

Hannah Haksgaard

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law

2016-present

Professor of Law with Tenure, 2022-present

Associate Professor of Law, 2019-2022

Assistant Professor of Law, 2016-2019

Affiliated Faculty:

Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, 2019-present (standing approval)

Department of Music, 2024-present (approved until 2029)

Department of History, 2024-present (approved until 2029)

Courses: Property; Family Law; Reproduction & the Law; Law Review Writing Seminar.
Previously, Employment Discrimination; Modern Real Estate Transactions.

Awards: Belbas-Larson Award for Excellence in Teaching 2023

John Wesley Jackson Memorial Award for Outstanding Professor of Law, 2022

ABA GP Solo and Small Firm Project Award, 2025

Professor of the Game, USD Academic Affairs, 2022, 2024

Cutler Award for Excellence in Legal Education, USD Knudson School of Law, 2020

Current Student Group Advising:

South Dakota Law Review, Faculty Advisor

Family Law & Children's Advocacy, Faculty Advisor

Women in Law, Faculty Advisor

Current Committee Work:

Law School Faculty Hiring Committee, Chair

USD Faculty Senate, Law School Member

USD Belbas-Larson Teaching Award Selection Committee, Member

USD Strategic Planning Committee, Member

Funded Fellowships for Professional Development:

Digital Accessibility Fellowship, USD, 2023 (for Reproduction & the Law materials)

Open Textbook Fellowship, USD, 2019 (for adopting a 1L Property casebook)

34th Economics Institute for Law Professors, The Law & Economics Center, 2019

Course Design Fellowship, USD, 2018 (for designing 1L Property)

PUBLICATIONS

Book

THE RURAL LAWYER: HOW TO INCENTIVIZE RURAL LAW PRACTICE AND HELP SMALL COMMUNITIES THRIVE (Cambridge University Press, 2025)

Winner, American Agricultural Law Association Scholarship Award (2025)

Articles & Book Chapters

My Past is My Present: Teaching In and Writing About a Home Community in POSITIONALITY IN RURAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE SCHOLARSHIP (eds. Michele Statz & Dan Newman, forthcoming 2026 with Hart Publishing) (invited)

Indian Country Lawyers: A Rural South Dakota Survey, 69 SOUTH DAKOTA LAW REVIEW 437 (2024) (with Bryce Drapeaux) (for the Rural Lawyers Symposium)

Conceptualising Rural Access to Justice as Supply Chains Primed for Transformation in ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES 141 (Daniel Newman & Faith Gordon, eds. 2023) (with Amanda Kool) (invited)

Legal Supports and Services for Rural Victims in RURAL VICTIMS OF CRIME: CONCEPTUALISATIONS, REALITIES, AND RESPONSES 195 (eds. Rachel Hale & Alistair Harkness, eds. 2023) (invited)

Making South Dakota History: An Introduction to the Special Impeachment Issue, 68 SOUTH DAKOTA LAW REVIEW 159 (2023) (with Tyler Moore & Gabrielle Unruh)

Student Response Systems in the Family Law Classroom, 60 FAMILY COURT REVIEW 722 (2022)

Health Education Leaves the Hills: Frontier Nursing University's Move from Appalachia, 124 WEST VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW 687 (2022) (for the Health in the Hills Symposium)

Including Unmarried Women in the Homestead Act of 1862, 67 WAYNE LAW REVIEW 253 (2022)
Winner, Carol Mashek Endowed Award in Women's History (Center for W. Hist., 2021)

Commentary on Tate v. Water Works & Sewer Board of City of Oxford, in FEMINIST JUDGMENTS: REWRITTEN PROPERTY OPINIONS 198 (Eloisa C. Rodriguez-Dod & Elena Maria Marty-Nelson eds., 2022)

The Homesteading Rights of Deserted Wives: A History, 99 NEBRASKA LAW REVIEW 419 (2020)

Court-Appointment Compensation and Rural Access to Justice, 14 UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS JOURNAL OF LAW & PUBLIC POLICY 88 (2020) (for the Inequality of Wealth, Race, and Class, Equality of Opportunity Symposium)

Reprinted at *Finding & Retaining Qualified Counsel*, ABA PUBLIC DEF. SUMMIT 19 (2022)

Blending Surnames at Marriage, 30 STANFORD LAW & POLICY REVIEW 307 (2019)

Rural Practice as Public Interest Work, 71 MAINE LAW REVIEW 209 (2019) (for the Ensuring Equal Access to Justice in Maine's Rural Communities Symposium) (invited)

Legal Deserts: A Multi-State Perspective on Rural Access to Justice, 13 HARVARD LAW & POLICY REVIEW 15 (2018) (with Lisa R. Pruitt, Danielle M. Conway, Michele Statz, Amanda Kool, and Lauren Sudeall) (invited)

Defining “Home” through Homestead Laws, 33 BERKELEY JOURNAL OF GENDER, LAW & JUSTICE 169 (2018) (for the Home & Homecoming Symposium)

Rural Women and Developments in the Undue Burden Analysis: The Effect of Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt, 65 DRAKE LAW REVIEW 663 (2017)

Rural Incentive Programs for Legal and Medical Professionals: A Comparative Analysis, 59 SOUTH DAKOTA LAW REVIEW 585 (2014) (for the Project Rural Practice Symposium)*

Rural Inheritance: Gender Disparities in Farm Transmission, 88 NORTH DAKOTA LAW REVIEW 347 (2012)*

Winner, American Agricultural Law Association Student Scholarship Award (2013)

Decoupling Marriage & Procreation: A Feminist Argument for Same-Sex Marriage, 27 BERKELEY JOURNAL OF GENDER, LAW & JUSTICE 307 (2012)*

Uncovered: The Policing of Sex Work, 26 BERKELEY JOURNAL OF GENDER, LAW & JUSTICE 198 (2011) (introduction for the Uncovered: The Policing of Sex Work Symposium)*

Book Reviews

Five Prairie Reflections on Reviving Rural America, 127 W.V. L. REV. 759 (2025) (with Sean Kammer & Travis Letellier) (invited) (reviewing REVIVING RURAL AMERICA by Anne E. Eisenberg)

Book Review, 72(4) MONTANA THE MAGAZINE OF WESTERN HISTORY 85 (2022) (reviewing BIRTHING THE WEST: MOTHERS AND MIDWIVES IN THE ROCKIES AND PLAINS by Jennifer Hill (2022)) (invited)

Traveling for Abortion Services and the Rural Women “We Must Not Forget,” 65 SOUTH DAKOTA LAW REVIEW 1 (2020) (reviewing ABORTION ACROSS BORDERS: TRANSNATIONAL TRAVEL AND ACCESS TO ABORTION SERVICES by Christabell Sethna & Gayle Davis (2019))

Book Review, 27 BERKELEY JOURNAL OF GENDER, LAW & JUSTICE 142 (2012) (reviewing THE BEAUTY BIAS: THE INJUSTICE OF APPEARANCE IN LIFE AND LAW by Deborah L. Rhode (2010))*

* Published as Hannah Alsgaard.

Shorter Works

[What Small Law Firms Contribute to Rural Communities](#), GPSOLO EREPORT (May 22, 2025).

[A Perspective from Rural America: Lawyers and the Viability of Rural Law Practice](#), FIFTEEN EIGHTY FOUR: ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVES FROM CABRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS (May 12, 2025).

[Life as a New Rural Lawyer: Helping Students Understand a Career in Rural Law](#), NALP BULLETIN+ 36 (April 2025)

[Adding a Conceptual Framework to Rural Family Law](#), THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF COMPARATIVE LAW BLOG (Dec. 5, 2024)

[South Dakota Legislature Updates Name Change Law, Fixing Last Year's Mistake](#), RAPID CITY JOURNAL (June 8, 2022) (also published under the same title and on the same date in the [TIMBER LAKE TOPIC](#) and the [BRANDON VALLEY JOURNAL](#))

Also appearing as [SD Legislature Fixes Name-Change Law](#), YANKTON PRESS & DAKOTAN (June 15, 2022)

[Student Response Systems as a Tool for Formative Assessment](#), LSSSE GUEST BLOG (September 11, 2021)

[HB 1067 makes South Dakota an unfriendly place to marry](#), ARGUS LEADER (March 26, 2021)

Also appearing as [Legislature takes a step backward for women's interests](#), RAPID CITY JOURNAL (March 31, 2021), and [SD has gone backward on women's interests concerning maiden names](#), ABERDEEN NEWS (April 2, 2021)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Who Should Run Rural Lawyer Programs?, __ WISCONSIN LAW REVIEW __ (forthcoming 2026).

South Dakota Code Changes and Women's Rights (research in progress)

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, J.D. 2012

BERKELEY JOURNAL OF GENDER, LAW & JUSTICE, member & editor

Boalt Hall Women's Association

Graduate Student Instructor: "Government & the Family" "Sex, Reproduction & the Law"

University of Kentucky, B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2009

Majors in Political Science and Gender & Women's Studies; Minor in History

Phi Beta Kappa

Honors Program

Intercollegiate Policy Debate Squad

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

The Honorable Kermit Bye United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit	2013-2016
The Honorable Roberto Lange United States District Court for the District of South Dakota	2012-2013

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

South Dakota (active)
North Dakota (inactive)
Minnesota (resigned)

SERVICE

Service to the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law

Student Group Advising

- SOUTH DAKOTA LAW REVIEW, Faculty Advisor (2018-present); Co-Advisor (2017-2018)
- Family Law & Children's Advocacy, Faculty Advisor (2016-present)
- American Constitution Society, Faculty Advisor (2019-2024)
- R.D. Hurd Volunteer Legal Society, Faculty Advisor (2016-2019)
- Public Interest Network, Faculty Advisor (2016-2018)

Faculty Committees

- Faculty Recruitment Committee, Chair (2020-2024; 2025-2026); Member (2018-2020)
- Admissions Committee, Chair (2019-2024); Co-Chair (2018); Member (2016-2018)
- ABA Self-Study Committee, Member (2017-2020)
- Assessment Subcommittee, Member (2016-2018)
- Academic Affairs/Curriculum Committee, Member (2016-2017)
- Faculty Diversity and Inclusiveness Committee, Member (2016-2017)

Other Service

- AALS Representative, 2021, 2022
- AALS Alternate Representative, 2017

Service to the University of South Dakota

- *Main Campus*
 - Faculty Senate (2025-present)
 - Panelist at New Faculty Orientation (2019, 2021, 2022)
 - Strategic Planning Task Force, Member (2019-2020; 2025-present)
 - President's Law School Facilities Task Force, Member (2018-2019)
 - Belbas Larson Selection Committee (2026-present)

- *Undergraduate Honors Program*
 - Director of Thesis Committee (2018 Graduate)
 - Member of Thesis Committee (2020 Graduate)
- *College of Fine Arts*
 - Committee Member, collaborative piano (2024 Masters Graduate)
 - Committee Member, piano performance (2025 Masters Graduate)
- *Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies*
 - Affiliated Faculty (2019-present)
 - Conference Program Committee (2021-2022)
 - Panel Moderator for Research Conference (2017; 2019)
- *History Department*
 - Committee Member (2026 Masters Graduate)

Service to the State Bar of South Dakota

- Family Law Committee, Member (2021-present)
- Project Rural Practice Committee, Member (2021-present)
- South Dakota State Bar Access to Justice Inc., member of the selection committee for the William F. Day, Jr. Law Student Pro Bono Award (2019, 2023, 2025)

Other External Service

- South Dakota Humanities Council, Speakers Bureau Participant (2022-present)
 - Featured on “Brainstorming: The Human Connection” in May 2022 (remote)
 - Featured on Humanities Café in August 2026 (remote)
 - Public Events in De Smet, Sioux Falls, Yankton, Viborg, Freeman, Vermillion
- South Dakota Girls State, judicial proceedings volunteer (2018-present)
- Law & Rurality Workshop, co-organizer/host (2021-2025), organizer/host (2020)
- Rural Sociological Society, Chair of Law & Justice Research Interest Group (2025-2026)
- Alliance for Lawyers and Rural America ([AfLARA](#)), co-founder and frequent newsletter contributor (2018-2020)
- American Association of Law Schools (“AALS”)
 - Section on Family Law Pedagogy Subcommittee, member (2021-2022)
 - Annual Meeting, panel organizer for “Rural Access to Justice Panel” (2019)

PRESENTATIONS

Legislative Testimony

South Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee, March 2022 (remote). Testimony about House Bill 1268, a bill to revise provisions related to name changes when obtaining a marriage license.

South Dakota House Judiciary Committee, February 2022 (remote). Testimony about House Bill 1268, a bill to revise provisions related to name changes when obtaining a marriage license.

South Dakota Senate Health and Human Services Committee, February 2021 (remote). Testimony about House Bill 1067, a bill to modify identification requirements for a marriage license and to provide certain provisions for a name change.

CLE Presentations

Lunch & Learn: Recruiting and Retaining Rural Lawyers: Challenges and Incentives, June 2025 hosted by the Virginia State Bar (remote). Presented research from THE RURAL LAWYER.

Mentorship: Advice for Mentors and Mentees at the South Dakota State Bar Convention, June 2025, in Rapid City, SD. Presented research from THE RURAL LAWYER.

The Role of Law Schools in Addressing Legal Deserts, April 2025 hosted by NYS Permanent Commission on Access to Justice and Cornell Law School (remote). Panelist on two panels discussing policy responses and particular problems in Indian Country.

Indian Law Update at the South Dakota State Bar Convention, June 2024, in Pierre, SD. Panelist presenting on ICWA.

Law for Lunch: Name Change, September 2022 hosted by the State Bar of South Dakota (remote). Panelist discussing name changes at marriage.

2022 ABA Public Defense Summit: Management and Oversight of Assigned Counsel and Contract Systems, April 2022 hosted by the American Bar Association (remote). Panelist for the session on Finding and Retaining Qualified Counsel.

Lectures & Featured Presentations

Book Talks about THE RURAL LAWYER

- **National Conference of Bar Presidents at the ABA Mid-Year Meeting**, February 2026, in San Antonio, TX
- **Louisville Law School Faculty Workshop**, Louisville, KY, January 2025
- **American Agricultural Law Association Annual Educational Symposium**, November 2025, in Scottsdale, AZ
- **Central Kentucky Inns of Court**, October 2025 (remote)
- **Nebraska State Bar Association Annual Meeting**, October 2025, in Omaha, NE
- **University of Nebraska College of Law**, October 2025, in Lincoln, NE
- **South Dakota Festival of Books**, September 2025, in Spearfish, SD
- **Humanities Café for South Dakota Humanities Council**, August 2025 (remote)
- **Virginia State Bar**, June 2025 (remote)
- **National Center for State Courts**, June 2024 (remote)
- **ABA Joint Spring Conference**, May 2024, in Omaha, NE

The Agricultural Heritage Museum and Ness School of Economics Lunch & Learn, October 2022 at the Agricultural Heritage Museum in Brookings, SD. Presented *Including Unmarried Women in the Homestead Act of 1862*.

Also given at the Pipestone County Courthouse for the Pipestone County Historical Society in November 2022

Health in the Hills Symposium, February 2022 at University of West Virginia College of Law in Morgantown, WV. Presented *Health Education Leaves the Hills: Frontier Nursing University's Move from Appalachia*.

Fifth Annual Celebration of the Rural Attorney Recruitment Program, May 2019 in Pierre, SD. Lecture Entitled *Considering Rural Practice as Public Interest Work and Other National Strategies to Combat the Rural Lawyer Shortage*.

Ensuring Equal Access to Justice in Maine's Rural Communities Symposium, April 2019 at Colby College in Waterville, ME. Presented *Rural Practice as Public Interest Work*.

Law Faculty Scholar Exchange, September 2018 at Drake University Law School in Des Moines, IA. Presented *Homesteading Rights of Deserted Wives: A History*.

Home & Homecoming Symposium, April 2018 at Berkeley Law in Berkeley, CA. Presented *Defining "Home" through Homestead Laws*.

Constitution Day Lecture, September 2016 at University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law in Vermillion, SD. Lecture Entitled *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt: The Supreme Court, Rural Women, and Developments in the Undue Burden Analysis*.

Podcasts

In the Den: Conversations with Coyotes, [Hannah Haksgaard](#) (October 30, 2025).

In the Moment, [Putting Lawyers' Offices Back on Small-Town Main Street](#) (August 29, 2025).

Growing Small Towns, [Getting and Keeping Rural Lawyers with Hannah Haksgaard](#) (May 26, 2025).

ABA GPSolo Podcast, [Rural Lawyering: Career Paths and Community Impact](#) (April 30, 2025).

Credit Hour Podcast, [Hannah Haksgaard | Women Homesteading](#) (April 8, 2021).

Ipsix Podcast, Season 1 Episode 286, [Hannah Haksgaard on Rural Practice as Public Interest Work](#) (June 26, 2019).

Ipsix Podcast, Season 1 Episode 279, [Hannah Haksgaard on Blending Surnames at Marriage](#) (June 24, 2019).

Workshops

Law & Rurality Workshop:

- October 2025 (remote). Workshopped *Wisconsin Law Review* essay.
- October 2023 (remote). Workshopped THE RURAL LAWYER.
- October 2022 at Nebraska College of Law in Lincoln, NE. Workshopped THE RURAL LAWYER.

Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference:

- June 2021 hosted by Brooklyn Law School (remote). Workshopped *South Dakota Code Changes and Women's Rights*.
- June 2018 at Cardozo School of Law in New York, NY. Workshopped *Homesteading Rights of Deserted Wives: A History*.

Summer Feminist Legal Theory Writers' Workshop, June 2021 (remote). Workshopped *South Dakota Code Changes and Women's Rights*.

Chicagoland Junior Scholars Work in Progress Conference:

- October 2020 hosted by NIU College of Law (remote). Workshopped *Women in Homestead Legislation: A Statutory History*.
- October 2018 at Loyola University School of Law in Chicago, IL. Workshopped *Blending Surnames at Marriage*.

Rural Livelihoods Conference, February 2019 at UC Davis School of Law in Davis, CA. Workshopped *Women in Homestead Legislation: A Statutory History*.

Panel Presentations

Northern Great Plains History Conference, September 2025 in Mankato, MN. Presented THE RURAL LAWYER.

Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, July 2024 in Madison, WI. Presented on two panels: (1) presented THE RURAL LAWYER, and (2) discussant of Eisenberg's REVIVING RURAL AMERICA.

The Implication of *Dobbs*, September 2022 hosted by Touro Law Center (remote). Panelist discussing the impact of *Dobbs* on rural women and abortion access.

SD After Roe, September 2022 at University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD. Panelist discussing Constitutional Law and South Dakota abortion law following *Dobbs*.

Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Research Conference, March 2022 at University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD. Presented *Health Education Leaves the Hills: Frontier Nursing University's Move from Appalachia*.

Building on Our Institutional Strengths, March 2022 hosted by Native American Law Student Association at USD Knudson School of Law (remote). Panelist for *Brackeen* and the Potential Implications for Indian Country.

Health in the Hills Symposium, February 2022 in Morgantown, WV. Panelist for the Appalachian Health Panel.

Dakota Conference, August 2021 at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD. Presented *Including Unmarried Women in the Homestead Act of 1862*.

Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, July 2021 (remote). Presented *Legal Supports and Services for Rural Victims*.

Association of Law, Property, and Society Annual Conference, May 2021 (remote). Presented *Including Unmarried Women in the Homestead Act of 1862*.

Dynamic Pedagogy in the Family and Juvenile Law Classroom: Experiential and In-Class Exercises, January 2021 at the AALS Annual Meeting (remote). Panelist discussing the use of Kahoot! in the Family Law classroom.

Red River Women's Studies Conference, October 2020 hosted by North Dakota State University (remote). Presented *Women in Homestead Legislation: A Statutory History*.

Inequality of Wealth, Race, and Class, Equality of Opportunity Symposium, March 2020 hosted by University of St. Thomas Law School (remote). Presented *Court-Appointment Compensation and Rural Access to Justice*.

Sex, Gender, and Civil Rights in South Dakota, September 2019 at University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD. Panelist discussing legal rights in South Dakota.

Ensuring Equal Access to Justice in Maine's Rural Communities Symposium, April 2019 at Colby College in Waterville, ME. Panelist on state response to the rural lawyer shortage.

Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Research Conference, March 2019 at University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD. Presented *Blending Surnames at Marriage*.

Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Research Conference, March 2019 at University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD. Presented *Homesteading Rights of Deserted Wives: A History*.

A Conversation about Sexual Harassment, October 2017 at University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD. Panelist discussing legal aspects of Title VII.

Red River Women's Studies Conference, October 2017 at North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND. Presented *Homesteading Rights of Deserted Wives: A History*.

Red River Women's Studies Conference, October 2017 at North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND. Presented *Rural Women and Developments in the Undue Burden Analysis: The Effect of Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*.

Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, July 2017 in Columbus, OH. Presented *Rural Women and Developments in the Undue Burden Analysis: The Effect of Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*.

Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Research Conference, March 2017 at University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD. Presented *Rural Women and Developments in the Undue Burden Analysis: The Effect of Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*.

Project Rural Practice Symposium, March 2014 at University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law in Vermillion, SD. Presented *Rural Incentive Programs for Legal and Medical Professionals: A Comparative Analysis*.

Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, August 2013 in New York, NY. Presented *Rural Inheritance: Gender Disparities in Farm Transmission*.

Presentations to Student Groups

Supreme Court Roundup, hosted by USD Knudson Law Federalist Society in Vermillion, South Dakota. Panelist discussing:

- 2025 – *United States v. Skrmetti*
- 2023 – *Haaland v. Brackeen*
- 2022 – *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*

JABSOM Medical Students for Choice Meeting, October 2020 hosted by John A. Burns School of Medicine of University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (remote). Lecture on *Supreme Court Precedent, Reproductive Health, and the Future of the Supreme Court*.