

BROWN GOLDSTEIN LEVY

Regina "Gina" Kline



410.962.1030 x1347
202.742.5969
rkline@browngold.com

Practice Areas

Civil Litigation; Civil Rights; Class Actions; Disability Consulting; Disability Rights; Public Interest Litigation; School Sexual Misconduct Proceedings; Wage and Hour Violations

Profile

Regina Kline joined Brown, Goldstein & Levy in February 2017. Co-leader of Inclusivity, BGL's Strategic Consulting Group, Gina is nationally known for her litigation and policy work in advancing the rights of people with disabilities to move from sub-minimum wage and segregated employment to competitive integrated employment.

Prior to joining the firm, Gina served as Senior Counsel in the Office of the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), where she provided legal and policy counsel regarding efforts to implement the Americans with Disabilities Act and *Olmstead v. L.C.*'s mandate for community integration in employment, education, law enforcement/criminal justice, homelessness, and health care. She was co-lead on multi-agency efforts to address federal policy developments and law enforcement in disability employment programs nationwide. She provided counsel and advice and collaborated across the federal government, regarding the ADA, Fair Labor Standards Act, Medicaid Act, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and the False Claims Act. She also contributed to significant guidance issued by the Civil Rights Division; provided public testimony on behalf of the Department; and represented the Department on the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

As a Trial Attorney at the Civil Rights Division's Disability Rights Section, Gina's responsibilities included conducting investigations, complex civil litigation, settlement negotiations, and monitoring to enforce the rights of individuals with disabilities to receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate. She filed two of the Department's first cases challenging unnecessary segregation of people with disabilities in state-funded employment programs and reached the nation's first statewide settlement agreements to transform employment programs to serve people with disabilities in competitive integrated employment. She also helped develop and file the Department's first challenge to a segregated school system for students with behavioral disabilities. Gina received two prestigious Attorney General's awards for her work.

After law school, Gina clerked for the Honorable Linda K. Davis of the District of Columbia Superior Court. She researched and drafted opinions related to the family division and the criminal division and supported Judge Davis as the judge presided over the Criminal Mental Health Diversion Court Program.

During law school, Gina was a legal intern at the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, served as a Clinic Legal Intern at the National Health Law Program, worked as a Public Policy Project Law Clerk at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and was a Public Benefits Unit Legal Extern at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia. At these positions, Gina assisted the homeless; lobbied members of Congress, drafted legal complaints, amendments, and proposed legislation; and provided free legal assistance to the District of Columbia's poorest residents.

While attending law school, Gina was also awarded The Order of the Barristers, which honors ten students who excel in trial and appellate advocacy, and the Joseph Bernstein Prize for legal writing. She was the Articles Editor of the *Journal of Race, Religion, Gender & Class*, chaired the Moot Court Board, was a member and grant recipient of the Maryland Public Interest Law Project, and served as an Academic Achievement Program Teaching Fellow.

When a family member with disabilities was targeted with discriminatory charges of harassment in a Title IX school disciplinary proceeding, Gina got the charges dropped and the student's academic record cleared. The client's family wrote, "Gina's extraordinary professional talent and brilliance was obvious, beginning with our first conversation and all the way through to the exact resolution that we had so fervently hoped for. Working with Gina was much more than glowing results. The way Gina treated my family during this extremely difficult time was absolutely invaluable. She was extraordinarily sensitive, respectful, empathetic, and supportive in every way at a difficult time in our lives. I will never forget the encouraging, motivating, and respectful way that she spoke to us and the enormous impact that her words had on us. Although we were in two different states, that never hindered my access to Gina or her responsiveness."

Education

- University of Maryland Carey School of Law, J.D., cum laude, Order of the Barristers, 2008
- Columbia University, B.A., Political Science, Astor Presidential Scholar, Dean's List, 2002

Clerkship

- Law Clerk to Judge Linda K. Davis of the District of Columbia Superior Court, 2008-2011

Bar Admissions

- Maryland

Representative Cases

- Represented a student with disabilities who was targeted with discriminatory charges of harassment in a Title IX school disciplinary proceeding, resulting in the charges being dropped and the student's academic record cleared.
- Advised and assisted a group home client and successfully secured local zoning board approval for additional space for recreational activities and added services.
- *Lane v. Brown* - Counsel on litigation team that successfully resolved the nation's first class action lawsuit to challenge a state funded and administered employment service system, including sheltered workshops, as a violation of the ADA's integration mandate. The systemic case advanced the civil rights of thousands of individuals with disabilities unnecessarily segregated in sheltered workshops, 2015.
- *U.S. v. Rhode Island* - As lead counsel, successfully resolved systemic case to advance the civil rights of thousands of individuals with disabilities unnecessarily segregated in sheltered workshops, day programs, and secondary school students placed at serious risk of such unnecessary segregation, 2014. The case resulted in the nation's first statewide settlement agreement vindicating the civil rights of individuals with disabilities who are unnecessarily segregated in sheltered workshops and facility-based day programs.
- *U.S. v. Rhode Island and City of Providence* - As lead counsel, successfully resolved systemic case to advance the civil rights of hundreds of individuals with disabilities unnecessarily segregated in a Providence, Rhode Island sheltered workshop and secondary school students placed at serious risk of that sheltered workshop, 2013.
- *U.S. v. North Carolina* - Counsel on litigation team in an Olmstead case that resulted in an agreement providing permanent supportive housing to thousands of people with mental illness who were segregated in adult care homes, 2012.

Awards

- United States Attorney General's John Marshall Award for *Lane v. Brown* litigation, 2016.
- United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Assistant Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award, 2015.
- United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Special Commendation Award, 2015.
- United States Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions of a New Employee, 2014.
- United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Meritorious Award, 2014.
- United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Certificate of Commendation, 2012.
- United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Assistant Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award, 2012.
- Order of the Barristers for Excellence in Courtroom Advocacy, University of Maryland Carey School of Law, 2008.
- The Joseph Bernstein Prize for Legal Writing, University of Maryland Carey School of Law, 2008.
- Top Prize, Luke Charles Moore Civil Rights Moot Court Competition, Howard University Law School, 2008.
- Selected to Co-Author the University of Maryland School of Law Fall Moot Court Problem, 2007.

Activities

- Disability Rights Maryland, Board Member
- Homeless Children's Playtime Project, Washington, D.C., Co-Founder; Advisory Board Member, 2003-2011
- Americorps VISTA, 2002-2003

Presentations

- Co-Presenter, National Teleconference to the Vocational Rehabilitation Attorney Network on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, hosted by the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, September 21, 2017.
- Co-Presenter, "Supply Chain Awareness & Transparency, & Accessible Technology," Annual USBLN Conference (Going for the Gold Companies), Orlando, FL, August 21, 2017.
- "New Methods to Ensure that Individuals with Disabilities are Paid Appropriate Wages, Have Access to Reasonable Accommodations, and Opportunities for Advancement, Promotion, and Integration," NDRN 2017 P&A/CAP Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD, June 14, 2017.
- Office of Disability Employment Policy, National Webinar, 2016.
- LEAD Center, National Webinar, "Competitive Integrated Employment as a Civil Right for People with Disabilities," 2016.
- Mid-Atlantic ADA Update Conference, Baltimore, MD, 2016.
- American Congress of Community Supports and Employment Services (ACCSES) Annual Conference, Washington, DC, 2016.
- Closing Plenary Panel, 2016 Jacobus tenBroek Disability Symposium, Baltimore, MD, 2015.
- Public Testimony on behalf of the Department of Justice to the WIOA Advisory Committee on Competitive Employment, Washington, DC, 2015.
- TASH Disability Conference, Portland, OR, 2015.
- LEAD Center, National Webinar, "Disability, Employment & *Lane v. Brown*," 2015.
- National Rehabilitation Institute Conference, San Diego State University, Alexandria, VA, 2015.
- Plenary, Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc. (COPAA) Conference, San Diego, CA, 2015.
- National Health Law Program (NHeLP) Conference, Washington, DC, 2014.
- Plenary, SourceAmerica Annual Conference, North-Central Region, Chicago, IL, 2014.
- National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities (NASDDDS) Conference, Alexandria, VA, 2014.
- National Teleconference, Easter Seals Affiliates, "Disability Employment National Influencers and Trends," 2014.
- American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) Conference, Baltimore, MD, 2014.
- United States Business Leadership Network National Teleconference to Member Companies, 2013.

Publications

- "*Thompson v. HUD: Groundbreaking Housing Desegregation Litigation, and the Significant Task Ahead of Achieving an Effective Desegregation Remedy Without Engendering New Social Harms,*" *U.M.D. L. J. Race, Religion, Gender, & Class* (Vol. 6.2, Spring 2007).