

## MANEKA SINHA

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

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**University of Maryland, Francis King Carey School of Law, Baltimore, Maryland**

*Associate Professor*, 2022 – present

*Assistant Professor*, 2019 – 2022

*Director*, Criminal Defense Clinic, 2019 – present

Courses: Criminal Defense Clinic, Advanced Evidence: Forensic Science in Criminal Cases

Service: Member, Dean Search Committee (2021 – 2022); Member, Admissions

Committee (2019 – present); Faculty Advisor, APALSA (2020 – present)

### EDUCATION

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**New York University School of Law, New York, NY**

J.D., May 2009

Honors: Vanderbilt Medal, *for outstanding contributions to the law school*

Developments Editor, Senior Editorial Board, *Journal of International Law and Politics*

Dean's Scholarship, *awarded in part for merit*

Activities: Teacher's Assistant, Constitutional Law, Professor Derrick Bell (Spring 2009)

**University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA**

B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, *with Honors*, Minor in Business Administration, May 2004

Honors: Chancellor's Scholar, *U.C. Berkeley's most prestigious scholarship*

### PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

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**Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS), Washington, DC**

*Special Counsel to the Director (Forensic Science)*, June 2015 – June 2019

*Supervising Attorney*, July 2013 – June 2015

*Staff Attorney*, October 2009 – July 2013

- Served as senior advisor to PDS's director on forensic science issues.
- Directed PDS's forensic science litigation program and designed agency strategy for use of forensic evidence.
- Headed PDS's Forensic Practice Group (FPG), which conducts internal and external training on forensic science and spearheads forensic science litigation.
- Assisted and trained defense attorneys locally and nationwide on forensic science issues.
- Trained and supervised agency lawyers in all aspects of criminal defense practice including on forensic science fundamentals and litigation.
- Cross-examined or directed several experts in psychology, medicine, DNA, fingerprints, firearms/toolmarks and other disciplines.
- Litigated numerous issues related to complex forensic science and mental health evidence.
- Represented indigent clients charged with serious felonies including homicide and sexual assault from arrest through sentencing.

**The International Legal Foundation (ILF)**

*International Fellow*, Kathmandu, Nepal, December 2017

- Developed supervision and training plan for eight-office defender agency.

**Brian Roberts International Fellow**, West Bank, Palestine, March 2015 – June 2015

- Trained lawyers in defense advocacy on areas including client-centered advocacy, case theory development, investigation, cross-examination, direct examination and oral and written advocacy.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### LAW REVIEW ARTICLES

*The Dangers of Automated Gunshot Detection*, 5 U. PENN. J. L. & INNOVATION 63 (2023)

- Invited for presentation and publication for the University of Pennsylvania Law School *Journal of Law & Innovation* symposium, *Innovation and Criminal Justice*

*Radically Reimagining Forensic Evidence*, 73 ALA. L. REV. 879 (2022)

- Featured in Emily Riley, *What's Wrong with Forensic Science? Everything, Says Paper*, [THE CRIME REPORT](#) (Aug. 11, 2021)

*Junk Science at Sentencing*, 89 GEO. WASH. L. REV. 52 (2021)

- Cited in:
  - WAYNE R. LAFAVE, JEROLD H. ISRAEL, NANCY J. KING & ORIN S. KERR, *CRIMINAL PROCEDURE* (4th ed. 2022)
  - NORA DEMLEITNER ET AL., *SENTENCING LAW AND POLICY: CASES, STATUTES, AND GUIDELINES* (2022)
  - DAVID L. FAIGMAN ET AL., *MODERN SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE: THE LAW AND SCIENCE OF EXPERT TESTIMONY* (2021 – 2022)
- Featured on *Excited Utterance*, [Episode 107](#) (Sept. 6, 2021)

### BOOK REVIEWS AND SHORTER WORKS

*Signal Detection Theory Fails to Account for Real-World Consequences of Inconclusive Decisions*, 21 L., PROBABILITY & RISK 131 (2023), with Richard E. Gutierrez

Book Review, *When Innocence Is not Enough: Hidden Evidence and the Failed Promise of the Brady Rule*, by Thomas L. Dybdahl, *The New Press* (2023), [CHAMPION](#), December 2022, at 61

*Perspective: Clamping Down on Faulty Forensics*, [MD. CAREY L. MAG.](#) (Fall 2021)

*The Entrenched Carceralism of Forensics*, [INQUEST](#) (July 26, 2021)

### AMICUS CURIAE BRIEFS

Brief of 42 Scholars of Forensic Science as *Amici Curiae* in Support of Defendant-Appellee, *United States v. Gissantaner*, No. 19-2305, 2020 WL 3316839 (6th Cir., June 8, 2020) [with M. Katherine Philpott].

### POPULAR MEDIA & MISCELLANEOUS

*The Trump DOJ Snuck in One Last Effort to Push Junk Science in Court*, [SLATE](#) (Feb. 4, 2021)

*More Prosecutions Won't Make Baltimore Safer*, [BALT. SUN](#) (Nov. 5, 2019)

*I Saw Firsthand How West Bank Palestinians Are Treated Like Prisoners. Who Will Fix This?*, [USA TODAY](#) (May 25, 2018)

The Effects of In Vivo Damage on UHMWPE Glenoid Components. Trans. 7th World Biomaterials Congress, Sydney, Australia, May 17–21, 2004, p. 1866, with Pruitt, L.A.; Sinha, M; Zeltser, D; Gunther, S.B. Published in the proceedings of the 7th World Biomaterials Congress.

## SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

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### *Automated Reasonable Suspicion and Probabilistic Cause*

Mid-Atlantic Regional Clinical Conference (Jan. 2023)

Mid-Atlantic Clinicians Writing Workshop (Dec. 2022)

ABA-AALS Criminal Justice Section, Academic Roundtables (Dec. 2022)

Decarceration Law Professors: Virtual Works-in-Progress Workshop (June 2022)

### *The Dangers of Automated Gunshot Detection (presented as Gunshot Detection Systems and Reasonable Suspicion: Innovating Policing or Propagating Bias?)*

Fifth Annual University of Pennsylvania Law School *Journal of Law & Innovation* Symposium, *Innovation and Criminal Justice* (Jan. 2022)

### *Radically Reimagining Forensic Evidence*

Clinical Law Review Writers' Workshop (Oct. 2021)

Virtual Crim Workshop (June 2021)

Junior Faculty Workshop, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD (Apr. 2021)

ABA-AALS Criminal Justice Section, Academic Roundtables (Nov. 2020)

Clinical Law Review Writers' Workshop (Oct. 2020)

### *Junk Science at Sentencing*

Faculty Workshop, University of Pittsburgh Law School, Pittsburgh, PA (Feb. 2020)

Junior Faculty Workshop, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD (Jan. 2020)

ABA-AALS Criminal Justice Section, Academic Roundtables (Nov. 2019)

Clinical Law Review Writers' Workshop (Sept. 2019)

## OTHER ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND TRAINING EXPERIENCE

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*Supporting Criminal Defense Clinic Students in Seeking to both Provide High-Quality Individual Representation and to Radically Transform the Carceral Justice System*, **First Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Clinical Conference**, Washington, DC, with others, February 4, 2023

*Butterfly in COVID: Structural Racism and Baltimore's Pretrial Legal System*, invited panelist, **Maryland Law Review Article Release Event**, Baltimore, MD, Jan. 18, 2023

*Faulty Forensics*, invited faculty speaker, **University of Maryland, Baltimore Faculty Convocation**, Baltimore, MD, Sept. 8, 2022

*Lessons from the Real World*, invited moderator, **Ninth Annual National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Cardozo School of Law National Forensic College**, New York, NY, with others, June 12, 2022

*Racism and Forensics*, invited speaker, **Ninth Annual National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Cardozo School of Law National Forensic College**, New York, NY, with others, June 12, 2022

*Course Design*, invited speaker, **Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Workshop for New Law Teachers**, Washington, DC, with Zina Makar, June 3, 2022

*Leveraging the History of Racism in Written and Oral Advocacy*, **AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education**, virtual conference, May 10, 2022

*Junk Science and the American Criminal Justice System*, invited panelist, **Center for Criminal Justice Reform**, University of Baltimore Law School, Baltimore, MD, Apr. 20, 2022

*Radically Reimagining Forensic Evidence*, invited keynote speaker, **Questioning Forensics, The Legal Aid Society of New York**, virtual conference, Mar. 30, 2022

*A Case Example – United States v. Tibbs: Working with an Expert to Challenge Firearms Evidence in your Case*, invited speaker, **Eighth Annual Whiskey in the Courtroom: Evolving Trends in Forensic Science, Firearms Evidence**, Duke Law School, Durham, NC, with Nicholas Scurich, Mar. 4, 2022

*702 Challenges Based on Unsupported Scientific Methods*, invited speaker, **Eighth Annual Whiskey in the Courtroom: Evolving Trends in Forensic Science, Firearms Evidence**, Duke Law School, Durham, NC, Mar. 4, 2022

*Immigration, Race, and Criminal Law: Immigrant Rights in an Era of Mass Incarceration*, invited moderator, **Maryland Journal of International Law Symposium: Race, Sovereignty, and Immigrant Rights**, virtual conference, Feb. 4, 2022

*Advanced Issues in DNA Analysis*, invited speaker, **Forensic Justice Institute, State Bar of Wisconsin**, virtual conference, Jan. 20, 2022

*Teaching Abolition Across Systems and Institutions*, invited panelist, **AALS 2022 Annual Meeting**, virtual conference, Jan. 9, 2022

*Policing and Social Justice*, invited speaker, **University of Maryland School of Medicine – Practice of Medicine 2 Course**, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, with Michael Pinard Dec. 13, 2021

*The AFTE Theory Exposed – Subjective, Circular, and Without Standards?*, invited speaker, **Eighth Annual National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Cardozo School of Law National Forensic College**, virtual conference, with Molly Ryan, July 15, 2021

*Because I Say I am: Expert Testimony in the Courtroom*, invited presenter, **Judicial College of Maryland**, virtual presentation, with Hon. Robert Taylor and Hon. Andre Davis, May 11, 2021

*Autopsy of a Crime Lab: Exposing the Flaws in Forensics*, invited panelist, **Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice**, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, virtual panel, Apr. 14, 2021

- Reprinted in the *Wrongful Conviction Law Review*, Brandon L. Garrett et al., *Autopsy of a Crime Lab: Exposing the Flaws in Forensics* Brandon L. Garrett with Edward K. Cheng, Erin Murphy, Dean Jennifer Mnookin, Paul Heaton, Itiel Dror, Maneka Sinha, 2 WRONGFUL CONVICTION L. REV. 121 (2021)

*Pattern Evidence: Bitemarks, Fingerprints, Firearms*, invited speaker, **National Association for Public Defense, We the Defenders: Rise. Resist. Represent.**, virtual conference, with Mark Loudon-Brown, Mar. 19, 2021

*Intersection of South Asian and Black Lives: A Historical & Contemporary Perspective*, invited speaker, **South Asian Bar Association of Washington, D.C.**, virtual presentation, with Vinay Harpalani, Feb. 23, 2021

[\*Criminalization as a Control Method: The Evolution of a Racialized System of Criminal Law Enforcement\*](#), invited speaker, **Big 10 Law School Speaker Series: Perspectives on race, law, and equality**, virtual speaker series, Nov. 10, 2020

*DNA 101: Basic Principles of Forensic DNA Analysis*, invited presenter, **Intensive Science & Surveillance School, Brooklyn Defender Services**, virtual training, with Kate Philpott, Oct. 19, 2020

*The Legal Lens of Social Justice: Breonna Taylor and Beyond*, invited panelist, **Virtual Face to Face with Dr. Bruce Jarrell**, virtual panel, Oct. 1, 2020

*Access to Justice in a Time of Uncertainty*, invited panelist, **Maryland Law Faculty Webinar Series**, virtual panel, Aug. 12, 2020

*Firearms and Toolmarks Litigation Strategy Roundtable*, invited panelist, **Seventh Annual National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Cardozo School of Law National Forensic College**, July 28, 2020

*Defending Reports From Common Government Critiques*, invited speaker, **Seventh Annual National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Cardozo School of Law National Forensic College**, virtual conference, July 9, 2020

*Bail Reform & the (False) Racial Promise of Algorithmic Risk Assessment (by Sean Hill)*, paper commentator, **Neighborhood Criminal Justice Roundtable**, virtual conference, May 5, 2020

*Firearms and Toolmarks Examination 101: Litigation Basics*, invited speaker, **Deep Dive Defense, 2019 Georgia Public Defender Council Conference**, Savannah, GA, July 23, 2019

*Probabilistic Genotyping and Other Forensic Science Disciplines: What It Is and How To Challenge It*, invited speaker, **Fortieth Annual NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc. Capital Punishment Training Conference**, Tarrytown, New York, with Mark Loudon-Brown, July 14, 2019

*Understanding a STRmix case file*, invited presenter, **Fifteenth Annual Public Defender Service Forensic Science Conference**, Washington, D.C., with Kate Philpott, July 13, 2019

*Is the Government Searching My Mobile Phone? The Collection of Cell-Site Location Information and other Mobile Phone Data in a Post-Carpenter World*, invited panelist, **South Asian Bar Association of Washington, D.C.**, Washington, D.C., Feb. 13, 2019

*Litigating an As-Applied Challenge to Pattern Evidence*, invited speaker, **Fifth Annual National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Cardozo School of Law National Forensic College**, New York, NY, with Patricia Richman, June 6, 2018

*Fingerprint Evidence 101: Basic Principles of Fingerprint Analysis*, invited presenter, **Deborah T. Creek Criminal Practice Institute 2018 Spring Training Program**, Washington, DC, with Kate Philpott, Mar. 29, 2018

*DNA 101: Basic Principles of Forensic DNA Analysis*, invited speaker, **Deborah T. Creek Criminal Practice Institute 2017 Summer Training Program**, Washington, DC, July 11, 2017

*Cross-examining Pattern Matching Experts*, invited speaker, **Fourth Annual National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Cardozo School of Law National Forensic College**, New York, NY, June 7, 2017

*Forensic DNA Issue Spotting*, invited speaker, **2017 DNA Bootcamp**, Orlando, FL, Feb. 24, 2017

*What to do When You Get a DNA Case*, invited speaker, **Deborah T. Creek Criminal Practice Institute 2017 Winter Training Program**, Washington, DC, Feb. 16, 2017

*Defense Perspectives on Experts in Criminal Cases*, invited panelist, **Evaluating Expert Witnesses: The New Daubert Standard in D.C. Superior Court**, Washington, DC, Jan. 10, 2017

*DNA 101: Basic Principles of Forensic DNA Analysis*, **Deborah T. Creek Criminal Practice Institute 2016 Fall Training Program**, Washington, DC, Oct. 11, 2016

*Introduction to DNA*, invited speaker, **Third Annual National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Cardozo School of Law National Forensic College**, New York, NY, June 8, 2016

*DNA Consumption Litigation*, invited presenter, **Eleventh Annual Public Defender Service Forensic Science Conference**, Washington, DC, with Kate Philpott, June 21, 2014

*Litigating DNA Threshold and Consumption Issues*, invited presenter, **Forensic DNA for Trial Attorneys 2014 Conference**, Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender, Chicago, IL, with Julie Burrill, May 30, 2014

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES & INTERVIEWS**

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*Admissible: Shreds of Evidence* Podcast, [VA. PUB. MEDIA](#) (Spring 2023)

Meredith Cohn, *'Touch DNA' Instrumental in Syed's Exoneration*, [WASH. POST](#) (Oct. 20, 2022)

Omari Daniels & Emily Davies, *Adnan Syed is Free. Will Maryland Prosecutors Attempt to Retry Him?*, [WASH. POST](#). (Sept. 23, 2022)

Alex Mann, *Under the Microscope: Maryland High Court Considers Limiting Ballistics Evidence Used to Link Guns to Shootings*, [BALT. SUN](#) (Dec. 2, 2022)

Alex Mann, *New DNA Testing Requested in 'Serial' Case*, [WASH. POST](#) (Mar. 13, 2022)

Ron Cassie, *Keith Davis Jr.'s Defense Alleges Vindictive Prosecution; Files Motion to Dismiss*, [BALT. MAG.](#) (Mar. 10, 2022)

*Jay Learns that Forensic Science Isn't Very Scientific*, The Untold Story: Criminal Injustice Podcast, [LEMONADA MEDIA](#) (Feb. 2022)

Greg Moran, *Trouble in the Crime Lab: Questions Arise Amid 'Mean Girls,' Atmosphere*, [SAN DIEGO TRIB.](#) (Oct. 17, 2021)

Jordan Smith, *Advocates Challenge Mysterious Justice Department Statement That Undercuts Forensic Science Reform*, [THE INTERCEPT](#) (Aug. 8, 2021)

Michael Gelb, *When Forensic Evidence Convicts the Innocent*, [THE CRIME REP.](#) (May 3, 2021)

Crystal Hill, *Lawyers for accused Capitol rioters outline a defense: The president made them do it*, [YAHOO! NEWS](#) (Jan. 22, 2021)

Kevin Penton, *True Police Reform Lies In Rooting Out Bad Laws, Experts Say*, [LAW360](#) (Oct. 4, 2020)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND APPOINTMENTS**

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At large board member, AALS Section on Criminal Procedure, 2022c present

Member, Advisory Board, Center for Integrity in Forensic Science, 2021 – present

Member, Steering Committee, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Cardozo School of Law National Forensic College, 2021 – present

Member, Steering Committee, Legal Subcommittee, 2022 Firearms and Toolmark Policy and Practice Forum, National Institute of Justice and Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, 2021

Appointed Member, Legal Resources Committee, Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC), National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2020 – present

Appointed Member, Firearms and Toolmark Subcommittee, Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC), National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2020 – present

## **AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS**

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Bellow Scholar (2023 – 2024), recognized as a clinical professor engaged in empirical research that seeks to increase access to justice for marginalized communities.

South Asian Bar Association of D.C. Public Service Trailblazer Award (2021)

## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

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District of Maryland  
Maryland  
Washington, D.C.