

VICKI LENS, MSW, JD, Ph.D.
Columbia University
School of Social Work
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EDUCATION

Ph. D. 2000 **Yeshiva University, Wurzweiler School of Social Work**

J.D. 1980 **New York Law School**

MSW, 1977; BSW, 1975 **State University of New York, Stony Brook**
School of Social Welfare

HONORS AND AWARDS

New York Law School: Cum Laude; Class Rank: Top 15%

New York Law School: Professor Ivan Soubbotich Award for Excellence in Poverty Law and Civil Rights

State University of New York, Stony Brook School of Social Welfare: Distinguished Alumni Award, 2006

ACADEMIC AND TEACHING POSITIONS

Columbia University, School of Social Work
Associate Professor
2007-present
Assistant Professor
July 2002-2006

Yeshiva University, Wurzweiler School of Social Work
Assistant Professor
Sep. 1999-June 2002

S.U.N.Y at Stony Brook, School of Social Welfare
Adjunct Lecturer
1996-1998

Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center
Adjunct Professor
1997

SPONSORED RESEARCH

Principal Investigator. Administrative justice in public welfare bureaucracies. Sponsor: National Science Foundation (2009-2011). \$127,000

Co Investigator: The adolescent representation project. Sponsor: Ira DeCamp Foundation. Principal Investigator, Jane Spinak, Columbia University Law School (2008 -2009). \$50,000

Principal Investigator: Administrative justice in public welfare bureaucracies: Correcting government's mistakes. Sponsor: Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation, The New York Community Trust. (2007). \$15,000.

Principal Investigator: Bureaucratic disentanglement after welfare reform: Are fair hearings the cure? Sponsor: The Lois and Samuel Silberman Fund, The New York Community Trust (2004-2005). \$15,000

Principal Investigator: A study of work sanctions in Texas. Young Investigator Development Grant. Sponsor: University of Kentucky, Center for Poverty Research and the US Department of Health and Human Services (2005). \$5,000

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed

Lens, V. & Cary, C. (in press). Negotiating the discourse of race within the United States welfare system. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

Lens, V. (in press). R-E-S-P-E-C-T: The missing policy tool in welfare reform. *Social Work*.

Lens, V. (in press). Confronting government after welfare reform: Moralists, reformers, and narratives of (ir)responsibility at administrative fair hearings. *Law & Society Review*.

Lens, V. (in press). Seeking Justice; Citizens use of Fair Hearings to correct errors in public welfare bureaucracies *Journal of Public Administration Research & Theory*.

Lens, V. (2009) Implementing full and partial work sanctions: The case of Texas. *American Review of Public Administration*. 39 (3), 286-303.

Lens, V. (2008). Welfare and work sanctions: Examining discretion on the front lines. *Social Service Review* 82, 197-222.

- Lens, V. (2007). Administrative justice in public welfare bureaucracies: When citizens (don't) complain. *Administration & Society* 39 (3), 382-408.
- Lens, V. (2007). In the fair hearing room: Resistance and confrontation in the welfare bureaucracy. *Law & Social Inquiry* 32 (2), 309-332.
- Lens, V. (2006) Examining the administration of work sanctions on the front lines of the welfare system. *Social Science Quarterly* 87, 573-590.
- Lens, V. (2006) Work sanctions under TANF: Are they helping women achieve self-sufficiency? *Duke Journal of Gender Law and Policy* 13, 255-284.
- Lens, V. (2005). Bureaucratic disentanglement: Are fair hearings the cure? *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy* 12, 13-54.
- Lens, V. and Vorsanger, S. (2005). Complaining after claiming: Fair hearings after welfare reform. *Social Service Review* 79, 430-453.
- Lens, V. (2005). Advocacy and argumentation in the public arena: A guide for social workers. *Social Work* 50, 231-238.
- Lens, V. (2004). Supreme court narratives on equality and gender discrimination in employment: 1971-2002. *Cardozo Women's Law Journal* 10, 501-576. (Excerpt reprinted in *Issues on Trial: Affirmative Action*, 2007. Greenhaven Press)
- Lens, V. (2004). Principled Negotiation: A new tool for case advocacy. *Social Work* 49, 506-513.
- Lens V. (2004). Social Work and the Supreme Court: A clash of values; a time for action. *Social Work* 49, 327-330.
- Lens, V. (2003). The Supreme Court and women's rights: A new challenge. *Affilia* 18, 120-132.
- Lens, V. (2003). Examining the role of expert in policy debates: An analysis of the expert opinion on welfare reform in the New York Times. *Chicago Policy Review* 7, 61-76.
- Grube, B., & Lens, V. (2003). Student to student harassment: Impact of Davis v. Monroe. *Social Work in Education* 25, 173-185.
- Lens, V. (2003). Reading between the lines: Analyzing the Supreme Court's views on gender discrimination in employment, 1971-1982. *Social Service Review* 77, 25-50.

- Lens, V. (2002). TANF: What went wrong and what to do next. *Social Work* 47, 279-290.
- Lens, V. and Gibelman, M. (2002). School choice: How will children with disabilities fare? *Social Policy Journal* 1, 37-50.
- Lens, V. (2002). Welfare reform and the media: Using personal narratives to transform the public image of recipients. *Journal of Poverty* 6, 1-20.
- Lens, V. (2002). Sound bites, spin and social change: Analyzing the news media in the classroom. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work* 22, 39-53.
- Gibelman, M., & Lens, V. (2002). Entering the debate about school vouchers: A social work perspective. *Children in Schools* 24, 207-221.
- Lens, V. (2002). Public voices and public policy: Changing the societal discourse on "welfare" *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* 24, 135-152.
- Lens, V. (2002). Managed care and the judicial system: Another avenue for reform? *Health and Social Work* 27, 27-36.
- Lens, V. (2001). The Supreme Court, federalism, and social policy: The new judicial activism. *Social Service Review* 75, 318-336.
- Lens, V. (2001). When the personal and political collide. *Journal of Social Work* 11, 361-363.
- Lens, V. (2001). Welfare reform and the media: Why AFDC was eliminated. *Journal of Applied Social Sciences* 24, 79-89.
- Lens, V. (2000). Protecting the confidentiality of the therapeutic relationship: The Supreme Court decision in *Jaffee v. Redmond*. *Social Work* 45, 273-276.
- Lens V., & Pollack, D. (2000). Advance directives: Legal remedies and psychosocial interventions. *Death Studies* 24, 377-399.
- Lens, V., & Gibelman, M. (2000) Advocacy be not forsaken: Retrospective lessons from welfare reform. *Families in Society* 81, 611-620.
- Lens, V. & Pollack, D. (1999) Welfare reform: Back to the future. *Administration in Social Work* 23, 61-78.
- Lens, V. (1998). Welfare reform and the family cap: Rhetoric vs. reality. *Journal of Children and Poverty* 4, 19-37.

Lens, V. (1997). Consumer fraud and the elderly. *Journal of Law and Social Work* 7, 159-175.

Lens V. (1997-1998). Welfare mothers and work: Myth versus reality. *Jewish Social Work Forum* 33, 15-22.

Pollack, D. Steinmetz , C. & Lens, V. (1997). Anderson versus St. Frances- St. George Hospital: Wrongful death actions from an American and Jewish legal perspective. *Cleveland State Law Review* 45 (4), 621-637.

BOOK CHAPTERS/ENTRIES/REVIEWS

Lens, V. (under contract). "Advocacy" in *Columbia Guide to Writing in 21st Century Social Work*. Eds. Barbara Simon and Warren Green. New York: Columbia University Press.

Lens V. (2007). Book review of "At the front lines of the welfare system: A perspective on the decline in welfare caseloads" by Irene Lurie. *Social Service Review* 81 (4), 716-718.

Lens, V. (2007). Phillips v. Martin Marietta Corp. 400 U.S. 542 (1971). *Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court of the U.S.* Farmington Hills, MI. Macmillan.

Lens, V. (2002). Overview of end-of-life decisions. *Encyclopedia of Death and Dying*. New York: Gale Publishing.

Lens, V. (2002). Advance Directives. *Encyclopedia of Death and Dying*. New York: Gale Publishing.

Lens, V. (2002). Living Wills. *Encyclopedia of Death and Dying*. New York: Gale Publishing.

Lens, V. (2002). Natural Death Acts. *Encyclopedia of Death and Dying*. New York: Gale Publishing.

Lens, V. (2001). Book review of "So You Think I Drive a Cadillac?" Welfare recipients' perspectives on the system and its reform by Karen Seccombe. *Affilia* 16, 121-123.

EDITORIAL POSITIONS

Acting Editor, Administrators Roundtable, Yeshiva University (1999-2000).

Journal of Poverty, Editorial Board (2003 - present).

Columbia University Press, Publications Committee (2005-2008).

Affilia, Editorial Board (Sep. 2005-2006)

Ad Hoc reviewer for Social Service Review, Journal of Public Administration Research & Theory, Israel Science Foundation

SELECTED ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado. May 2009.
Contesting the Bureaucracy: Examining Administrative Appeals

Law and Society Association and the Canadian Law and Society Association, Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada. May 2008. *Administrative Justice in Public Welfare Programs.*

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Annual Conference, Washington, DC. Nov. 2007. *Agency Error in Implementing Work Sanctions under TANF: A Study Using Administrative Fair Hearing Data.*

School of Social Welfare, S.U.N.Y. at Stony Brook, Key Note Speaker, Annual Field Symposium Conference. April 25, 2007. *Passion with Impact: Advocacy Revisited.*

Yeshiva University, Wurzweiler School of Social Work, 50th Anniversary Conference. May 6, 2007. *Are Fair Hearings Fair? Examining Administrative Mechanisms to Correct Errors of Stringency in Public Welfare Bureaucracies.*

Association for Legal and Social Philosophy, Annual Conference, Social Justice in Practice, Dublin, Ireland. June 2006. *In the Fair Hearing Room: Resistance and Confrontation in the Welfare Bureaucracy.*

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Annual Conference, Washington, DC. Nov. 2006. *Are Fair Hearings Fair? Examining Administrative Mechanisms to Correct Errors of Stringency in Public Welfare Bureaucracies.*

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Annual Conference, Madison, Wisconsin. Nov. 2005. *Administrative Justice in Public Welfare Bureaucracies: When Clients (Don't) Complain.*

University of Kentucky, Center for Poverty Research. April 15, 2005. Presented proposal on *A Study of Work Sanctions in Texas.*

National Association of Social Workers, New York City Chapter. February 24, 2005. Key Note Speaker for School of Social Work Student Night

Benjamin Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, Bet Tzedek Legal Services. Key note speaker (with Ann Moynihan of Fordham University). March, 2001. *Different Roles, Shared Goals, Social Workers and Attorneys Working Collaboratively*.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, Huntington, N.Y.

Director of Career Planning and Counseling, 1998-1999

Counseled students. Planned and conducted workshops and programs. Supervised staff and office operations. Coordinated and participated in Judicial Clerkship Screening Committee.

Suffolk County Executive's Office of Consumer Affairs

Director, Investigations and Complaints, 1996-1997

Supervised investigative and intake staff of consumer division. Handled major investigations. Implemented enforcement of local codes and regulations. Freedom of Information Act Officer.

Hon. Robert Abrams, Attorney General, State of New York

Assistant Attorney General, Public Advocacy Unit, Suffolk County, 1985-1995

Created Suffolk County public advocacy unit. Civil prosecution of businesses engaged in deceptive and illegal practices. Supervised consumer mediation unit. Assisted in the drafting of various state consumer protection laws.

Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee, Hempstead, New York

Staff Attorney, 1984-1985, 1980-1983

Provided legal services to low-income persons in the areas of housing, domestic relations, Social Security disability benefits, SSI, Medicaid and public assistance benefits.

Legal Aid Society, NYC, New York

Staff Attorney, 1983-1984

Specialist in Social Security disability benefits, SSI, Medicaid and public assistance benefits.

New York State Assemblyman Edward C. Sullivan, NYC, New York

Aide, 1978-1980

Community outreach and advocacy. Advocated for constituents before city agencies. Organized and conducted tenants' housing clinic.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

School of Social Work

Ethics Board, Chair, 2008-2009

Curriculum Committee, member, 2005-present

Budget Advisory Group, member, 2007-2008

Capstone Project, Chair, 2009

Qualitative Research Working Group, Convener, 2007-present

Outcomes Assessment Committee, member, 2006-2007

School Coordinating Committee, member, 2005-2006

Ad Hoc Grievance Committee, Chair, 2005

Admissions, member, 2002-2005

Governance and Workload Committee, member, 2004-2005

Central Asian Working Group, member, 2004-2005

Field Education Policy, member, 2004-2005

Professional Seminar Working Group, member 2004-2005

Columbia University

Columbia University Press, Publications Committee, member 2005-2008

Columbia University Judicial Committee on Sexual Misconduct, member 2003-2005

Selected Community and Legislative Activities

New York City Council, General Welfare Committee. Submitted testimony on the administration of work sanctions. April 29, 2009

Community Voices Heard, New York, New York. Research Advisory Team. Provide technical advice and assistance to CVH on research project examining New York City Human Resource Administration's Back to Work Program. 2008

Welfare Reform Network, Policy and Advocacy Committee, organized by the Federation of Welfare Protestant Agencies, New York, New York. member, Sanctions Working Group. 2009-present

Employment Assessment Subcommittee, Welfare to Work Commission, Suffolk County, New York. Invited presentation on welfare-to-work sanction research in Suffolk County. January, 18, 2008

Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, New York, New York, Welfare Reform Network, Policy and Advocacy Committee. Invited presentation on welfare-to-work sanction research. Nov. 2008

Legal Aid Society, New York, New York. Consulted on *Lovely H. v. Eggleston*, class action lawsuit on behalf of disabled welfare recipients in NYC. 2007

U.S. House of Representatives. Public hearings on anti-abortion organizations posing as abortion clinics. Helped draft testimony, and accompanied New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams to hearings. 1991

Suffolk County Legislature. Appeared on behalf of New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams to testify on the problems confronting mobile home residents. 1989

New York State Legislature. Appeared on behalf of New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams to testify on housing discrimination on Long Island. 1987

Mobile Home Task Force for Suffolk County. Created and chaired on behalf of the New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams. Drafted local legislation protecting mobile home residents from eviction. 1987-1994

Community Housing Resource Board. (fair housing group). Long Island, New York. Government liaison on behalf of Attorney General Robert Abrams. 1986-1989

Senior Umbrella Network. Coalition of public and private agencies, Long Island, New York. Government liaison on behalf of Attorney General Robert Abrams. 1985-1988

Coalition for Abused Women, Nassau County. Board Member. 1984

Coalition for the Homeless, Long Island Coordinator. 1982-1983.

MEMBERSHIP IN COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Law & Society Association

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management