

Natasha Nandlal Varyani

Associate Professor of Law; Roger Williams University School of Law
10 Metacom Ave, Bristol, Rhode Island 02809
nvaryani@rwu.edu // 216-513-9994

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Associate Professor of Law

Teach courses in the area of Contracts, Wills, Trusts & Estates, and other courses related to business and corporate law as necessary. Work in conjunction with project to bring services related to women and minority owned small businesses in Rhode Island.

Bristol, Rhode Island

July 1, 2023 – present

NEW ENGLAND LAW | BOSTON

Associate Professor of Law

Visiting Assistant Professor

Lecturer

Faculty Fellow

Boston, Massachusetts

January 2020 – July 2023

August 2018 – December, 2019

August 2016 – July 2018

August 2012 – July 2014

Courses Taught: Property, Contracts, Wills Estates & Trusts, Critical Race Theory & The Law, Personal Income Tax, Experiential Tax Seminar, Multi-Jurisdictional Tax & e-Commerce

First Generation Students Program: Lead a program to support students who are first generation law students (defined as the first in their family to have more than a high school diploma). Coordinate with licensed social worker from Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers to run bi-weekly meetings for support and substantive guidance. Plan one signature event each semester with guest speaker from community (speakers include Senator Lydia Edwards and Judge Catherine Ham).

Charles Hamilton Houston Enrichment Program: Co-Chair program providing support and resources for students interested in issues related to diversity, inclusion and civil rights. Oversee one-credit Practicum with local law firm, hold monthly community events and engage in individual meetings with students.

Committees: Appointments, Honors Judicial Clerkship Selection, Adjunct Faculty Review

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Associate Director for Academic Enrichment

Developed, implemented and assessed academic and bar support programs for law students. Worked with Student Affairs, Faculty, Career Development, Library and other University resources on developing a program to improve legal analysis skills for exam performance, bar exam preparation and legal practice. Applied established principles of educational psychology to legal education to create and build an effective program.

Boston, Massachusetts

January 2017 – July 2018

Visiting Assistant Professor

July 2015 – July 2017

Engaged as a member of the full-time faculty in teaching Contracts and Property Courses. Course load allows for work on scholarly agenda and presentations in the area of tax and e-commerce. Worked with Director of Graduate Tax Program on various projects including directing a “Current Issues in Taxation” lecture series, student advising, and other program initiatives.

Lecturer – Property & Contracts (L.L.M in American Law)

January 2015 – June 2015

Served as lecturer in Real Property at Graduate level in program to prepare LLM candidates in complex areas of American Law.

SCHOLARSHIP

BOOKS & BOOK CHAPTERS

Property Supplement (title TBD), (Carolina Academic Press – forthcoming). This scholarly project seeks to support professors and students in 1L Property classrooms in examining the ways in which our laws have created and supported systems and structures that reinforce racial inequality. Chapters will particularly focus on bar tested areas of law and each will conclude with a sample exercise aimed at retaining doctrine and building legal analysis skills.

Feminist Judgment Series (Property): Coggan v. Coggan. (Cambridge University Press with Stevie Leahy) Co-Authored chapter containing re-written judicial opinion in a Florida case on the topic of Tenancy in Common and gendered treatment of former spouses.

LAW REVIEW ARTICLES

Social Justice & Multi-Jurisdictional Tax: A Critical Examination of the Digitization of Commerce, Multi-Jurisdictional Tax and an Opportunity to Correct a Systemic Preference to Protect Wealth Capital University Law Review, Volume 50, Number 2 (Fall 2022)

Response to “Identity Capitalists”: Implications for Property, Academia, and Affirmative Action, New England Law Review, Volume 56, Number 2 (Spring 2022).

A New Purpose: Shifting Foundations That May Reprioritize the Needs of Corporate Stakeholders and Social Movements, New England Law Review, Volume 54, No. 1 (2019).

Being Present: What a Sales Tax Case Demonstrates About Federalism, The Dormant Commerce Clause, and the Direction of Supreme Court Jurisprudence, Boston University Public Interest Law Journal, Volume 28, No. 1 (Winter 2019)

States Unbound: Examining the Authority of the Multistate Tax Compact in a Modern, Multijurisdictional Economy, Wayne State Law Review Journal of Business (Summer 2018)

Taxing Electronic Commerce: The Efforts of Sales and Use Tax to Evolve with Technology, (lead article), Oklahoma City University Law Review, Volume 39, Issue 2 (Summer 2014).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Boston Bar Journal; Viewpoint: *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard: Affirmative Action, Race Based Policies and Preference Falsification*. (April 7, 2021)

National Jurist; September 2020: <https://www.nationaljurist.com/smartlawyer/if-youre-planning-asking-black-friend-or-colleague-how-help-blm-movement-dont>

Massachusetts Bar Association Section Review: *COVID-19 and State Emergency Orders* (July / August 2020)

Boston Business Journal Viewpoint: Taxing Short Term Rentals May Spoil the Season, July 19, 2019 Op-Ed.

Symposium Response: Social Equity Programs in State Level Cannabis Rules. New England Law Review Online. Authored a response to Cannabis law symposium on the topic of Social Equity Programs in Massachusetts and other jurisdictions.

Cognitive Load Theory and Learning the Law: How and Why Minority Students Struggle in Law School, The Learning Curve, Winter 2018.

A Contract Among States: Capturing Income of the World's Multi-Jurisdictional Taxpayers, University of Bologna Law Review, Vol. 1, No. 2, January 2017.

Understanding Discovery: The Supreme Judicial Court Clarifies the Attorney-Client Privilege and Work-Product Doctrine as Related to Tax Memoranda, Volume 11, No. 2, MASS BAR ASSN SECTION REVIEW, 41-42 (2009).

Combined Reporting in Massachusetts: A Primer on the Controversy, Volume 10, No. 3, MASS BAR ASSN SECTION REVIEW, 29-31 (2008).

Defining Manufacturing Activity in Massachusetts: Recent decisions Clarify the Availability of Sales and Use Tax Exemptions for Entities Engaged in Manufacturing, Volume 10, No. 1, MASS BAR ASSN SECTION REVIEW, 35-36 (2008).

EDUCATION

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

Juris Doctorate
Honors: Best Oral Advocate

Boston, Massachusetts
May, 2003

SAWYER SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Masters in Business Administration (Concentration in Finance)

Boston, Massachusetts
May, 2003

SMITH COLLEGE

Bachelor of Arts
Majors: English and Economics

Northampton, Massachusetts
May, 1999

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) 2022 Teaching Conference (October 14-15, 2022): Selected to present on Teaching Critical Race Theory and lessons on structural racism to classrooms with widely varying viewpoints.

American Association of Law Schools: Property Section Pedagogy Session (January 7, 2022) Selected to present at annual meeting on lesson plan in Property. Presented draft chapter and lesson plan related to incorporating culturally responsive analysis to skills exercise related to Adverse Possession.

American University Business Law Review: Digital Bragging Rights: The Cyber-Property that NFT's Create (November 12, 2021) Presented at symposium regarding tax and securities implications of Non-Fungible Tokens.

What is Critical Race Theory (How to Explain to Constituents) (October 2021) At the request of the District Attorney of Middlesex County (Massachusetts) spoke at a webinar aimed at community leaders, including elected and appointed government officials as well as leaders of private and non-profit entities to describe and discuss Critical Race Theory.

Boston Bar Association Women's Leadership Initiative, (June 29, 2021) Served as a panelist in webinar designed for managing partners and leaders in Boston's legal community to discuss hiring practices.

AALS Art Law Panel: NFT's. (June 25, 2021) Served as a panelist on a webinar serving the AALS Property & Art Law sections to discuss issues and concepts related to practice and teaching related to non-fungible tokens.

New England Law Review Symposium (March 25, 2021) Moderated a discussion with author, Professor Anjali Vats and other academic experts based on the book, *The Color of Creatorship*.

Fireside Chat: The Rise in Anti-Asian Violence & Hate Crime Laws, (March 17, 2021) Gave keynote address and moderated discussion on the rise in anti-Asian violence and issues related to hate-crime laws.

RGB to ACB: Federalist Society & American Constitutional Society, (November, 2020) Served as panelist in discussion about the direction of the United States Supreme Court.

News Channel 10: Contracts / Concert Tickets & Corona Virus Cancellations, Provided brief set of interviews that aired on local news regarding. (June and July 2020)

New England Law Review Symposium (2019) Response to *Corporations are People Too (And Should Act Like It)* with author Kent Greenfield.

Massachusetts CLE Presenter: Airbnb, Public Law Regulations, Tax Considerations and Landlord / Tenant Issues (November 7, 2019)

Association of Academic Support Professionals Diversity Conference (October 12, 2017) *Adapting in Life, Learning and the Law: How Managing “Otherness” Can Hone a Set of Skills of Outstanding Lawyers*. Examined ways to create and manage a tone that avoids portraying diversity as a liability, and instead re-characterizes it as an asset. Provided sample lesson plans aimed at enhancing the law student’s ability to complete a thorough and thoughtful legal analysis that is applicable to all doctrinal areas of law.

Association of Academic Support Professionals Annual Conference (May 24, 2017) *“Diverse Viewpoints: Managing “Otherness” In Legal Education”*
Described Cognitive Load Theory before exploring the concepts and issues that may impact underperforming students identifying as “other” in law school.

Boston University School of Law Graduate Tax Program Lecture Series (Organizer and Presenter). Created a series of lectures aimed at the practitioner and academic communities dealing with current issues in taxation. Moderated discussions and presented keynote address exploring the history and impact of the Multistate Tax Compact litigation and the response of large multi-jurisdictional taxpayers.

On Remand: New England Law Review Podcast: Taxation and eCommerce (January 25, 2014) Podcast interview on the subject of sales tax nexus and electronic commerce.

Boston Bar Association Annual State and Local Tax Update / CLE (June 22, 2011)
Primary Organizer & Program Moderator

Author Book Discussion: *India Calling: An Intimate Portrait of a Nation’s Remaking with Anand Giridharadas* (April 13, 2011) Discussion Leader

Path to a Post-Financial Crisis World - A Discussion With Policy Experts (March 19 2009) Organizer & Program Moderator

Honoring Government Leaders in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (March 4, 2008) Panelist and Primary Organizer of event honoring appointment of two South Asian Commissioners by the Governor. Hosted by the South Asian Bar Association.

Doing Business with India - A Public Policy Roundtable (June 2007)
Program Moderator

SERVICE

Boston Public Schools & Josiah Quincy Elementary School

Member: School Site Counsel September 2019 – present
Serve on governing board of school. Vote on budget and work on hiring of faculty and staff. Work on strategic plan and initiatives to connect students in BPS’s largest elementary school to racial diversity in the legal profession.

Boston Bar Association

Co-Chair, Tax Section 2022 – 2024
Co-Chair, Pipeline and Recruitment Committee, Diversity & Inclusion 2013 – 2015
Education Sub-Committee Chair, Diversity & Inclusion Section 2011 – 2013
Section Chair, State and Local Tax 2010 – 2012

Massachusetts Bar Association

Taxation Law Section Council September 2019 – June 2022

The South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston

President 2010
Executive Committee 2007 - 2010
Board of Directors 2006 - 2011

Built fledgling local chapter of a national organization to a leading affinity bar organization in Boston. Coordinated strategic planning of programs and events to ensure continued growth and success of organization.

North American South Asian Bar Association

Board of Directors, Executive Committee 2008 - 2010
Conceived and organized a four day event featuring leaders in the law and the South Asian Community. Served on the Executive Committee for the national organization.

Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Boston Future Leaders Program

January – December 2009

Women's Leadership Initiative (Women's Bar Association)

September 2011 – August 2012

The Rosoff Committee

2009 – 2011, 2015

Serve on Committee to select the recipients of awards given annually to those who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to diversity in Boston.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sullivan & Worcester, LLP

Of Counsel January 2022 – present
Consult with attorneys in tax group on client matters and attend regular meetings to present and opine on current topics in tax practice.

McCarter & English, LLP

Senior Associate October 2007 – June 2012
Managed all stages of litigation for taxpayers before the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board and Appeals Court. Represented taxpayers in appeals process and settlement negotiations with Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Built state tax practice at leading regional law firm and managed appeals for all New England states. Closely follow updates and changes to tax policy; provided public comment on state agency proposals and draft regulations. Managed trial of precedent setting Kimberly-Clark Corporation v. Commissioner of Revenue, Mass Appellate Tax Board Docket Nos. C282754, C295077, C299008. First application of codified sham transaction doctrine.

Holland + Knight, LLP*Associate**January 2006 – September 2007*

Advised clients regarding disposition of unclaimed property and applicability of escheat law in various jurisdictions. Researched, drafted briefs and presented oral arguments on behalf of corporate clients appealing state tax assessments. Served on recruiting committee and worked closely with executive partners in leading summer associate and diversity programs for leading international law firm.

Ernst & Young, LLP*Tax Consulting Senior**September 2003 – December 2006**Summer Associate**June 2002 – August 2002*

Assisted in document review and transactional due diligence with regard to state and federal tax items at a premiere international accounting and consulting firm. Advised large multinational corporation in appropriate income tax disclosures for listing in the United States.

State Representative Brian Cresta*Legislative Director**May 2001 – May 2002*

Oversaw composition and co-sponsorship of legislative initiatives in all areas for Representative. Managed requests from lobbyists and constituents. Attended hearings and worked closely with Committees.

United States Senator Mike DeWine*Legislative Correspondent**August 1999 – August 2000*

Researched issues in the areas of campaign finance, environment and healthcare; drafted correspondence for Senator and Chief of Staff pertaining to those issues. Drafted briefing materials, including testimony and questions for witnesses at Committee hearings.

Bar Admissions

New York (2003)

Massachusetts (2004)

Professional References

Lawrence Friedman
Professor of Law
New England Law | Boston
lfriedman@nesl.edu
617-422-7459

Maureen O'Rourke
Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, Dean Emeritus & Professor of Law
Boston University School of Law
morourke@bu.edu
617-353-2230

Ashley H. Brooks
Partner
Sullivan & Worcester
abrooks@sullivanlaw.com
617-338-2412