**Nila Bala**

UC Davis School of Law, 400 Mrak Hall Dr., Davis, CA 95616

nibala@ucdavis.edu

**Academic Experience**

University of California, Davis School of Law 2023-present

Acting Professor of Law (tenure track)

Courses: Children and the Law, Criminal Law, Evidence

Nominated for Distinguished Teaching Award, 2024

**Education**

**YALE LAW SCHOOL**, J.D., June 2012

*Honors:* John Currier Gallagher Prize: most proficiency in the presentation of a case on final trial

World Human Rights Moot Court Finalist and Best Oralist Overall

Regional American Association for Justice (AAJ) Semifinalist in Trial Advocacy

Forum on Communications Law Diversity Moot Court, Winner and Best Oralist

**STANFORD UNIVERSITY**, B.A. in Human Biology (with distinction), April 2008

*GPA:* 4.06

*Honors:* Phi Beta Kappa, Inducted as a Junior

J.E. Sterling Award for Academic Excellence, 2008, (top 2% of academic class)

Albert H. Hastorf Award for Outstanding Service to the Program of Human Biology

Silver National Mock Trial Champion 2008, All-National Attorney, All-Region Attorney (Portland, OR), 2008 “National Mocker Most Worth Emulating”

**Publications**

*Parent-Child Privilege as Resistance,* 68 B.C. L. Rev --, 2024.

*Who Owns Children’s DNA,* 122 Mich. L. Rev --, 2023.

* Selected for the 6th Annual Junior Faculty Forum for Law and STEM, Stanford Law School

[*COVID-19 Vaccination as a Condition of Federal Community Supervision*](https://online.ucpress.edu/fsr/article-abstract/34/5/334/184675/COVID-19-Vaccination-as-a-Condition-of-Federal?redirectedFrom=PDF)*,* 34 Fed. Sent. R. 334 (2022).

[*The Dangers of Facial Recognition in our Children’s Classrooms*](https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1354&context=dltr), 18 Duke L. & Tech. Rev. 249 (2020).

[*Desmond’s Law: Imprecise Language Makes for Inadequate Advocacy*](https://journals.law.harvard.edu/jol/2018/08/22/desmonds-law-animal-rights-in-connecticut/), 55 Harv. J. on Legis. Online 500 (2018).

[*Judicial Factfinding in the Wake of Alleyne*](https://socialchangenyu.com/review/judicial-fact-finding-in-the-wake-of-alleyne/), 39 N.Y.U. Rev. L. & Soc. Change 1 (2015).

[*The Children in Families First Act: Overlooking International Law and the Best Interests of the Child*](https://www.stanfordlawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2014/04/66_Stan_L_Rev_Online_135_Bala.pdf), 66 Stan. L. Rev. Online 135 (2014).

[*The Hidden Costs of the European Court of Human Rights' Surrogacy Decision*](https://bpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/campuspress.yale.edu/dist/8/1581/files/2016/09/bala-proof-v-1-pdf-xqn5h2.pdf)*,* 40 Yale J. of Int’l L. Online 16 (2014).

**Legal and Other Work Experience**

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, THE POLICING PROJECT,** 2021-2023

Director of Legislative Initiatives—Drafted model policing legislation and developed a strategic plan for adoption. Led policing technology audits and made recommendations to ensure compliance with civil rights and liberties.

**R STREET INSTITUTE,** Washington D.C., 2017-2021

Associate Director of Criminal Justice Policy—Developed innovative policy in the areas of reentry work and juvenile justice. Produced original written research to educate policymakers. Invited to be on a five member national steering committee for the Clean Slate Initiative.

**MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER,** Baltimore, MD, 2014-2016

Assistant Public Defender—Represented adult clients in misdemeanor and serious traffic matters, including 16 trials and numerous hearings. Assigned to lead a special bail project to reform the money bail system. Took a one-year hiatus to attend residential philosophy course in Trinidad.

**SANTA CLARA PUBLIC DEFENDER’S OFFICE,** Santa Clara, CA, 2013-2014

Juvenile Deputy Public Defender & Public Interest Law Fellow—initiated record sealing program for juveniles and trained other attorneys in procedures.

**HON. KEITH P. ELLISON**, Southern District of Texas, 2012–2013

Judicial Law Clerk

**JEROME N. FRANK LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION**, Yale Law School, 2010-2012

Clinic Student Director and Supervisor—Advocacy for Children and Youth. Represented children in neglect proceedings against the Department of Children and Families. Interviewed and counseled clients, negotiated with DCF, and advocated for clients in court proceedings.

**SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC DEFENDER’S OFFICE,** San Francisco, CA, Summer 2010

Represented clients in preliminary hearings. Drafted and presented motions to dismiss. Interviewed clients and investigated, researched, and responded to inmates’ legal questions and concerns.

**BING NURSERY SCHOOL**, Stanford, CA, 2008-2009

Preschool Teacher—Created curriculum and supported learning for diverse group of two to five year olds. Collaborated with a team of teachers and parents to ensure safety of children. Presenter and coordinator for the AmeriCorps JumpStart class at Stanford.

**Selected Op-Eds**

* *Ban No-Knock Warrants, But Don't Stop There If You Want Real Change*., Feb. 16, 2022, Newsweek
* *Should Follow Philly’s Lead and Ban Minor Traffic Stops that Criminalize ‘Driving While Black’*, Nov. 15, 2021, Philadelphia Inquirer (with Maria Ponomarenko)
* *Fines and Fees Keep Marylanders from Accessing Justice*, Feb. 4, 2021, Maryland Matters
* *The Pipeline for Black Children Needs to Be Fixed, Too,* Jun. 10, 2020, Newsweek
* *Protestors shouldn’t be saddled with criminal records*, Apr. 26, 2020, Baltimore Sun
* *Why are you publicly sharing your child’s DNA information?,* Jan. 2, 2020, N.Y. Times
* *We’re entering a new phase in law enforcement’s use of consumer genetic data*, Dec. 19, 2019, Slate
* *Restoring voting rights for felons embraces the American tenet of second chances*, Dec. 16, 2019, The Hill
* *Utah should change how it punishes technical parole or probation violations*, Dec. 1, 2019, The Salt Lake Tribune
* *A Wearable Wiretap*, Nov. 8, 2019, Slate (with Lars Trautman)
* *Open a School Door, Close a Prison*, Oct. 14, 2019, The American Interest (with Emily Mooney)
* *Prosecutors need less power over children in the justice system*, Oct. 5, 2019, Orlando Sentinel
* *When your DNA is public information*, Aug. 22, 2019, Slate
* *Trump’s family separation policy never really ended. This is why*., Jul. 1, 2019, NBC News
* *What are the proper limits on police use of facial recognition?,* Jun. 20, 2019, Brookings Institute
* *“Smart” Technology is Coming for Prisons, too*, Apr. 30, 2019, Slate (with Lars Trautman)
* *Meek Mill is exhibit A of nation’s broken probation system.*, Apr. 25, 2018, USA Today
* *Criminal Suspects Deserve Genetic Privacy, Too*, Mar. 18, 2019, Slate
* *Protecting second chances for the formerly incarcerated in the age of facial recognition*, Sept. 19, 2018, Brookings Institute (with Lars Trautman)
* *Trump’s child separation policy is offensive to human dignity and the ideals of America*, Jun. 19, 2018, NBC Think (with Arthur Rizer)
* *Female prisoners deserve dignity*, Jun. 18, 2018, The Baltimore Sun
* *There’s a war on books in prisons. It needs to end*., Feb. 8, 2018, Washington Post
* *California won’t jail children for being poor. Will other states follow?,* Jan. 1, 2018, Newsweek

**Selected Media Experiences**

*New killing reinvigorates national debate on no-knock warrants*, Feb. 2022, The Hill

*What cops are doing with your DNA*, Jun. 2021, What’s Next: TBD, Slate

*Who profits from prison labor*, May 2019, BBC Radio

*Balancing safety with privacy in prison: should ‘smart’ technology monitor inmates?*, May 2019, CBC Radio

**Selected Presentations**

*Who Owns Children’s DNA?,* Selected Panelist at AALS (Jan. 2024)

*Who Owns Children’s DNA*, Selected for 6th Annual Junior Faculty Forum for Law and STEM, Stanford Law School (Oct. 2023)

*Parent-Child Privilege as Resistance*, Crimfest (July 2023)

*Parent-Child Privilege as Resistance*, Decarceration Works-in-Progress (June 2023)

Panelist, “Policing Technology Summit,” at the National Conference of State Legislators, 2022

Panelist, “Transforming Prosecution: Crisis in Our Juvenile System” (PBS docuseries), 2021

Panelist, Racism, Immigration, the Criminal Justice System, Institute Ostrom Catalunya, 2020

Panelist on “Messages to Influence the Narrative and Build Political Viability,” The Vera Institute’s Third Annual Convening of the Second Chance Pell Partners, Jun. 2018

**Amicus Briefs**

*City of Chicago, Illinois v. Fulton,* No. 19-357 (U.S., 2020).

*Timbs v. State of Indiana*, 2018 WL 4462202 (U.S., 2018).

*Prison Legal News v. Secretary, Florida Department of Corrections*,No. 18-355 (U.S., 2018).

**Skills/Interests/Awards**

2022-2023 Stanford Digital Civil Society Fellow

2020-2021 Rockwood Movement Leaders Fellow

2020 FASPE Distinguished Fellow Award for Professional Ethics

Proficient in Tamil, Intermediate French, Beginning Spanish.

EMT-B certified (Emergency Medical Technician). Alumna of Yale Women’s Slavic Chorus and Member of the Nightingale Trio (as seen on Prairie Home Companion). Accomplished South Indian Carnatic Vocalist. Supporting actress in a Bollywood movie: *Unarchigal*, 2005.

**Bar Admissions**

Admitted in California, Maryland, and the Supreme Court of the United States.