

**Kimberly M. Welch**  
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Department of History  
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### **Research and Teaching Interests**

North American Slavery; Southern History; Women and Gender; Law and Society

### **Employment**

2012- Assistant Professor, Department of History, West Virginia University

### **Education**

Ph.D., University of Maryland, 2012

Dissertation: "People at Law: Subordinate Southerners, Popular Governance, and Local Legal Culture in Antebellum Mississippi and Louisiana"

Dissertation committee: Ira Berlin (chair), Robyn Muncy, Dylan Penningroth, Michael Ross, and Leslie Rowland

M.A., American University, 2006

B.A., Fort Lewis College, 2000, *cum laude*

### **Affiliations**

2012- Affiliated Scholar, American Bar Foundation, Chicago, IL

2012- Faculty Associate, Center for Women's and Gender Studies, West Virginia University

### **Publications**

"Black Litigiousness and White Accountability: Free Blacks and the Rhetoric of Reputation in the Antebellum Natchez District," *Journal of the Civil War Era*, forthcoming, September 2015

- Winner of the Robert Hetlage Prize, American Bar Foundation, 2012

### **Publications in Progress**

*Black Litigants: Rethinking Race and Power in the American South, 1800-1860*, book manuscript in progress

"The Other Underground Railroad: Free Blacks, Freedom Suits, and Kidnapping in Antebellum America," article manuscript in progress

### **Major External Fellowships and Grants**

2014-16 National Science Foundation, Law and Social Sciences Research Grant, Principal Investigator, "Variation in Use of Courts by Legal Status and Jurisdiction," SES 1353231 (\$149,605)

- 2014-15 Newberry Library, Lloyd Lewis Fellowship in American History and Monticello College Foundation Fellowship for Women
- 2014-15 American Academy of Arts and Sciences Visiting Scholar Fellowship (declined)
- 2014 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend
- 2011 Hurst Fellow, J. Willard Hurst Summer Institute in Legal History, Institute for Legal Studies, University of Wisconsin/American Society for Legal History
- 2010-12 Law and Social Science Dissertation Fellowship, American Bar Foundation/National Science Foundation/Law and Society Association
- 2009-10 Mellon Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities in Original Sources, Council on Library and Information Resources
- 2009 Littleton-Griswold Research Grant for Research in U.S. Legal History, American Historical Association

**Short-term or University Fellowships, Grants, and Funded Training**

- 2013-14 Senate Grant for Scholarship and Research, West Virginia University
- 2013-15 American Bar Foundation, Visiting Scholar
- 2013 West Virginia Humanities Council Fellowship
- 2013 Eberly College of Arts and Sciences Research Mini-Grant
- 2013 Selected participant, Early Career Workshop, Law and Society Association annual meeting, Boston, MA (declined)
- 2011-12 Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship, The Graduate School, University of Maryland (declined)
- 2010 Professional Development Research Grant, Department of History, University of Maryland
- 2010 Selected participant, Graduate Student Workshop, Law and Society Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL
- 2009 Jacob K. Goldhaber Award, The Graduate School, University of Maryland
- 2009 Research Development Award, Department of History, University of Maryland
- 2009 William and Madeline Smith Research Award, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin
- 2008 Dissertation Prospectus Development Grant, Department of History, University of Maryland
- 2006 History Department Graduate Fellowship, University of Maryland
- 2006 Andrew W. Mellon Graduate Student Research Award, College of Arts and Sciences, American University

**Prizes**

- 2012 Jacquelyn Dowd Hall Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper, Southern Association for Women Historians Ninth Southern Conference on Women's History
- 2012 Robert Hetlage Prize for Best Doctoral Fellow Article, American Bar Foundation
- 2010 Cosmos Club Young Scholars Award and Research Grant, Cosmos Club Foundation

**Book Reviews**

- Review of Matthew Salafia, *Slavery's Borderland: Freedom and Bondage Along the Ohio River*

- (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013) in *The Journal of Southern History*, 80, no. 4 (Nov. 2014)
- Review of Erica L. Ball, *To Live an Antislavery Life: Personal Politics and the Antebellum Black Middle Class* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2012) in *History: Reviews of New Books* 42, no. 2 (2014)
- Review of Tiya Miles, *The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010) in *West Virginia History* 7, no. 1 (spring 2013)

**Papers Presented and Invited Presentations** (\* indicates invited presentation)

- “Enslaved Women, Claims-Making, and the Local Courts in the Antebellum Natchez District,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Raleigh, NC, 2015
- \* “Black Litigants in the American South,” Newberry Library, Chicago, IL, 2015
- \* “Black Litigants in the Antebellum Natchez District,” Race and Place Conference, Northwestern University, 2015
- \* “*Salvador v. Turner*: Black Litigants, Citizenship, and the Local Courts in the Antebellum American South,” Conference to Honor Ira Berlin, University of Maryland, 2015
- \* “Black Litigants and the Rhetoric of Reputation in American South, 1800-1860” American Bar Foundation, Chicago, IL, 2015
- “Suing Whites: Black Litigants and the Politics of Daily Life in the Antebellum Natchez District,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, 2015
- “This Useless and Dangerous Portion of our Population”: Blacks Suing Whites in Antebellum Mississippi and Louisiana,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 2014
- “African Americans and the Politics of Reputation in the Antebellum Southern Courtroom,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 2013
- “‘Contradictions in Talk’: Free People of Color, Law, and the Politics of Reputation in the Antebellum Southern Courtroom,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 2013
- “‘Forgetful of his duties as a husband’: Married Women, Law, and the Politics of Subordination in the Antebellum Southern Household,” Southern Association for Women Historians Ninth Southern Conference on Women’s History, Fort Worth, TX, 2012
- Winner of the Jacquelyn Dowd Hall Prize, Southern Association for Women Historians, 2012
- “‘Injuries peculiarly distressing and detrimental to her sex’: Married Women and the Legal Capital of Subordination in the Antebellum South,” Western Association of Women Historians annual meeting, Berkeley, CA, 2012
- \* “People at Law: Subordinate Southerners, Popular Governance, and Local Legal Culture in Antebellum Mississippi and Louisiana,” Department of History, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, 2012
- \* “Contravening Slavery, Conceding Subordination: Slaves, Freedom Suits, and the Local Courts in Antebellum Mississippi and Louisiana,” Illinois Legal History Seminar, Chicago, IL, 2012
- \* “Contravening Slavery, Conceding Subordination: Slaves, Freedom Suits, and the Local Courts in Antebellum Mississippi and Louisiana,” American Bar Foundation, Chicago, IL, 2011
- “Free Women, Local Legal Culture, and the Politics of Subordination in the Antebellum Mississippi and Louisiana Household,” Law and Society Association annual meeting,

San Francisco, CA, 2011

“Battered Bodies, Cruel Words and ‘Embarrassed Affairs’: Free Wives, Domestic Disputes, and the Courts in Antebellum Mississippi and Louisiana,” Social Science History Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL, 2010

\*“People at Law: Subordinate Southerners and Localized Law in Mississippi and Louisiana, 1820-1860,” American Bar Foundation, Chicago, IL, 2010

“Battered Bodies, Cruel Words and ‘Embarrassed Affairs’: Free Wives, Domestic Disputes, and the Courts in Antebellum Mississippi and Louisiana,” Women’s History Network annual meeting, St. Hilda’s College, University of Oxford, UK, 2009

“‘Ugly Living’: Mastery, Sexual Abuse, and the Law in the Antebellum South,” Ann Robyn Mathias Student Research Conference, American University, Washington, DC, 2006

### **Teaching**

Department of History, West Virginia University

Graduate Readings in Gender and Slavery in the Atlantic World

Growth of the American Nation to 1865

Honors: Growth of the American Nation to 1865

History of American Women

Historical Research Capstone: Nineteenth-Century Southern Women’s History

Historical Research Capstone: Southern History

The Old South

Department of History, University of Maryland

Women in the Nineteenth-Century U.S. South (Historical Research and Methods)

### **Current Thesis and Dissertation Committees**

Jessica Fletcher (West Virginia University, undergraduate honors thesis chair)

Megan Hobbs (West Virginia University, undergraduate honors thesis chair)

Jessica Mathias (West Virginia University, master’s thesis committee member)

Nicholas McGinnis (West Virginia University, master’s thesis committee member)

Allyson Perry (West Virginia University, master’s thesis committee member)

Francis Curran (West Virginia University, dissertation committee member)

Katie Logothetis (West Virginia University, dissertation committee member)

Ashley Luskey (West Virginia University, dissertation committee member)

Autumn Mayle, (West Virginia University, dissertation committee member)

Joe Rizzo (West Virginia University, dissertation committee member)

Adam Zucconi (West Virginia University, dissertation committee member)

### **Peer Review**

*Law & Social Inquiry*

### **Professional Service**

2013- Co-organizer, Law & History Collaborative Research Network, Law and Society Association

2013 Faculty Member Participant and Mentor, Graduate Student Workshop, Law and Society Association annual meeting, Boston, MA

- 2013 Chair, “Women, Law, and Marital Crisis in Cross-Cultural Perspective,” American Society for Legal History annual meeting, Miami, FL
- 2013 Chair, Roundtable: “Violence in Roman Egypt, by Ari Z. Bryen,” Law and Society annual meeting, Boston, MA

### **University Service**

- 2013- Associate Graduate Faculty, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, West Virginia University
- 2012-14 Member, History Department Undergraduate Committee, West Virginia University
- 2009 Commentator, “The Power of the Written Word,” History Graduate Student Conference, University of Maryland
- 2008-09 Graduate Representative to the Nathan and Janette Miller Center for Historical Studies Board, University of Maryland
- 2008-09 Chair, Paper Selection Committee, History Graduate Student Association Conference, University of Maryland
- 2006 Commentator, “Community Development and the Meaning of Place,” History Day Conference, American University
- 2005 Commentator, “Gender in History: Local, National, and International Perspectives,” History Day Conference, American University

### **Other Professional Experience**

- 2007-10 Research Assistant, Samuel Gompers Papers Project, University of Maryland
- 2006 Research Assistant, Frederick Law Olmsted Papers, American University

### **Professional Memberships**

American Historical Association  
 American Society for Legal History  
 Law and Society Association  
 Organization of American Historians  
 Southern Association for Women Historians  
 Southern Historical Association

### **References**

Ira Berlin, University of Maryland  
 Robyn Muncy, University of Maryland  
 Robert Nelson, Northwestern University and American Bar Foundation  
 Dylan Penningroth, Northwestern University and American Bar Foundation  
 Leslie Rowland, University of Maryland  
 Aaron Sheehan-Dean, Louisiana State University