peleg eds.)

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

*Seventh Roundtable on Nonmarriage and the Law: Introduction*, 64 FAM. CT. REV. 333 (2026) (with Albertina Antognini, Naomi Cahn, Cynthia Godsoe, Clare Huntington, Anibal Rosario-Lebron, and Edward Stein)

*My Child*, JOTWELL, Apr. 28, 2026, (available at <https://family.jotwell.com/my-child/>)

*Sixth Roundtable on Nonmarriage and the Law: Introduction*, 63 FAM. CT. REV. 742 (2025) (with Albertina Antognini, Naomi Cahn, Anibal Rosario-Lebron, and Gregg Strauss)

*Operationalizing Acts of Love*, JOTWELL, Apr. 9, 2025 (available at <https://family.jotwell.com/operationalizing-acts-of-love/>)

*Advancing Consensual Non-monogamy in Psychological Research, Practice, and Policy: A Guide for Psychologists*, SOC. ISSUES & POL'Y REV. (2024), <http://doi.org/10.1111/sipr.12108> (peer reviewed) (with Amy C. Moors, Michelle Denise Vaughan, Sharon M. Flicker, and Heath A. Schechinger)

*Looking Up to Obergefell*, JOTWELL, Apr. 22, 2024 (available at <https://family.jotwell.com/looking-up-to-obergefell/>)

*Nothing, Nowhere, Not Right Now*, JOTWELL, May 5, 2023 (available at <https://family.jotwell.com/nothing-nowhere-not-right-now/>)

*Nonmarital Relationships: Introduction*, 61 FAM. CT. REV. 69 (2023) (with Albertina Antognini, Susan Frelich Appleton, Naomi Cahn, and Amanda Miller)

*Book Review, Cynthia Grant Bowman, Living Apart Together: Legal Protections for a New Form of Family*, 56 LAW & SOC'Y REV. 320 (2022)

*Judging in the Shadow of Gender*, JOTWELL, Apr. 25, 2022 (available at <https://family.jotwell.com/judging-in-the-shadow-of-gender/>)

*Restating the Law of Nonmarital Contracts*, JOTWELL, Apr. 27, 2021 (available at <https://family.jotwell.com/restating-the-law-of-nonmarital-contracts/>)

*Expanding Nonmarital Relationships*, 58 FAM. CT. REV. 968 (2020) (with Albertina Antognini & Naomi R. Cahn)

*Reproductive Exceptionalisms*, JOTWELL, July 3, 2020 (available at <https://family.jotwell.com/reproductive-exceptionalisms/>)

*Perspectives on Nonmarital Relationships*, 58 FAM. CT. REV. 142 (2020) (with Albertina Antognini, Naomi R. Cahn, and Emily J. Stolzenberg)

*Transcending Time and Place: Judge A. Wallace Tashima and the Liberation of LGBT Identity*, 66 UCLA L. REV. 1910 (2019) (tribute essay)

*Purchasing Race; Or, The Pursuit of White Sperm and Eggs*, JOTWELL, Apr. 11, 2019 (available at <https://family.jotwell.com/purchasing-race-or-the-pursuit-of-white-sperm-and-eggs/>)

*Family Law's Democratic Foundations*, JOTWELL, May 25, 2018 (available at <https://family.jotwell.com/family-laws-democratic-foundations/>)

*Book Review, Henry T. Greely, The End of Sex and the Future of Human Reproduction*, 57 JURIMETRICS 433 (2017) (invited)

*Reproducing Queer Kinship*, JOTWELL, Sept. 26, 2017 (available at <https://family.jotwell.com/reproducing-queer-kinship/>)

*Shades of Discrimination Brought to Light*, JOTWELL, April 26, 2016 (available at <http://family.jotwell.com/shades-of-discrimination-brought-to-light/>)

*Reaching Backward While Looking Forward: The Retroactive Effect of California's Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003*, 54 UCLA L. REV. 185 (2006)

Cited in *Zaber v. City of Dubuque*, 789 N.W.2d 684 (Iowa 2010)

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

Loyola Law School

Contracts; Family Law; Asian Americans and the Law

Arizona State University

Contracts; Civil Procedure; Family Law; Asian Americans and the Law

Stanford Law School

Legal Research & Writing; Federal Litigation

## **LAW SCHOOL SERVICE**

Loyola Law School

Appointments, 2022-23, 2024-25, 2025-26 (chair); APALSA, Faculty Advisor, 2023-; Children and Family Law Society, Faculty Advisor, 2022-; Clerkship Committee, 2025-26; Dean's Advisory Committee (elected), 2022-23, 2023-24; Dean Search Committee, 2023-24; Hybrid Evening Program Committee, 2022-23; Strategic Planning Committee 2023-25 (co-chair), 2025-26

Arizona State University

Appointments, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2019-20; Clerkship Committee, 2015-20 (chair, 2017-20); Colloquium Committee, 2014-15, 2021-22 (chair); Dean's Advisory Committee, 2019-20 (elected); Dean Search Committee, 2021-22 (elected); Filipino Law Students Association, Faculty Advisor, 2018-19; Inclusion Working Group, 2018-20; Anti-Racism Steering Committee, 2020-22; VAP Committee, 2021-22

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, San Francisco, CA  
*Associate*, 2008 – 2011  
*Summer Associate*, 2006

Honorable A. Wallace Tashima  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Pasadena, CA  
*Law Clerk*, 2007 –2008

The Honorable George H. King  
U.S. District Court, C.D. Cal., Los Angeles, CA  
*Judicial Extern*, 2005

**SELECTED  
PRESENTATIONS**

Presenter, *Colonizing Marriage*  
Oxford Handbook on Families & the Law Workshop, Univ. of Zürich,  
June 2026 (Zürich, Switzerland)

Presenter, *Racial Alchemy: Japanese Ancestry, Marriage, and White Racial  
Formation During WWII*  
Family Law Scholars & Teachers Conference, Loyola Law School, June  
2026 (Los Angeles, CA)

Presenter, *Racial Alchemy: Japanese Ancestry, Marriage, and White Racial  
Formation During WWII*  
Grey Fellows Forum, Stanford Law School, May 2026 (Stanford, CA)

Presenter, *Colonizing Marriage*  
West Coast Sexuality, Gender, and the Law Conference, UCI School of  
Law, Mar. 2026 (Irvine, CA)

Moderator, *Supporting Women and Children*  
Poverty Law Conference, USC Gould School of Law, Feb. 2026 (Los  
Angeles, CA)

Speaker, *Racial Alchemy: Japanese Ancestry, Marriage, and White Racial  
Formation During WWII*  
Washington Univ. School of Law Faculty Colloquium, Nov. 2025 (St.  
Louis, MO)

Invited Commentator  
Equality Law Scholars Forum, Loyola Law School, Nov. 2025 (Los  
Angeles, CA)

Presenter, *Racial Alchemy: Japanese Ancestry, Marriage, and White Racial  
Formation During WWII*  
UCLA Critical Race Studies 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium, Oct. 2025  
(Los Angeles, CA)

Presenter, *Racial Alchemy: Japanese Ancestry, Marriage, and White Racial  
Formation During WWII*

UC Law SF Family Law Working Group Roundtable, Oct. 2025 (San Francisco, CA)

Invited Commentator

Critical Sex Workshop, Washington Univ. School of Law, Oct. 2025 (St. Louis, MO)

Moderator, "Singlehood," "A Critique of Rights," "Perspectives on Cohabitation"

Roundtable on Nonmarriage and the Law, Cardozo Law School, Sept. 2025 (New York, NY)

Presenter, *Potentially White*

CAPALF & Western Law Teachers of Color Conference, Univ. of Hawaii Richardson School of Law, June 2025 (Honolulu, HI)

Presenter, *Dysogamy*

West Coast Sexuality, Gender, and the Law Conference, UCI School of Law, Feb. 2025 (Irvine, CA)

Speaker, *Against Stability*

UCI School of Law Intellectual Life Workshop, Feb. 2025 (Irvine, CA)

Presenter, *Against Stability*

Roundtable on Nonmarriage and the Law, Univ. of Virginia School of Law, Sept. 2024 (Charlottesville, VA)

Presenter, *Dysogamy*

Int'l Acad. of Law & Mental Health Conference, Univ. of Barcelona, July 2024 (Barcelona, Spain)

Presenter, *Pedagogy and Singlehood Studies: Roundtable*

Third Int'l Singles Studies Conference, July 2024 (online)

Presenter, *Relational Race*

Family Law Scholars & Teachers Conference, Univ. of Baltimore School of Law, June 2024 (Baltimore, MD)

Presenter, *Invisible Harm: The Real 'Asian Penalty'*

Grey Fellows Forum, Stanford Law School, May 2024 (Stanford, CA)

Presenter, *Asians, Law, and the American Family*

Race, Racism, and the Law Convening, Harvard Law School, Mar. 2024 (Cambridge, MA)

Presenter, *Against Stability*

Roundtable on Nonmarriage and the Law, Rutgers Law School, Sept. 2023 (Newark, NJ)

Presenter, *Why Value Relationship Stability?*

Int'l Soc'y of Family Law, 18th World Conference, Univ. of Antwerp, July 2023 (Antwerp, Belgium)

Panelist, Dobbs, *Diminishing Rights, and the Devolution of Democracy*  
CAPALF & Western Law Teachers of Color Conference, Loyola Law School, June 2023 (Los Angeles, CA)

Presenter, *Why Value Relationship Stability?*  
Family Law Scholars & Teachers Conference, Boston College, June 2023 (Boston, MA)

Speaker, *Unifying Status and Contract*  
LSU Law Faculty Colloquium, Feb. 2023 (online)

Guest Lecturer, *Beyond Polygamy*  
International & Comparative Family Law, Univ. of Virginia School of Law, Jan. 2023 (online)

Commentator and Panelist, *Nonmarital Relationships Post-Dobbs*  
Roundtable on Nonmarriage and the Law, Washington Univ. School of Law, Sept. 2022 (St. Louis, MO)

Presenter, *Unifying Status and Contract*  
Family Law Scholars & Teachers Conference, Temple Law School, June 2022 (Philadelphia, PA)

Presenter, *Domestic Workers as Family Members*  
Grey Fellows Forum, Stanford Law School, June 2022

Participant, *Reconsidering the Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Herma Hill Kay Sex-Based Discrimination Casebook*, NYU Birnbaum Women's Leadership Network, Feb. 2022 (online)

Invited Commentator, *The Future of Family Law*, AALS Section on Family and Juvenile Law  
AALS Annual Meeting, Jan. 2022 (online)

Presenter, *The Marital Habitus*  
Roundtable on Nonmarriage and the Law, Washington Univ. School of Law, Oct. 2021 (online)

Speaker, *Beyond Polygamy*  
Univ. of Virginia Faculty Colloquium, Aug. 2021 (Charlottesville, VA)

Presenter, *Beyond Polygamy: Building a Plural Relationship Status*  
Family Law Scholars & Teachers Conference, June 2021 (online)

Presenter, *Unifying Status and Contract*  
Grey Fellows Forum, Stanford Law School, June 2021 (online)

Speaker, *Beyond Polygamy: Building a Plural Relationship Status*

Atkinson LGBTQ Law & Policy Colloquium, Univ. of Arkansas School of Law, Apr. 2021 (online)

Moderator, *Legal Education in the Wake of George Floyd and Covid-19: A Conversation with Law School Deans and Faculty on Race, Inequality, and the Challenges and Opportunities Ahead*  
AALS Annual Meeting, Jan. 2021 (online)

## SELECTED MEDIA

Sonja Sharp, "California Cities Seek to Bless Polyamorous Unions. Lawyers Warn It Will Get Messy in Court," *L.A. TIMES*, Apr. 25, 2026

"You Can Get a Prenup for Your Labubu Collection. Should You?," *Forum*, KQED, Feb. 9, 2026 (public radio discussion of the popularity of prenuptial agreements among millennials and Gen Z)

Andrew Jeong, "Arizona Judge Reinstates Near-Total Abortion Ban from 19<sup>th</sup> Century," *WASH. POST*, Sept. 24, 2022

Steve Goldstein, "Brnovich Files Motion Allowing Charges Against Doctors Who Perform Abortions. What that Could Mean," *The Show*, July 14, 2022 (public radio interview)

"Breakfast with Refilwe Moloto," *CapeTalk*, May 5, 2022 (Cape Town, South Africa, morning radio interview (discussing abortion laws in Arizona))

Katherine Davis-Young, "Could Arizona Outlaw Abortion? Supreme Court Decisions Could Mean Major Changes," *KJZZ*, Apr. 5, 2022 (public radio interview)

Mark Brodie, "Further Challenges to Arizona's Abortion Laws Inevitable as New Session Begins, Lawyer Says," *The Show*, Jan. 17, 2022 (public radio interview)

Emma Ascott, "Ducey Asks U.S. Supreme Court to Overturn *Roe v. Wade*," *Cronkite News, Arizona PBS*, July 30, 2021 (quoted)

Allison Sherry & Will Stone, "Can Businesses Turn Away LGBT Customers? Court Battles Bubbling Back Up," *All Things Considered*, Feb. 10, 2019 (public radio interview)

"Arizona Supreme Court Hears Challenge to Phoenix Gay Antidiscrimination Law," *KJZZ*, Jan. 22, 2019 (public radio interview)

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Reporter, Uniform Law Commission Drafting Committee on Pet Custody Issues, 2025-; Reporter, Uniform Law Commission Study Committee on Pet Custody Issues, 2025

American Psychological Ass'n: Division 44 Committee on Consensual Nonmonogamy, Co-Lead, CNM Families Initiative, 2021-2024

*JOTWELL: Family Law*, Section Editor (with Naomi Cahn), 2020- ;  
Contributing Editor, 2016-

Roundtable on Nonmarriage and the Law, Co-founder and Planning  
Committee, 2019-

West Coast Gender, Sexuality, and the Law Conference, Co-founder  
and Planning Committee, 2024-

AALS Committee for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Law  
Teachers and Students, 2020-2023

AALS Workshop for Pretenured Law School Teachers of Color,  
Planning Committee, 2019

Family Law Scholars & Teachers Conference, Co-chair, 2017; Planning  
Committee, 2018

Referee Activity

*Yale Law Journal*, *NYU Law Review*, *Stanford Law Review*, *Harvard  
Law Review*, *Univ. of California Press*, *Cambridge University Press*

**AWARDS**

Outstanding Teaching Award (by vote of graduating class), ASU Law,  
2019

Outstanding Teaching Award (by vote of graduating class), ASU Law,  
2017

Judge Jerry Pacht Constitutional Law Award, UCLA Law, 2007

Harriet Gilliam Memorial Prize for Best English Thesis, Northwestern  
University, 2000

Edwin Shuman Award for Best English Major, Northwestern  
University, 2000

**BAR ADMISSIONS**

California; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; U.S. District  
Court, Northern District of California; U.S. District Court, Southern  
District of California