

Sara Stephens

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EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, J.D., 2014

Activities: *California Law Review* Notes & Comments Editor; Students for Economic and Environmental Justice (SEEJ) coordinator; Participatory Action Research in the Central Valley (2012-13); Environmental Justice Workshop: Small Scale Food Enterprise Project (2011-12); *Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law* member (2011-12)

University of Washington, B.A. in Communications and Sociology, 2003

Honors: Dean's List, 8 quarters

Activities: *The Daily of the University of Washington*, feature writer and calendar editor (Feb. 2000 – June 2001); Studio Jazz Ensemble, lead alto saxophone (Sept. 1999- June 2000)

EXPERIENCE

Sustainable Economies Law Center, Oakland, CA

Sept. 2014 – present

Staff Attorney

Drafted model municipal ordinance for promoting worker-owned cooperatives. Assist a new land trust to form a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and navigate land use laws. Manage the development of an online legal resource library on cooperatives. Conduct research and create educational materials on legal issues affecting cooperatives, entrepreneurs, and innovative land uses. Engage with local policymakers and other stakeholders to develop municipal policies that facilitate worker cooperative development. Advise clients at drop-in legal clinics at two to three times per month.

Sustainable Economies Law Center, Oakland, CA

Jan. 2012 – May 2014

Volunteer

Worked with the Refugee Farmer Project to support low-income family farms owned by Hmong, Lao, and Chinese immigrants in California's Central Valley. Provided education and legal resources on complying with employment laws in the context of the farmers' cultural tradition of farming collaboratively. Drafted briefs for citation appeal hearings. Conducted legal research and proposed policy changes to the Department of Labor Standards Enforcement. Member of the Sustainable Economies Law Center Employment Law Working Group.

Public Advocates, San Francisco, CA

Jan. 2014 – present

Field Placement

Analyzed anti-NIMBY statute within California Housing Element law and how it likely would apply to an affordable housing development overturned by voter referendum. Conducted research and drafted memoranda on arguments supporting potential litigation against a city failing to provide its share of affordable housing.

East Bay Community Law Center, Berkeley, CA

Aug. 2013 – Dec. 2013

Immigration Clinic

Assisted immigration clients with two deferred action applications, one U-Visa application, and one political asylum application. Conducted client interviews, completed applications, drafted declarations and supporting materials.

Shute, Mihaly, & Weinberger, San Francisco, CA

Summer 2013

Law Clerk

Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda in the areas of environmental, land use, and local government law. Researched and provided guidance to the city attorney of Orinda about the consequences of noncompliance with housing element law. Assisted in drafting a reply brief for California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") litigation representing an open space district. Helped prepare attorney for conference presentation on eminent domain and CEQA. Co-led half-day career day for disadvantaged middle-schoolers.

**Environmental Justice Workshop: International Financial Institutions
Accountability** (Student-Initiated Legal Service Project), Berkeley Law
Project Leader

Aug. 2012 – Apr. 2013

Coordinated team of five 1Ls to support residents in Brazil opposing a harmful Inter-American Development Bank-funded highway that threatened to displace thousands of favela residents. Drafted and edited advocacy documents. Conducted research on Bank policy and its actions in Brazil. Analyzed reports monitoring environmental and social impacts. Facilitated correspondence with attorneys and NGO leaders. Led team meetings and trainings.

Accountability Counsel, San Francisco, CA
Law Fellow

Summer 2012

Conducted research and drafted recommendations on accountability mechanisms at international financial institutions. Analyzed and drafted comments on the procedures revision for the Compliance Advisor / Ombudsman (CAO), the accountability mechanism of the World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation (IFC). Worked with Mongolian community group to write two letters to the CAO complaining of environmental and human rights abuses caused by an IFC-financed copper mine.

OneLA (now IESC) an Industrial Areas Foundation affiliate, Pomona, CA
Volunteer Pomona Valley Cluster core team member

May 2010 – Aug. 2011

Partnered with experts and local community members to initiate an effective city-wide movement opposing the discriminatory siting of a regional waste transfer station. Analyzed and presented Environmental Impact Report findings at city council, school board, and union meetings. Conducted meetings with local officials and community groups to educate and mobilize decision-makers and citizens.

Servant Partners Bangkok, Bangkok, Thailand
Site Team Leader (May 2007 – Oct. 2009); *Field Staff* (Oct. 2004 – Oct. 2009)

Oct. 2004 – Oct. 2009

Lived in Bangkok slum, assessed community needs and worked with residents and team to meet articulated needs together. Spearheaded a community organizing effort resulting in local leadership of actions such as a drug-awareness event, petition regarding public safety concerns, and community-wide cultural celebration. Co-led monthly trainings for indigenous leaders and facilitated strategic planning meetings for Bangkok team.