

2022 ABF Fellows Outstanding Scholar Award



Professor Martha Albertson Fineman

Emory University School of Law

Professor Martha Fineman is a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Her areas of expertise include the legal regulation of intimacy, feminist legal theory, jurisprudence, and vulnerability theory. Following graduation from University of Chicago Law School, Professor Fineman clerked for the Hon. Luther M. Swygert of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. She has taught at University of Wisconsin and Columbia University. In 1999 she became the first holder of the only endowed Chair in the nation in Feminist Jurisprudence at Cornell Law School, a position she held until 2004 when she came to Emory University as a Robert W. Woodruff Professor. Fineman has won numerous awards for her writing and teaching, including the prestigious Harry J Kalven, Jr. Prize for Distinguished Research in Law and Society and the Ruth Bader Ginsberg Lifetime Achievement Award. She also was awarded the Degree of Doctor Honoris Causa, Faculty of Law, Lund University, Sweden.

At Emory, Fineman serves as the founding director of the Feminism and Legal Theory (FLT) Project, which was inaugurated in 1984 at the University of Wisconsin. The FLT Project published the first anthology of feminist legal theory, *At the Boundaries of Law: Feminism and Legal Theory* Routledge Press, (1990), which was followed in 2010 with a 25th anniversary edition: *Transcending the Boundaries of Law: Generations of Feminism and Legal Theory*. The Project has published over a dozen other collections of feminist legal theory edited by Fineman.

The Vulnerability and the Human Condition Initiative (VHC) emerged from the Feminism and Legal Theory Project in 2008 and comprises the bulk of Fineman's current research and writing. Fineman serves as founding director of the VHC and organizes several local and international academic workshops each year. Vulnerability theory offers an alternative paradigm to both a human rights and a social contract approach to state responsibility and social justice. Fineman's recent vulnerability theory publications include book chapters titled "Reasoning from the Body," in *Jurisprudence of the Body*, Palgrave Press: M. A. Thomson, M. Travis Eds. (2020) and "The Limits of Equality: Vulnerability and Inevitable Inequality," in *Feminist Jurisprudence*, Elgar Press: Bowman, C. and West, R. Eds. Edited collections on vulnerability theory include *Re-Conceiving Equality and Freedom: Vulnerability, Dependency, and the Responsive State; forthcoming, Routledge (2022)* and *Vulnerability and the Legal Organization of Work* (Routledge 2019).