

Karen Marie Johnston

Georgia State University College of Law
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EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, Georgia State University, May 2008 (Admitted to Georgia Bar November 2008)
Master of Science in Environmental Engineering, Virginia Tech, May 1999
Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Virginia Tech, June 1997

CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

**Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth, Georgia State University,
College of Law, Atlanta, GA**

Deputy Director and Senior Academic Professional/Non-Tenure Track Faculty (October 2010 to present)

- Courses taught: Urban Fellows, Land Use Law, Independent Study
- Managing Editor, *Journal of Comparative Urban Law & Policy*

GRANTS & OTHER RESEARCH

- *Aligning Federal Funding to Build Resilient, Equitable Communities*, Project of the Georgia Health Policy Center (July-September 2021)
- *Micromobility and Public Transit*, Seed Grant from Urban Studies Institute and Andrew Young School, Funded at \$7500 (February-May 2020)
- *State and DOT Level Administration of Land Ownership Issues Across Navigable Waterways*, Georgia Department of Transportation, Funded at \$72,211 (January-December 2020)
- *Equitable Mobility in the Pandemic Age*, Natural Hazards Center, Funded at \$4000 (August 2020-Present)
- *Land Use Planning Survey*, UN-Habitat's Urban Legislation Unit, Funded at \$4104 (October 2018-January 2019)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Johnston, Karen; Oakley, Deirdre A.; Durham, Audra; Bass, Claire; and Kershner, Stacie (2020) "Regulating Micromobility: Examining Transportation Equity and Access," *Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy*: Vol. 4: Iss. 1, Article 35, 685-723. Available at: <https://readingroom.law.gsu.edu/jculp/vol4/iss1/35>

Johnston, Karen (2019) "A Comparison of Two Smart Cities: Singapore & Atlanta," *Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy*: Vol. 3: Iss. 1, Article 8, 191-207. Available at: <https://readingroom.law.gsu.edu/jculp/vol3/iss1/8>

Karen M. Johnston, *Private Corporations: Critical Partners in Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery*, *Bahçeşehir University Law Review*, Special Issue, *Planning for Disaster: Place, Population, Culture and the Environment* (2014). Published in Turkish and English.

Lewis B. Jones, John L. Fortuna, Karen M. Johnston, *Updating Twentieth-Century Water Projects to Meet Twenty-First Century Needs: Lessons from the Tri-State Water Wars*, 29 *Ga. St. U. L. Rev.* 959 (2013).

Daniel L. Gallagher, Karen M. Johnston, Andrea M. Dietrich, *Fate and Transport of Copper-based Crop Protectants in Plasticulture Runoff and the Impact of Sedimentation as a Best Management Practice*, *Water Research*, Volume 35, Issue 12, August 2001, Pages 2984-2994

Editor

Johnston, Karen (2020) "Introduction to Festschrift II," *Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy*: Vol. 4 : Iss. 1 , Article 1, 1-1. Available at: <https://readingroom.law.gsu.edu/jculp/vol4/iss1/1>

Juergensmeyer, Julian Conrad and Johnston, Karen (2019) "Introduction," *Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy*: Vol. 3: Iss. 1, Article 1, 1-1. Available at: <https://readingroom.law.gsu.edu/jculp/vol3/iss1/1>

Julian Juergensmeyer and Karen Johnston, *Introduction, Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy* (June 2018). ISSN: 2576-4039

Julian Juergensmeyer and Karen Johnston, *Introduction, Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy* (May 2017). ISSN: 2576-4039

Other

S. Kersher, K. Johnston. "Public transit drivers are now responsible for preventing unmasked passengers from boarding and removing unruly customers." *The Conversation*. March 4, 2021.

Dan Reuter and Karen Johnston, *Changing Cities: A Look at Metro Atlanta and Barcelona*, *Saporta Report*, *Region Matters* (May 23, 2014).

Beloved professor celebrated for dynamic teaching and commitment to students, *Georgia State Law Magazine*, Summer 2013.

PRESENTATIONS

Co-Presenter with Stacie Kershner, “Expanding Funding for Public Transit,” at the virtual workshop What Could Congress Do about the Pandemic by December 18? A Workshop of Academic and Policy Experts, held on December 4, 2020.

Invited Speaker with Deirdre Oakley (Professor of Sociology, GSU), “Understanding the Role of Micromobility Devices in the Urban Landscape: An Atlanta Case Study,” University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, Energy & Environment Program, February 13, 2020

Speaker, “Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy,” Study Space XII, Living in a Tourist Destination: Regulating Planning, Housing and the Sharing Economy, Lisbon, Portugal, June 27, 2019

Speaker, “Urban Land Governance Research for the Atlas of Urban Expansion,” Atlanta’s U.N. Regional Centre of Expertise for Education in Sustainable Development, Atlanta, September 14, 2018

Speaker, “Urban Land Governance Research for the Atlas of Urban Expansion,” Urban Studies Institute Research Roundtable, Atlanta, August 30, 2018

Speaker, “Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy,” Study Space XI, City Redevelopment, Infrastructure and Heritage in the Era of Climate Change, Singapore, June 21, 2018

Panelist, “Studying Abroad and Overseas Experiential Learning at GSU/Lessons Learned from Professors” and “Teaching Atlanta: Local Pedagogies Across the Curriculum,” Global Conversations in Higher Education conference on scholarly teaching, Georgia State University, May 11, 2018

Speaker, “The Role of Law and the Private Sector in the Reduction of Disastrous Natural Hazards,” Study Space VI, Planning for Disaster: Place, Population, Culture and the Environment, Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey, April 2013

PUBLIC SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

- Board of Commissioners, Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity, Appointed by Governor Kemp for a 3-year term (November 2020)
- Board member, Growth & Infrastructure Consortium (2021)
- Georgia State University College of Law Leadership Program (2017-2018)
- Atlanta Regional Commission Regional Leadership Institute (September 2014)
- Executive Leadership Academy of Women at Georgia State University (December 2014)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & ASSOCIATIONS

- Member, State Bar of Georgia (2008-present)
 - Associate Editor for the Environmental Law Section Newsletter (2009 – 2010)
 - Member of the Environmental Law Section
- Member, American Bar Association (2019-present)
 - Member of the Section of Environment, Energy and Resources
- Atlanta's U.N. Regional Centre of Expertise for Education in Sustainable Development

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth Georgia State University, College of Law

*Deputy Director and Senior Academic Professional/Non-Tenure Track Faculty; Managing Editor of Journal of Comparative Urban Law & Policy; Affiliated Faculty: Urban Studies Institute and Micromobility Lab, Atlanta Studies/Teaching Atlanta
October 2010 - Present*

The Center advances interdisciplinary dialogue, academic exchanges and research on urban, environmental, and growth management issues. Responsibilities include:

- Managing Editor for the *Journal of Comparative Urban Law & Policy*, an online, open access journal with readership in 182 countries and available on Lexis Nexis, Westlaw, and Hein Online.
- Conduct research on land use, environmental, and transportation related topics including a planning law survey, state navigable waters project, and micromobility transportation projects with an interdisciplinary team.
- Develop and manage workshops and conferences on a variety of topics, including the Study Space Program, an international workshop focused on critical issues facing metropolitan areas. Study Space programs offered:
 - Living in a Tourist Destination: Regulating Planning, Housing and the Sharing Economy (Lisbon, Portugal 2019)
 - City Redevelopment, Infrastructure and Heritage in the Era of Climate Change (Singapore 2018)
 - Transforming Marseille: Balancing Urban Redevelopment, Economic Growth, Social Equity and Environmental Protection the Building of a Metropolitan Area (Marseille, France 2017)
 - Revaluing the City: Land, Infrastructure and the Environment as a Catalyst for Change (Cape Town, South Africa 2016)
 - Phoenix Cities: Urban Recovery and Resilience in the Wake of Conflict, Crisis and Disaster (Warsaw, Poland 2015)
 - Beyond Affordable Housing: An Interdisciplinary Multinational Approach to Adequate Housing Options (Barcelona, Spain 2014)
 - Planning for Disaster: Place, Population, Culture and the Environment (Istanbul, Turkey 2013)

- Administer academic programs: Dual Degree J.D./Masters in City and Regional Planning, LLM, and Certificate in Environmental and Land Use Law
- Faculty advisor: Environmental Law Society (2018-Present); National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition (2017-Present); Georgia State University Law Review Symposium (2023)
- Manage all of the Center's operations including the budget and all communications
- Developed, marketed and lead study abroad programs and coordinated the related foreign enrichment course (International Perspectives on Urban Law and Policy)
 - Program Director for Study Abroad in Brazil (2016, planned for 2019)
 - Program Director for Study Abroad in Singapore (2018)
- Teaching:
 - Urban Fellows Program, a lecture series and research paper course (2010-present)
 - Land Use Law, assisted Julian Juergensmeyer (2018-2020)
 - Independent Study (2019, 2020, 2023)

KMJ Solutions, Inc.

Owner and President

October 2009 - December 2010

Provided environmental, health and safety and loss prevention training and communication services for The Home Depot's Asset Protection Department. Responsible for developing content, copy editing and project managing the InFocus Program, a monthly safety and shrink training and communication program for all U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Puerto Rico store associates.

Legal Internships

Green Law, Atlanta, GA; March – May 2009

Turner Environmental Law Clinic at Emory University, Atlanta, GA; May – August 2007

Provided legal research and writing on current cases and issues.

The Home Depot USA, Atlanta, GA

Manager of Operations, EH&S Department

June 2004 – June 2006

Managed a team of five employees. Oversaw store-level regulatory compliance with federal, state, and local agencies. Provided support to all field level district EH&S managers. Responsible for all Environmental, Health and Safety communication to the 2100 stores in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico. Developed and deployed all safety and hazardous waste training to store associates. Managed a budget in excess of \$10 million, and assisted the Senior Director in managing the departmental budget. Led the strategic planning process.

The Home Depot USA, Atlanta, GA

Project Supervisor of the Environmental Programs, Community and External Affairs Department

September 2002 – June 2004

Worked with the executive leadership team to develop and execute high-impact corporate environmental policies and initiatives. Resolved environmental issues that impacted the business, including product issues. Managed relationships with key external stakeholders and activist groups to protect the brand and position Home Depot as an environmentally responsible corporation. Served as a media spokesperson for environmental issues.

Camp Dresser & McKee, Raleigh, NC and Atlanta, GA

Environmental Engineering Consultant

June 1999 – September 2002

Camp Dresser & McKee (now CDM Smith) is a global consulting, engineering, construction and operations firm. Planned and designed municipal water distribution systems, water treatment facilities wastewater collection systems and water conservation plans.

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

Graduate Research Assistant

January 1998 – May 1999

Studied how copper-based pesticides applied to tomato fields in the Eastern Shore of Virginia affected the water quality in surrounding tidal estuaries and impacted aquatic life, particularly clams at an aquaculture facility. Research results led to the development of my thesis, *Fate and Transport of Copper-based Crop Protectants in Plasticulture Runoff and the Impact of Sedimentation as a Best Management Practice*. Research was published in the journal *Water Research*.