Stanford



Kathleen Tarr

Advanced Lecturer, Program in Writing and Rhetoric

Bio

BIO

Kathleen Tarr is a University of California, Berkeley and Harvard Law School graduate, Certified Human Rights Consultant with the U.S. Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights, former Skadden Fellow (“legal Peace Corps”), Advanced Lecturer at Stanford University in the Program in Writing and Rhetoric, and former Writing Specialist for Stanford's Public Policy Program. During law school, Kathleen assisted in the authorship of Japan’s first university-level sexual harassment policy, and as a Skadden Fellow, she developed some of the U.S.’s first public interest outreach programs to disabled female military veterans. Kathleen has authored several publications including law review articles "Above and Beyond: Veterans Disabled by Military Service" (1997) which was cited by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, "Regatta Revisited: The Race for Equity in Virtual Sports" (2019; co-authored with Doron Dorfman), and "Bias and the Business of Show: Employment Discrimination in the 'Entertainment' Industry" which was touted by filmmaker, screenwriter, and activist Maria Giese as the most important document published on the issue of discriminatory hiring practices in Hollywood in 2016.

"Bias and the Business of Show" evolved from Kathleen’s General Session presentation with special guests Amy Pietz and Edward James Olmos at the 2015 State Bar of California Annual Meeting and is companion to her annual Symposium on Equity in the Entertainment Industry and Awards (tinyurl.com/GettingPlayedSymposium). These "Getting Played" symposia are named after Kathleen's documentary on (un)equal employment opportunities in the entertainment industry which received Honorable Mention in the 2010 International Black Women's Film Festival. Kathleen has produced two other films that were official selections in film festivals: her short animation "I Have All The Feelings" (2014 International Black Women's Film Festival) and her short sci-fi film "Early Aliens" (2015 ASTRONOMMO: Speculative Fiction on Film + Black Women).

Overlapping these accomplishments: Kathleen’s acting credits encompass stage, film, commercials, television, and video games including "House M.D.", Sundance award winner "Dopamine", and "Sim City". She appears (self) in the documentaries "Nevertheless" (2020; Dir. Sarah Moshman) and "Brainwashed: Sex-Camera-Power" (Dir. Nina Menkes) which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2022. She is also a Women’s American Football League draftee and 42+ time indoor rowing world record holder.

Kathleen offers writing and communication resources for students and instructors alike at kantonia.wix.com/lawandpolicy

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Advanced Lecturer, Program in Writing and Rhetoric

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Writing Specialist, Public Policy Program, (2018-2020)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Encore Award, Entertainment Community Fund (2024)
- Nominee, 2018 State of the Arts "Arts Enabler Award", Arts for a Better Bay Area (March 2018)
- Nominee, Walter J. Gores Faculty Achievement Award, Stanford University (2017, 2018)

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

SPECIALIZATION: Jurisprudence; Rhetoric and Climate Catastrophe; Strategic Planning in International Relations and Governments; Rhetoric and Global Economy; and Equal Employment Opportunity in the Entertainment Industry

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Critical Rhetoric: Racism, Misogyny, and the Law: CSRE 194KTA, FEMGEN 194, HISTORY 261C, PWR 194KTA (Win)
- Writing & Rhetoric 1: Legal Rhetoric, Research, and Writing: PWR 1KTB (Win, Spr)
- Writing & Rhetoric 2: A Rebel With A Cause: The Rhetoric of Giving a Damn: PWR 2KTA (Aut)

2025-26

- Writing & Rhetoric 1: Legal Rhetoric, Research, and Writing: PWR 1KTB (Aut)
- Writing & Rhetoric 2: A Rebel With A Cause: The Rhetoric of Giving a Damn: PWR 2KTA (Win, Spr)

2024-25

- Topics in Writing & Rhetoric: Racism, Misogyny, and the Law: CSRE 194KTA, FEMGEN 194, HISTORY 261C, PWR 194KTA (Spr)
- Writing & Rhetoric 1: Legal Rhetoric, Research, and Writing: PWR 1KTB (Aut, Win, Spr)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **The Tone Police's Greatest Hits** *Composition Studies*
  Tarr, K.
  2021; 49 (2): 79-95
- **Regatta Revisited: The Race for Equity in Virtual Sports** *Rutgers Law Record*
  Tarr, K. A., Dorfman, D.
  2019; 46: 151-160
- **Women's Media Summit White Paper on Gender Inequality in Film and Television**
  Carter, M. A., Giese, M., Heldman, C., Tarr, K. A., Walker, C. K.
  Women's Media Action Coalition.
  2017
- **Bias and the Business of Show: Employment Discrimination in the "Entertainment" Industry** *University of San Francisco Law Review Forum*
  Tarr, K. A.
  2016; 51: 1-13
- **Logic and Its Discontents: Jurisprudential Tensions Between Emotion and Reason** *University of San Francisco Law Review Forum*
  Tarr, K.
  2015; 50: 8-12

- **Teach a Law Student to Fish: A Tutor's Perspective on Legal Writing** *University of San Francisco Law Review Forum*
  Tarr, K.
  2015; 49: 53-55
- **Above and Beyond: Veterans Disabled by Military Service** *Georgetown Journal on Fighting Poverty*
  Tarr, K. A.
  1997; 5 (1): 39-50