

TAYLOR ELYSE MILLS, JD, PhD.

Licensed Attorney in Michigan | @taylorellysem | <https://taylorellysemills.org/>

EDUCATION

- **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY** | 2018-2024
 - **PhD in Philosophy**, College of Arts and Letters, *summa cum laude*, 2018-2024
 - Dissertation: *Creating an Engaged Philosophy of Law and Policy That Responds to Issues of Systemic Oppression in the Legal System*
 - **Passed with distinction**
 - **Juris Doctorate**, MSU College of Law, *magna cum laude*, 2020-2023
 - Attorney, Michigan State Bar license number P87484
 - **Graduate Certificates:**
 - **Community Engagement** (2024)
 - **Indigenous Law Certificate** (2023)
 - **College Teaching** (2022)
 - **Digital Humanities** (2019)
- **HOPE COLLEGE** | 2013-2017
 - **B.A. in Composite: Moral Philosophy & Psychology**, *summa cum laude*
 - **Minor: Spanish**
 - [Digital Liberal Arts Mellon Scholars Program](#), Hope College, 2014-2017
- **Institute for the International Education of Students (IES Abroad)**, Granada, Spain | Spring 2016

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE

- **PhD Areas of Specialization:** Engaged Philosophy of Law & Policy, Peace & Justice Studies
- **Areas of Competency:** Social and Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Race, Women of Color Feminist Epistemology, Decolonial Theory, Indigenous Philosophy, Digital Humanities
- **Legal Areas of Specialization:** Federal Indian Law, Gender & Sexuality Law, Legal Epistemology, Legal Writing and Advocacy, Race and Law
- **Legal Areas of Competency:** Civil Rights Law, Constitutional Law, Human Rights Law, Immigration Law, Tribal Law

RESEARCH POSITIONS

- **Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Judge Susan DeClercq**, Judicial Clerk, 2025-2027
Researching issues before Judge DeClercq, preparing draft opinions.
- **Michigan Court of Appeals**, Research Attorney, 2024-2025
Researching issues on appeal in Michigan's Court of Appeals; preparing research reports, and drafting sample opinions.
- **Research Institute for Structural Change (RISC)**, Principle Research Fellow, 2023-present
Leading legal research projects, supporting grassroots community organizations, organizing an international symposium on gender and environmental justice, collaborating on grant writing, and managing spearheading the formation of a 501c3 nonprofit to support survivors of violence in Detroit.
- **Leslie Endowed Chair for Native American Studies, Dr. Gordon Henry**, Researcher and Events Organizer, 2021-2023
Co-developed a strategic plan for a Native language revitalization grant project, organized the 2022 and 2023 Unsettling Genealogies Conferences with over 1400 registrants from across the globe, collaborated with Tribal Nations, and organized local events.
- **MeToo International, Dr. Elena Ruíz**, Legal Researcher, Summer 2021
Conducted legal research on foreseeability in sexual violence and employer liability caselaw, and compiled data on sexual violence cases.
- **Public Philosophy Journal, Dean's Office, MSU College of Arts & Letters**, Editorial Assistant, 2019-2021
Served on the journal's editorial board, facilitated peer review of article submissions, and built the journal's new website.

PUBLICATIONS

- Taylor Elyse Mills, *Intersectionally-Informed Advocacy: A Structural Justice Account of Wrongful Convictions for Sexual Violence*, 31 UCLA J. GENDER & L. 221 (2025).
- TAYLOR ELYSE MILLS, ANISHINAABE LAW: AN INTRODUCTION TO TRIBAL LAW FOR MICHIGAN LEGAL PRACTITIONERS, (MI. S. Ct., pub. 2024).
- Taylor Elyse Mills, *Protecting the Next Seven Generations: Self-Indigenization and the Indian Child Welfare Act*, 8 GENEALOGY 139 (2024).
- Taylor Elyse Mills, *Building a Pedagogical Relationship Between Philosophy and Digital Humanities Through a Creative Arts Paradigm*, 43 TEACHING PHIL. J. 403 (2020).

- Taylor Elyse Mills, *Next Generation Digital Humanities: A Response to the Need for Empowering Undergraduate Researchers*, DIGITAL HUMANITIES 2018: BOOK OF ABSTRACTS 452-454 (2018).
- Elena Ruíz, Geneva Jackson, Melvenna Fant-Jones, Cassandra Coats, Taylor Elyse Mills, Saleel Menon, Kahlia Roberts, Jessica Martínez-Cruz, Gregory Rogel, Melanie Rodríguez-Vázquez. *Radical Service and Grassroots Philosophy for Community Organizations: A Healing Justice Approach to Community Partnerships in A Graduate Philosophy Course*, GATEWAYS: INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT (under review).

AWARDS AND HONORS

- **Rita S. Gallin Award for the Best Graduate Paper on Women and Gender in Global Perspective**, *Michigan State University (MSU) Center for Gender in a Global Context*, \$300 (2024)
- **Graduate Student Award for Community Engagement Scholarship**, *MSU Office of Outreach and Engagement*, \$750 (2024)
- **American Bar Association LGBT Public Interest Scholar**, *American Bar Association (ABA)*, \$5,000 (2023)
- **WLAM Foundation Scholar**, *Women Lawyers Association of Michigan (WLAM)*, \$3,500 (2023)
- **Judicial Clerkship Pipeline Program Representative**, *ABA* (2023)
- **Carolyn Stell Memorial Award**, *WLAM*, \$1,500 and free Themis Course (2022)
- **Gender & Sexuality Moot Court Competition Semi-Finalist** (2022)
- **MSU College of Law American Jurisprudence Awards:**
 - Higher Education Law & Policy (Spring 2023)
 - Seminar in Race (Spring 2022)
 - Government Relations & Lobbying Law (Fall 2021)
 - Law & Gender (Fall 2021)
 - Asylum Law Seminar (Fall 2021)
 - Advocacy (Spring 2021)
- **Moot Court Competition Top Oralist, 5th Place**, *MSU College of Law* (Fall 2021)
- **1L Donald Nystrom Best Brief Finalist**, *MSU College of Law* (Spring 2021)
- **1L Oral Argument Finalist 3rd/198**, *MSU College of Law* (Spring 2021)
- **Digital Humanities Conference Funding Award**, *MSU*, \$800 (2019)

- **Emerging Scholars Award**, *Alliance for Digital Humanities Organizations* (2018)
- **Patricia Clements DHSI Award**, *Digital Humanities Summer Institute*, \$500 (2018)
- **ILiADS Stakeholders Travel Bursary Award**, *ILiADS*, \$500 (2018)
- **Charles E. Lake Memorial Prize in Philosophy**, *Hope College*, \$150 (2014), (2015), (2016), (2017)
- **Award for Outstanding Contributions to Digital Liberal Arts Scholarship**, *Hope College* (2017)
- **Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society** (2015-2017)
- **Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society** (inducted in 2017)
- **Sigma Delta Phi Spanish Honor Society** (inducted in 2017)

FELLOWSHIPS

- **Urban Community Engagement Fellow, \$7,500, MSU, 2024**
Working with a multidisciplinary team of five graduate students to develop a program for research project collaborations between MSU and major sectors in the city of Lansing to revitalize the city and build stronger relationships between the university and the wider public.
- **Engaged Philosophy Internship Program Fellow, \$10,000, MSU, 2022**
Awarded support from the Philosophy Department to work for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians' as a law clerk and interdisciplinary researcher in law and philosophy.
- **Transdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship Program, \$5,000, MSU, 2020**
Collaborated on an multidisciplinary team of three graduate students in partnership with the Arts Council of Greater Lansing to create a digital storytelling project about the power of the arts for social justice.
- **College of Arts and Letters Summer Support Fellowship, \$4,500, MSU, 2019, 2020**
Selected to receive funds to conduct a research project on pedagogy that got published in the *Teaching Philosophy Journal*, and another research project on Indigenous philosophies of science and technology.
- **Philosophy Scholars Fellowship, \$2,000, MSU, Summer 2019**
Funded to research about predictive policing technologies and the history of police violence against poor communities of color.
- **Andrew Mellon Scholars Post-Baccalaureate Fellow, \$20,000, Hope College, 2017-18**
Hired as a part-time employee to redesign and co-teach the Mellon Scholars honors program for advanced students working in digital humanities research, and organized an international conference for undergraduate researchers in digital humanities.

GRANT PROJECTS

- **“Mapping Reproductive Injustice Law: A Historical and Geographic Narrative of Legal Precedent for Forced Sterilization Against Women of Color in the United States and U.S. Territories,” MSU Digital Humanities Seed Grant**, in collaboration with Gregory Rogel (MSU), Summer 2024
Co-developing an interdisciplinary journal article and corresponding digital interactive map that tracks the impact of legal precedent for the forced sterilization of women of color throughout U.S. history, and the intergenerational health impacts this legislation has had on women of color.
- **“Center for Anishinaabe Literature, Language, and Storytelling (CALLS) Strategic Action Plan,” The National Archives & Records Administration**, in collaboration with Dr. Gordon Henry (MSU), Kate Topham (MSU), William Johnson (Ziibiwing Cultural Center), 2021-2022
Co-led the crafting of a strategic plan for the language revitalization archive project, collaborated with Tribes, and created digital resources.
- **“Public Philosophy Journal Sustainability Grant,” Andrew C. Mellon Foundation**, in collaboration with Dr. Christopher Long (MSU), Dr. Kurt Milberger (MSU), Dr. Kathleen Fitzpatrick (MSU), Dr. Scott Schopieray (MSU), Dr. Bethany Laursen (MSU), 2019-2020
Supported the writing of a grant to support the journal’s app development designed to facilitate transparent, collaborative peer review for scholarly publications.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE, LEADERSHIP, AND SERVICE

- **Federal District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Clerk to Judge Susan DeClercq**, *Theodore Roosevelt Federal Building, Detroit MI*, 2025-2027
- **Michigan Court of Appeals, Research Attorney**, *Research Division for the Michigan Court of Appeals, Grand Rapids, MI*, 2024-2025
- **Michigan State Law Review, Associate Editor**, *Michigan State University College of Law*, 2021-2023
- **Indian Law Clinic**, *Michigan State University College of Law*, 2022-2023
- **Leadership Board Gender and Sexuality Moot Court Competition**, *Michigan State University College of Law*, 2022-2023
- **Clerkship for Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians**, Judge Allie Greenleaf Maldonado and General Counsel Jim Bransky, *Harbor Springs, MI*, Summer 2022
- **Board of Advocates**, *Michigan State University College of Law*, 2021-2022

- **Judicial Clerk Internship for Michigan Supreme Court**, Chief Justice Elizabeth Clement, *Lansing, MI*, Summer 2021
- **Judicial Clerk Internship for Michigan Court of Appeals**, Judge Brock Swartzle, *Lansing, MI*, Summer 2021

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Taylor Elyse Mills, MSU, Presentation at the Law and Society Association Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico: La Posición No Triangulada de Puerto Rico: Complicating the Settler-Native-Slave Triad in Decolonial Theory and U.S. Jurisprudence (June 4, 2023).
- Taylor Elyse Mills, MSU, Presentation for the Engaged Philosophy Internship Program held virtually: Eninaakegeng: An Introduction to Engaged Philosophy of Law and Policy (Oct. 2022).
- Taylor Elyse Mills, Briana Coleman, and Jessica Stokes, Presentation at the International Network for the Science of Team Science (INSciTS) at Duke University held virtually: Perspectives on Community-Engaged Transdisciplinary Research and Implications from the COVID-19 Pandemic (June 1, 2020).
- Taylor Elyse Mills, Hope College, Presentation at the Institute for Liberal Arts and Digital Scholarship (ILiADS) Project at The College of Wooster: Revamping the Undergraduate Network for Research in the Humanities (July 2019).
- Taylor Elyse Mills, MSU, Presentation at the Philosophy Department Proseminar Conference at Michigan State University: Beyond Mere Form: Multiplicity of Meaning in Music (Dec. 2018).

GUEST LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

- Taylor Elyse Mills, MSU, Lecture for Higher Education Law Course at Michigan State University College of Law: [Transforming Title IX](#) (Apr. 9, 2023).
- Taylor Elyse Mills, MSU, Guest Speaker Presentation for Champlain College's *Experiential Learning Series* in Burlington, VT: A Case for Creativity (Apr. 7, 2023).
- Taylor Elyse Mills, MSU, Guest Lecture for MSU College of Law Race and Law Seminar: [Intersectionality's Origins and Current Impact](#) (Mar. 31, 2022).
- Taylor Elyse Mills, MSU, Guest Speaker for Vivero Digital Scholarship Fellows Program at Grinnell College: Digital Scholarship and Social Justice: Leveraging Inter

and Transdisciplinary Digital Scholarship for Justice in Academia and Future Careers (Apr. 19, 2021).

- Taylor Elyse Mills, Bethany Laursen, Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Bill Hart-Davidson, Kurt Milberger, and Christopher Long, MSU, Co-Facilitators for Workshop at the Public Philosophy Network Conference at Michigan State University: Formative Peer Review: Assessing Scholarship with the Public (Oct. 18, 2019).
- Taylor Elyse Mills, Workshop Series Co-Facilitator for the Digital Humanities Summer Research Institute (DHSI) Undergraduate Cohort at the University of Victoria, (July 2018).
- Taylor Elyse Mills, Co-Founder, Annual Conference Organizer, and Workshops Facilitator, *The Undergraduate Network for Research in the Humanities (UNRH)*, (2015-2020).

ACADEMIC SERVICE & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- **Michigan Leadership Initiative ([MLI](#))**, *Michigan State College of Law*, 2020-2023
- **Philosophy Department Graduate Spokesperson and Committee of the Whole Representative**, *Michigan State University*, 2022-2024
- **Advisory Board for Institute for Liberal Arts Digital Scholarship (ILiADS)**, 2020-2022
- **Philosophy Department Undergraduate Committee**, *Michigan State University*, 2019-2020
- **Philosophy Department Graduate Committee**, *Michigan State University*, 2018-2020
- **Steering Committee for ILiADS**, *Occidental College*, 2018

TEACHING

- Sole Instructor of Record:
 - **PHL 454: Philosophy of Law**, *MSU*, Summer 2021, Summer 2023
 - **PHL 101: Introduction to Philosophy**, *MSU*, Fall 2022, Spring 2023
 - **PHL 353: Peace & Justice Studies**, *MSU*, Fall 2021
- Co-Instructor of Record (with Dr. Marsley Kehoe):
 - **IDS 180: Digital Humanities Honors Course**, *Hope College*, Fall 2017
 - **IDS 181: Digital Humanities Honors Course**, *Hope College*, Spring 2018

- Teaching Assistant:
 - **PHL 344: Ethics in Health Care**, *MSU Philosophy Department*, Spring 2022
 - **IAH 207: Race & Identity in the United States**, *MSU Philosophy Department*, 2018-2019

LANGUAGES

- **Spanish:** 7 years of academic and semi-professional experience

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ADVOCACY

- **Survivors' Choir: Co-Founder, Registered Agent, and Board of Directors Secretary**, Detroit, MI, 2024-present
- **Community Coordinator**, [Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates](#), Holland, MI, 2017-2018
- **Volunteer Paralegal work for** [Project Corazón: Matamoros Remote I-589 Project](#), Lawyers for Good Government, remote, 2020-2021
- **Volunteer translator for asylum case documents and interviews**, [Refugee Outreach Collective](#), remote, 2020
- **Professional Musician:**
 - **University Chorale**, *Michigan State University*, 2018-2024
 - **Mosaic Chamber Choir**, *Michigan State University*, 2019-2024
 - **Masters and DMA Student Select Ensembles**, *Michigan State University*, 2018-2024