

Joan C. Williams

Distinguished Professor of Law, UC Hastings Foundation Chair and Director of the Center for WorkLife Law at UC Hastings College of the Law

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Biography

Described as having "something approaching rock star status" in her field by The New York Times Magazine, Joan C. Williams has played a central role in reshaping the conversation about work, gender, and class over the past quarter century. Williams is a Distinguished Professor of Law, Hastings Foundation Chair, and Founding Director of the Center for WorkLife Law at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. Williams' path-breaking work helped create the field of work-family studies and modern workplace flexibility policies. Williams' 2014 book *What Works for Women at Work* (co-written with daughter Rachel Dempsey) was praised by The New York Times Book Review: "Deftly combining sociological research with a more casual narrative style, *What Works for Women at Work* offers unabashedly straightforward advice in a how-to primer for ambitious women." Following its success, Sheryl Sandberg and LeanIn.org asked Joan to create short videos sharing the strategies discussed in the book. The videos have been downloaded over 975,000 times and are featured by Virgin Airlines as in-flight entertainment, seen literally around the world. Most recently, Williams co-authored a workbook companion to *What Works for Women at Work*, available now from NYU Press. Williams founded Gender Bias Bingo, a web-based project aimed at providing information and tools on gender bias to professors. Williams has explored the parallels and differences between gender and racial bias in two reports. The first, "Double Jeopardy? Gender Bias Against Women in Science" has been shared over 40,000 times in the media, and the second, "Climate Control? Gender and Racial Bias in Engineering" was co-authored by the Society for Women Engineers and surveyed over 3,000 engineers. Williams is one of the 10 most cited scholars in her field. She has authored 11 books, over 90 academic articles, and her work has been covered in publications from Oprah Magazine to The Atlantic. Her awards include the Families and Work Institute's Work Life Legacy Award (2014), the American Bar Foundation's Outstanding Scholar Award (2012), and the ABA's Margaret Brent Women Award for Lawyers of Achievement (2006). In 2008, she gave the Massey Lectures in the History of American Civilization at Harvard. Her Harvard Business Review article, "What So Many People Don't Get About the U.S. Working Class" has been read over 3.7 million times and is now the most read article in HBR's 90-plus year history.

Expertise

Legal Services, Education/Learning

Areas of Expertise

Property Law, Feminist Legal Theory, Work Life Balance, Gender and Sexuality in the Law, Work Conflict

Affiliations

WorkLife Law : Founding Director

Event Appearances

What Works for Women at Work: How to Spit Subtle Bias, and How to Eliminate It
Invited Talk

Managing Department Climate Change

8th Annual Grantee Meeting for the National Science Foundation (NSF) ADVANCE Program

Work-Family Conflict and What To Do About It

Sloan Work-Life Speaker Series

Keynote Speaker

Denise D. Denton Distinguished Lecture

Want a Great Work/Life Balance? Go for It: Individual and Institutional Solutions

Breakthroughs and Barriers: Gender in Academia, The Women Faculty Forum 2009 Lecture Series

Education

Harvard Law School

J.D. Law

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

M.A. City Planning

Yale University

B.A. History

Accomplishments

Work Life Legacy Award

Awarded by the Families and Work Institute.

Hastings Visionary Award

Awarded by The University of California at Hastings.

Outstanding Scholar Award

Awarded by the American Bar Foundation.

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