

Charles R. DiSalvo

*Woodrow A. Potesta Professor of Law
West Virginia University College of Law*

Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

TEACHING

University of Chicago Law School

Bigelow Teaching Fellow, 1978 - 1979

West Virginia University College of Law

Assistant Professor of Law, 1979 - 1982

Associate Professor of Law, 1982 - 1986

Professor of Law, 1986 - 1989

Woodrow A. Potesta Professor of Law, 1989 - present

West Virginia University School of Medicine

1991-1997

Pittsburgh Peace Institute

1985-1991

Teaching Awards

College of Law Professor of the Year:

1985 - 1986

1989 - 1990

1993 - 1994

2000 - 2001

2002 - 2003

2008 - 2009

West Virginia University Foundation:

Outstanding Teaching Award, 1986 - 1987

Roscoe Pound Foundation:

Richard S. Jacobson Award for Excellence in Teaching Trial Advocacy, 1995

EDUCATION

St. John Fisher College

B.A., History, 1970, *Summa Cum Laude*

Claremont Graduate School

M.A., East Asian Studies, 1971

University of Southern California

J.D., 1974

Southern California Law Review, Senior Staff

SELECT GANDHI/CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Truth and the Practice of Law: What's Gandhi Have To Do With It?, *ABA Litigation Journal*, Fall 2025.

“Advocate Gandhi: Race, Role, and Transformation?”, in Vinay Lal (ed.), *Gandhi, Truth, and Nonviolence: The Politics of Engagement in Post-Truth Times* (Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2025)

Civil Disobedience in 2025?, presentation, Mountaineers Indivisible, Morgantown, West Virginia, September 25, 2025

Civil Disobedience and the Law, presentation, Washington County, PA, Bar-Bench Conference, January 24, 2025

Advocate Gandhi: Race, Role, and Transformation?, presentation, Truth and Nonviolence in Post-Truth Times: An International Conference on Mohandas Gandhi, UCLA, February 2, 2020

Climate Change Disobedience, Summer, 2020, University of Florida Journal of Law and Public Policy

Advocate Gandhi's Challenge, Quarterly Bar Review. 1:3, 31, Delhi High Court Bar Association, October 2019

Book review: Ashwin Desai and Goolam Vahed, *The South African Gandhi: Stretcher-Bearer of Empire* (Stanford University Press, 2016), 68 South African Historical Journal 672, September, 2016.

Book review, Lewis Perry, *Civil Disobedience: An American Tradition* (Yale University Press, 2013), *Political Science Quarterly*, Winter, 2014.

How the Law Changed Gandhi, SEMINAR (Seminar Publications, New Delhi, India), October, 2014.

Gandhi Across the Decades, Ninth Annual National Association of Appellate Court Attorneys Conference, in association with the University of Richmond Law School, Savannah, Georgia, July 10, 2014.

Mohandas K. Gandhi, Attorney at Law: a conversation with Rajmohan Gandhi and Charles DiSalvo, South Asian Bar Association of North American Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, June 20, 2014.

The Rundown: When is Breaking the Law Justified? A Look at Civil Disobedience in America, interview, KCPW-FM, Salt Lake City, Utah, May 14, 2014.

Reading from *M.K. Gandhi, Attorney at Law: The Man Before the Mahatma*, Mon River Law Faculty Colloquium, April 11, 2014

M.K. Gandhi, Attorney at Law, Dean's Book Series lecture, Albany Law School, Albany, New York, April 8, 2014

M.K. Gandhi, Attorney at Law: The Man Before the Mahatma, (University of California Press: Berkeley, 2013)

M.K. Gandhi, Attorney at Law: The Man Before the Mahatma, World Bank – Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development , Washington, DC, July 15, 2013.

Gandhi vs. Gandhi, Panel Discussion with Faisal Devji, Richard Sorabji, Ananya Vajpeyi, Jaipur Literature Festival, Jaipur, India, January, 2013.

The Man Before the Mahatma: M.K. Gandhi, Attorney at Law, interview, MyLaw.net, December 11, 2012

The Man Before the Mahatma: M.K. Gandhi, Attorney at Law (Random House: Noida/New Delhi, 2012)

Dr M. Karamchand Versus The Mahatma, Outlook, November 5, 2012

Philosophy of a Profession, Indian Business Law Journal, October, 2012

Introduction, Civil Resistance and the Law: Nonviolent Transitions to Democracy,

Symposium Issue, West Virginia University Law Review, Spring, 2012

Save the U.S. Institute of Peace (with Michael Aloï), Charleston Gazette, March 13, 2011

Mahatma Gandhi: From Lawyer to National Liberator, The Law Report, Radio National, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, March, 2010, rebroadcast December, 2010.

From Law to Justice: Lessons From a South African Lawyer, Hamilton and Denise Brewart International Conference on Nonviolence, Rediscovering Gandhian Wisdom: Building a Peaceful Future, California Polytechnic Institute, Pomona, California, October 18, 2008.

From Lawyer to Civil Disobedient: 1897-1898, A Microcosm of Change, in D. Ganguly (ed.), *Rethinking Gandhi and Nonviolent Relationality: Global Perspectives* (Routledge: New York, 2008) (This piece served as the basis for a chapter titled *From Lawyer to Civil Disobedient: A Microcosm of Change*, in Tara Sethia and Anjana Narayan (eds.), *The Living Gandhi: Lessons for Our Times* (Penguin: New Delhi, 2013).)

From Lawyer to Civil Disobedient: 1897-1898, A Microcosm of Change, Conference on Gandhi, Non-Violence and Modernity, Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University, September 3, 2004.

OTHER SPEECHES, TALKS, PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, AND APPEARANCES

“Dean John Fisher”, John W. Fisher II Retirement Celebration and Courtroom Dedication, West Virginia University College of Law, Morgantown, West Virginia, May 7, 2014.

Moderator, panel discussion, “Buffalo Creek Disaster: Legal Aspects”, Buffalo Creek Symposium, West Virginia University College of Law, Morgantown, West Virginia, February 26, 2014.

“The Importance of Knowing the Rules of Federal Procedure – Playing the Game Better Than Anyone Else, Legal Services Committee on Regional Training”, webinar, February 7, 2014

“You Have to Know the Rules of the Game – And Then You Have to Play Them Better than Anyone Else: The Importance of Knowing the Rules of Civil Procedure”, West Virginia Association for Justice 2014 Mid-Winter Convention and Seminar, Charleston, West Virginia, January 16, 2014

“What Law Review Service Means”, West Virginia Law Review Editors’ Orientation, West Virginia University College of Law, Morgantown, West Virginia, Fall, 2013

“Lawyering and Leadership”, West Virginia University College of Law Summer Institute, Morgantown, West Virginia, May 31, 2013

“Gandhi, Then and Now”, Hindu Religious and Cultural Center, Morgantown, West Virginia, August 25, 2012

Eulogy, Woodrow A. Potesta, Memorial Service, West Virginia University College of Law, Morgantown, West Virginia, August 11, 2012

“The Lawyer as Public Person”, Admitted Students Day, West Virginia University College of Law, Morgantown, West Virginia, April, 2012

Moderator, panel discussion, *Civil Resistance and the Law: Nonviolent Transitions to Democracy*, West Virginia Law Review Symposium, Morgantown, West Virginia, November 10, 2011

“Back to the Dark Ages: Twombly, Iqbal, and the Death of Notice Pleading”, West Virginia University, West Virginia Continuing Legal Education, October 22, 2010

“Leadership”, West Virginia University College of Law Summer Institute, Morgantown, West Virginia, May, 2010

The Significance of a Professorship, West Virginia University College of Law , dedication of the Steptoe Professorship, Morgantown, West Virginia, April 16, 2010

Reinhold Niebuhr and His Influence on Barack Obama, West Virginia University College of Law, September, 2009

Commencement Address, West Virginia University College of Law, May 16, 2009

“Civil Procedure and Evidence For the New Magistrate”, West Virginia Supreme Court New Magistrate Training Conference, December 9, 2008, Charleston, West Virginia.

“Who Is Your Employer?”, Fletcher Lawyers Conference, London, Ohio, February 17 - 19, 2006

“Jury Selection: Preparation, Techniques and Doctrine”, Annual Conference of Public Defenders of West Virginia, Snowshoe Resort, June 10, 2005.

“Offer Your Clients Wisdom”, Commencement Address, West Virginia University College of Law, May, 17, 2003

“How Lawyers Shape Their Souls”, Commencement Address, West Virginia University

College of Law, May 12, 2001

“Pro Bono Representation”, *The Law Works*, WVPT, January, 2001

“Catholic Social Teaching”, West Virginia Catholic Schools Principals Association meeting, Charleston, West Virginia, March 30, 2000

“Faith and Work”, Immaculate Conception Church, Clarksburg, WV, February 9, 2000

“Finding Public Interest Job Opportunities”, WVU Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, November 15, 1999

“The Life of Mahatma Gandhi”, St. Francis Central Catholic School, November 11, 1999

“Civility in the Legal Profession”, panel discussion moderator, Monongalia County Bar Association, October 26, 1999

“Lawyers: Saints or Sinners?”, panel discussion member, St. Thomas More Society CLE, Charleston, West Virginia, May 20, 1999

“Medical Technology, Ethics and the Courts: Practicing Medicine in the Fourth Circuit”, CME presentation to Fall Forum of the West Virginia Networks of Ethics Committees, Flatwoods, West Virginia, October 14, 1998

“The New West Virginia Rules of Civil Procedure”, CLE lecture presented in Beckley, West Virginia on May 21, 1998, in Charleston, West Virginia on May 22, 1998 and in Wheeling, West Virginia on June 30, 1998

Appearance, “Morgantown AM – Law Day”, WAJR Radio, Morgantown, West Virginia, May 1, 1998

“New Proposed West Virginia Rules of Civil Procedure”, WVCLE Litigation Seminar, Canaan Valley, West Virginia, January 23, 1998; West Virginia University College of Law, November 15, 1997

“Worshipping at the Altar of Technique”, presentation of paper, Second Annual Loyola University of Chicago Conference on Ethics and Technology, June 7, 1997

Appearance on “Voices for Peace and Justice: The Search for Non-Violence”(film), 1997

“Changes in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and an Update of Changes to the West Virginia Rules of Civil Procedure”, Monongalia County Bar Association, November 26, 1996

"Wills, Probate, and Other Life and Death Choices", television program panelist, "The Law in Your Life", WNPB, Morgantown WV, October, 1996

"On Supporting Public Interest Law", remarks at Dean's Partners Dinner, WVU College of Law, September 9, 1996

"Legal Lines: Bioethics", WNPB-TV, panelist, August 28, 1996

"Preparation for Jury Selection and Voir Dire", West Virginia Public Defenders Association, Canaan Valley, West Virginia, June 21, 1996

"Legal Representation of the Poor – What Sustains Us?", 25th Reunion CLE, Appalachian Research and Defense Fund, University of Kentucky Law School, June 14, 1996

"Sea Changes in Civil Procedure", CLE presentation at WVCLE seminars in Morgantown WV (October, 1995) and Canaan Valley WV (February, 1995) and law firm seminar in Nemacolin PA (June, 1996)

"Theory of the Case", presentation to legal services training conference, Morgantown WV, May, 1995

"The Monk's Tale", Commencement Address, West Virginia University College of Law, May 14, 1994

"Planning for Drama in the Courtroom", Committee on Regional Training, Wheeling, WV, April 12, 1994

"The Changing Face of Federal Civil Procedure", West Virginia Continuing Legal Education, Morgantown, WV, October 8, 1993. Repeated, with updates, Charleston, WV February 11, 1994; Canaan Valley, WV, February 26, 1994

"Public Service and Public Interest Law at the College of Law", Marion County Bar Association, Fairmont, WV, December 2, 1993

"The Right to Life, the Right to Death", Panel Discussion, Sixth Annual Symposium of West Virginia Network of Ethics Committees, West Virginia University Health Sciences Center, May 7, 1993

"West Virginia Jury Selection: Rooting Out Prejudice--and a Proposal for Reform", Inns of Court, Martinsburg, WV Chapter, April 26, 1993

"The Helga Wanglie Case", Panel Discussion, Fifth Annual Symposium of West Virginia Network of Ethics Committees, West Virginia University Health Sciences Center, May 8, 1992.

"Abortion and Consensus", Civil Disobedience and Protest Forum, Washington and Lee School of Law, April 6, 1991

"Who Are You?", Commencement Address, West Virginia University College of Law, May 13, 1990

"The Role of Catholic Lawyers in American Society", National Center for the Laity, Conference on Catholic Lay Leadership, Chicago, Illinois, May 13, 1989 (quoted, National Catholic Reporter, May, 1989)

"Building an American Consensus: Abortion and Civil Disobedience", St. John Fisher College, Rochester, New York, March 8, 1989

"Civil Disobedience", hour interview with Robert Smith on "The 1370 Connection", WXXI, public radio for Rochester, New York, March 8, 1989

"A Tale of Two Lawyers: Words for Prospective Law Students", West Virginia University Law Center, April 16, 1988

"Lawyers and the Need for a Public Philosophy", Panel Discussion on Philosophy and the Law, West Virginia University, March 22, 1988

"Masks and Morality: Remarks on the Dedication of the Steptoe Courtroom", West Virginia University Law Center, October 9, 1987

"Preparation for, and Techniques of, Jury Selection", Continuing Legal Education Presentation, Mountain State Bar, Clarksburg, West Virginia, July, 1987

"Mahatma Gandhi and the Law", Public Interest Advocates, West Virginia University Law Center, October 28, 1986

"Faith and Work: The Lawyer's Dilemma", National Consultation on the Laity, Chicago, Illinois, (quoted in *Washington Post*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Boston Globe*, and elsewhere), September 13, 1986

"Cross-Examination and Closing Argument", Trial Advocacy Skills Training Seminar for Legal Services Lawyers, Morgantown, West Virginia, June, 1986

"In Praise of Disobedience", Commencement Address, West Virginia University College of Law Hooding Ceremony, May 18, 1986

"The New Jury Selection Act in West Virginia", West Virginia Judicial Association, Wheeling, West Virginia, May 6, 1986

"Catholicism and Civil Disobedience", Newman Center, West Virginia University, April 3, 1985

"Nonviolent Resistance: Theory in Practice", panel discussion moderator, West Virginia University, 1985

"God or Caesar--Should We Break the Law?" Corpus Christi School, Rochester, New York, March 10, 1985

"Faith, Ethics, and Paying Taxes", Corpus Christi School, Rochester, New York, March 11, 1985

"Counseling Civil Disobedients", Monroe County Bar Association, Rochester, New York, March 11, 1985

"Jury Selection in West Virginia: The Story of Abuse, The Case for Reform", West Virginia University Political Science Department, December 3, 1984

"Truth, the Government, and the Individual", West Virginia University Center for Extension and Continuing Education, June 26, 1984

"Consequences of War Tax Resistance", Morgantown War Resisters League, April 26, 1984

"Conscientious Objection to Military Spending," Newsmakers Interview, WDTV, February, 1983

"Civil Disobedience and the Law--The Current Crisis", Unitarian Fellowship of Morgantown, December 11, 1983

"Turning War Taxes into Dollars for Peace", Appalachian Peace Education Center, Big Stone Gap, VA, November 11, 1983

"Civil Disobedience and the Law--Confronting the Nuclear Threat", West Virginia University Public Forum on World Peace, October 17, 1983; re-broadcast on "Points of Interest", a weekly program produced by West Virginia University

"Jury Composition and Voir Dire in West Virginia", West Virginia Legal Services Lawyers Conference, Cedar Lakes State Park, September 28, 1983

"Conscientious Objection to Military Taxes", Catholic Committee of Appalachia, September 24, 1983

"The Christian and the State: War Tax Resistance for Christians", Perryopolis First Christian Church, April 24, 1983

"War Tax Resistance and the Law", Morgantown War Resisters League, March 12, 1983

"Ten Tactics for Negotiating", West Virginia Continuing Legal Education Seminar, January 31, 1983

"How to Conduct Negotiations", Mountain State Bar Association, June 19, 1982

"Developments in the Law of Domestic Relations", West Virginia Judicial Association, May 21, 1982

"A Clinical View of Interviewing and Counseling: A Moral and Financial Success", Marion County Bar Association, February, 1981

CONSULTING

"People Pay for Peace" (video documentary on conscientious objection to war taxes)

Food Law/Hunger Project

"Poverty Law Issues" (Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky study)

University of Baltimore, Jurisprudence Program

California University of Pennsylvania, Justice Studies Program

ADMINISTRATION

Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky

Directing Attorney

1976 - 1978

West Virginia University College of Law Clinic

Director

1979 - 1982

West Virginia Fund for Law in the Public Interest, Inc.

Co-founder; Board of Directors

1987 - present

Executive Director

1987-2009; 2024-2025

DEVELOPMENT

West Virginia Fund for Law in the Public Interest, Inc.

1987 - 2010

2024-2025

SERVICE

West Virginia University College of Law

Committees (various periods of service, 1979-present; *denotes chairmanship):

*Academic Planning

Admissions

*Appointments

Center for Law and Public Service Search Committee

Dean 5-Year Review Committee (Joyce McConnell)

*Emil Gumpert Award Committee

*Endowed Positions

Externships

Faculty Retreat

*Faculty Support

*Faculty Voting

Hiring Committee, Appalachian Center for Law and Public Service

Hodges Fund Advisory

Law Review Advisory Committee

*Library Liaison

*Lugar Faculty Oversight

*Legal Education for Non-Lawyers

*Merit Advisory

Moot Court Review Committee

Order of the Barristers

Part-Time Legal Education
*Pedagogy
Professorship Committee
*Promotion and Tenure
Retreat Planning
Space Committee (College of Law Building Committee)
*Sustainability
*Task Force on Public Service
*Testing
Video Committee
West Virginia Fund for Law in the Public Interest (member of board of directors)
West Virginia State Bar Scholarship Committee

Selected other service at the College of Law:

Student Trial Lawyers Association, Faculty Advisor, 1981 - 1983

Counseling and Tutoring of Diversity Students, 1983 - 1993

Public Interest Advocates, 1986 - 2009
Faculty Advisor

Advisor to Law Review of West Virginia University College of Law, Transitions to Democracy symposium and volume, 2011

Review book proposal for Oxford University Press, 2013

Administrator, Public Interest Concentration 2014 - present

Advisor to law review students, multiple occasions

Judge for multiple moot court competitions on multiple occasions

Regular counseling of students on professional and life issues

West Virginia University

*West Virginia University Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects, 1981-1986

University Task Force on Peace Studies and Conflict
Resolution, 1986

University-Affiliated Center for Developmental Disabilities,
Law Liaison, 1986-1987

Posten Professorship Committee, 1987

University Faculty Development Advisory Committee, 1988

Benedum Distinguished Scholars Awards Committee 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 2008,
2014

DuBois Fellowship Committee 1990

West Virginia University Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award Selection
Committee, 1990

Program Review Committee, 1993- 1994

Graduate Program Review Committee, 1994

John Peluso Scholarship Committee

Benedum Professorship for Outstanding Teaching Committee, 1997
Harless Teaching Award Committee, 1998

Benedum Fall Lecture Committee, 2004

Dean 5-Year Review Committee, 2013 (Joyce McConnell)

Legal Profession

North Central West Virginia Legal Aid Society, 1981 - 1989 Board of Directors,
Executive Committee, Audit Committee

Involvement in development of West Virginia jury selection service legislation, including
successful drafting of legislation and appearances before the Senate Judiciary Committee
and the Joint Judiciary Committee, 1984 - 1988

West Virginia State Bar Judicial Improvement Committee, 1987 - 1990

*Sub-Committee on Assistance to State Court Judges; developed the Volunteer

Law Clerks Association concept and worked with WVU College of Law Faculty, West Virginia Judicial Association, West Virginia State Bar, Chief Justice of WV Supreme Court and WVU College of Law student body to establish and promote the Association

Committee to Review the Jury Implementation Plan for the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia, 1988

West Virginia State Bar Budget Committee, 1994 - 2008

United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia, Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Group, 1995

West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Advisory Committee on Civil Rules, 1995 - 1998 (Vice-Chair)

West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Advisory Committee on Civil Rules, 2013-2014 (Chair)

West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Advisory Committee on Civil Rules, 2021-2022 (Consultant)

West Virginia State Bar Insurance Committee, 1996

Mountain State Justice, Member, Board of Directors, 1998 - 2019

West Virginia Supreme Court IOLTA Advisory Committee, 2000 - 2018, 2024 - present

West Virginia State Bar Strategic Planning Committee, 2008

West Virginia State Bar pro bono referral project, 2010

West Virginia State Bar Legal Services for the Poor Committee

Access to Justice Commission

Kanawha County Settlement Trust Committee, 2011

Access to Justice Foundation, 2012

Community Service

Vietnamese Resettlement Project, 1980
Morgantown, West Virginia

St. Theresa's Church, Finance Council, 1981 - 1997
Morgantown, West Virginia

St. Francis de Sales Church, Sarah's Table, 1987 – present
Morgantown, West Virginia

National Center for the Laity, 1987 - present
Chicago, Illinois

Various capacities: General Counsel, National Board of Directors, National Board of Advisors, Election Committee, By-Laws Committee, Tax Exempt Status Committee, Conflict of Interest Committee

Monongalia County Jail Inspection Committee, 1989 - 1994
Morgantown, West Virginia

Leo Sowerby Foundation, 1996 - 2000
The Foundation promotes the music of American composer, Leo Sowerby.

St. Francis de Sales Church, Stewardship Committee, 2005 - present
Morgantown, West Virginia

St. Francis de Sales Church, Education Diversity Committee, 2007 - 2015
Morgantown, West Virginia

Milan Puskar Health Right, Dental Partners Program, Strategic Planning Committee,
2011 - 2016
Morgantown, West Virginia

St. Francis de Sales Church, Refugee Assistance Committee, 2011 – present
Morgantown, West Virginia

Pro Bono Litigation and Counseling

Counseled clients and litigated in state and federal courts in the following subject areas: conscientious objection, civil disobedience, disarmament, the environment, the first amendment, health care, homelessness, immigration, spouse abuse, refugee rights.

Awards

Legal Services of West Virginia, Star Award, 2011

West Virginia Martin Luther King Holiday Celebration Commission, Living the Dream Award for Scholarship, 2011

West Virginia Law Review, Professor of the Year, 2011 - 2012

American Publishers Association Award: Honorable Mention, 2013

Each year the American Publishers Association bestows its PROSE awards for the best scholarly writing for the year. University presses are invited to nominate their books. The University of California Press nominated *M.K. Gandhi, Attorney at Law: The Man Before the Mahatma*.

M.K. Gandhi, Attorney at Law: The Man Before the Mahatma was given an honorable mention in the competition for the best scholarly book on law for 2013.

West Virginia University College of Law Significant Scholarship Award -- 2013, for *M.K. Gandhi, Attorney at Law: The Man Before the Mahatma*.

West Virginia Association for Justice Consumer Attorney of the Year Award, 2014