

Elsa Y. Chen

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Professional Experience

Chair, Santa Clara University, Department of Political Science. Fall 2023 – present. Interim Chair, Fall 2022 and Summer 2015

Professor, Santa Clara University, Department of Political Science. 2017 – present.
(Associate Professor 2009 – 2017; Assistant Professor 2000 – 2009). Courses taught: Introduction to American Politics, Criminal Justice Policy and Reform, Seminar in American Politics: Incarceration and Reentry, Political Science Research, Making Public Policy, Housing and Homelessness Policy, Public and Nonprofit Sector Internship. College-wide teaching award.

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Santa Clara University. 2016 – 2020.

- Led a team of 38 staff and 27 faculty with administrative assignments, with an annual budget of over \$15.3 million. Oversaw Research Initiatives & Faculty Affairs, Office for Diversity and Inclusion, Undergraduate Studies (Curriculum, Honors, Fellowships, First-Gen Programs, Academic Advising), Global Engagement (Study Abroad, International Students and Scholars), DeSaisset Museum, Writing Center, Faculty Development, and Collaborative for Teaching Innovation.
- During COVID-19 crisis, led instructional continuity planning and implementation and co-chaired working group on Teaching and Learning.
- Participated in President's Cabinet and staffed Trustee Academic Affairs Committee.
- Coordinated closely with Title IX/EO, General Counsel, and 6 Deans to resolve behavioral and performance issues including misconduct and conflicts.
- Assisted actively in development of communications from President, Provost, and other leaders on urgent and sensitive topics.
- Chaired University-Wide Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion initiatives: created a strategic plan for Diversity and Inclusion with specific implementation and assessment strategies, co-led all phases of Campus Climate survey.

Interim Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Development, Santa Clara University. 2015 – 2016. Supported faculty in teaching, scholarship, and professional development. Co-chaired Faculty Collaborative for Teaching Innovation. Organized new faculty orientation, faculty awards, professional development workshops, promotion and tenure information sessions, new faculty retreat, and faculty writing retreat.

Director, Santa Clara University, Public Sector Studies Program. 2000 – 2016.
Designed public sector studies curriculum and courses; directed interdisciplinary emphasis. Increased students' participation in Washington Semester program to record levels. Managed partnership with Panetta Institute for Public Policy. Established and maintained close relationships and internships with numerous government and nonprofit offices.

Policy Analyst, RAND Criminal Justice Program. 1996 – 2000.

Conducted research and data analysis and contributed to reports including a three-year evaluation of a multi-billion-dollar component of 1994 Violent Crime Act, evaluations of Three Strikes and You're Out policy in California, and a California violence prevention initiative.

Education

University of California, Los Angeles. Department of Political Science. Ph.D. 2000; M.A. 1996. Major fields: American Politics and Quantitative Methods.

Dissertation: *Impacts of Three Strikes and You're Out and Truth in Sentencing on Corrections and Crime*. (Committee: James Q. Wilson and James D. DeNardo, co-chairs; Mohan Penubarti Rao, Peter W. Greenwood, and Eric Monkkonen.)

Harvard University. John F. Kennedy School of Government. M.P.P. (Public Policy), 1993.

Concentration in negotiation and dispute resolution, including coursework through Harvard Negotiation Project (Law School), Business School, and Graduate School of Education.

Princeton University. School of Public and International Affairs. A.B. with Honors, 1991.

Professional Development

- Association for College and University Educators (ACUE) micro-credential in Promoting Active Online Learning, August 2020
- Institute for Educational Management, Harvard Graduate School of Education, July 2019
- "Facilitating Dynamic and Difficult Groups," Pepperdine Law School, Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution, June 2019
- "STAR – a Systematic Approach to Mediation Strategies," Pepperdine Law School, Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution, June 2018
- HERS (Higher Education Resource Services) Next Stages Next Steps, August 2018
- Ignatian Colleagues Program, Association of Jesuit Colleges & Universities, June 2016 – January 2018
- HERS (Higher Education Resource Services) Leadership Institute, June 2016
- ACE (American Council on Education) Women's Regional Leadership Forum, April 2015
- Ignatian Faculty Forum, Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education, 2010 – 2012, 2014 – 2015
- Association of Jesuit Colleges & Universities Leadership Seminar, June 2012

Publications

(* = student co-author)

Lageson, Sarah, Ericka Adams, and Elsa Y. Chen. "[Automating Administrative Burden in Algorithmic Criminal Record Expungement](https://doi.org/10.1017/lsr.2026.10094)." *Law & Society Review* (2026) <https://doi.org/10.1017/lsr.2026.10094>.

Adams, Ericka B., Elsa Y. Chen, and Sarah E. Lageson. "[The Symbiotic Harm of a Criminal Record](https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548251379861)." *Criminal Justice and Behavior* (2026) <https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548251379861>.

Chen, Elsa Y., Sarah Lageson, and Ericka Adams. "[This is Everyone's Issue': The Role of Policy Entrepreneurs, Coalition Building, and Issue Framing in the Passage and Adoption of Automatic Criminal Record Expungement](https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.70003)." *Criminology and Public Policy* Volume 24, Number 4 (2025), p. 655-687 <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.70003>.

- Lageson, Sarah, Carolina Ribiero Caliman*, Elsa Y. Chen, and Ericka Adams. "[Online Recruitment of Interview Participants with Criminal Records: Methodological Challenges and Opportunities.](#)" *Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology* Volume 15, Number 1 (2026): p. 129-164 <https://doi.org/10.21428/88de04a1.feded292>.
- Chen, Elsa Y., Emily Chung*, and Emily Sands*. "[Courtroom Workgroup Dynamics and the Implementation of Proposition 36 to Reform Three Strikes in California.](#)" *Law & Policy* Volume 46, Issue 2 (April 2024), p. 112-139.
- [The Limits of Recidivism: Measuring Success After Prison.](#) National Academies Press (2022).
Eds. Richard Rosenfeld and Amanda Grigg. Consensus Study Report produced by Committee on Evaluating Success Among People Released from Prison.
- Leverentz, Andrea, Elsa Y. Chen, and Johnna Christian, eds. [Beyond Recidivism: New Approaches to Research on Prisoner Reentry and Reintegration.](#) NYU Press (2020).
- Chen, Elsa Y. and Sophie Meyer*. "Beyond Recidivism: Towards Accurate, Meaningful, and Comprehensive Data Collection on the Progress of Individuals Reentering Society." Chapter in Andrea Leverentz, Elsa Y. Chen, and Johnna Christian, eds. *Beyond Recidivism: New Approaches to Research on Prisoner Reentry and Reintegration.* NYU Press (2020), p. 13-38.
- Chen, Elsa Y. and Ericka Adams. "'I've Risen Up from the Ashes That I Created': Expungement and Gendered Narratives of Desistance and Self-Reinvention." *Feminist Criminology* Volume 14, Number 2 (February 2019), p. 143-172.
- Adams, Ericka, Elsa Y. Chen, and Rosella Chapman*. "[Erasing the Mark of a Criminal Past: Ex-Offenders' Expectations and Experiences with Record Clearance.](#)" *Punishment & Society* Volume 19, Number 1 (January 2017), p. 23-52.
- Chen, Elsa Y. and Kevin Nomura*. "[And Justice for All? Racial and Ethnic Sentencing Disparities in California's Federal Drug Sentencing.](#)" *California Journal of Politics and Policy* Volume 7, Number 2 (May 2015).
- Chen, Elsa Y. "[In the Furtherance of Justice, Injustice, or Both? A Multilevel Analysis of Courtroom Context and the Implementation of Three Strikes.](#)" *Justice Quarterly* Volume 31, Number 2 (April 2014), p. 257-286.
- Chen, Elsa Y. "Three Strikes: Passage, Implementation, Evaluation, and Reform." Invited chapter in *Criminal Justice Policy*. Editors Stacy Mallicoat and Christine Gardiner. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications (2014).
- Chen, Elsa Y. "Three Strikes Legislation." *African Americans and the Criminal Justice System: An Encyclopedia*. Editors Delores D. Jones-Brown, Beverly D. Frazier, and Marvie Brooks. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press (2014).
- Chen, Elsa Y. "[All Punishment is Local: The Effects of Jurisdictional Context on Sentence Length.](#)" *Social Science Quarterly* Volume 94, Number 5 (December 2013), p. 1372-1397.

- Chen, Elsa Y. "Victim and Witness Intimidation." *Encyclopedia of Race and Crime*. Editors Helen Taylor Greene and Shaun L. Gabbidon. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications (2009).
- Chen, Elsa Y. "[Impacts of 'Three Strikes and You're Out' on Crime Trends in California and throughout the United States](#)." *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, Volume 24, Number 4 (November 2008), p. 345-370.
- Chen, Elsa Y. "[The Liberation Hypothesis and Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Application of California's Three Strikes Law](#)." *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*, Volume 6, Number 2 (Fall 2008), p. 83-102.
- Chen, Elsa Y. "[Cumulative Disadvantage and Racial and Ethnic Disparities in California Felony Sentencing](#)." Invited chapter in *Racial and Ethnic Politics in California, Vol. Three*. Editors Bruce Cain, Jaime Regalado, and Sandra Bass. Berkeley, CA: Institute of Governmental Studies Press (2008), p. 251-274.
- Chen, Elsa Y. Book Review of *Unjust Sentencing and the California Three Strikes Law* (2005) by Douglas W. Kieso. *Criminal Justice Review*, Volume 32, Number 4 (Dec. 2007), p. 459-461.
- Chen, Elsa Y. "[E-mail Concerns and Obstacles for Local Elected Officials](#)." *Journal of E-Government*, Volume 3, Number 3 (December 2006), p. 91-106.
- Chen, Elsa Y. "[Virtual Representatives: Local Elected Officials Online](#)." *Journal of E-Government*, Volume 2, Number 1 (November 2005), p. 55-78.
- Chen, Elsa Y. "You've Got Politics!" *STS Nexus*, Volume 4, Number 2 (Spring 2004), p. 6-12.
- Turner, Susan, Terry Fain, Peter W. Greenwood, and Elsa Y. Chen. "The Impact of 'Truth-in-Sentencing' and Three-Strikes Legislation on Prison Populations, State Budgets, and Crime Rates." *Stanford Law and Policy Review*, Volume 11, Number 1, Winter 1999, p. 75-83.

Works in Progress

- Wahmhoff, Joanna*, Saran Lageson, Elsa Y. Chen, and Ericka Adams. "Seeking State Recognition in Automated Policymaking: The Case of Clean Slate Criminal Record Expungement." Under review.
- Lewis, Raven*, Elsa Y. Chen, Sarah Lageson, and Ericka Adams. "'I Feel Sometimes People Look at You Differently': Formal and Informal, External and Internal Consequences of Misdemeanor Criminal Records." Under review.
- Chen, Elsa Y., Sarah Lageson, and Ericka Adams. "Algorithmic Justice: The Implementation of Automated Criminal Record Sealing."
- Chen, Elsa Y. "Effects of California's Three Strikes Reform on Racial and Ethnic Disparities."

Grants and Fellowships

“Impact and Awareness of Clean Slate Policy: A Longitudinal Multistate Investigation.” 2024 – 2026. \$424,881 from the Clean Slate Initiative. Principal Investigator with subcontracts to co-PIs Ericka Adams (San Jose State University) and Sarah Lageson (Northeastern University).

“The Impact of Automated Record Clearance on Individuals, Families, and Communities: A Qualitative Inquiry.” 2021 – 2024. \$441,093 from New Venture Fund, fiscal sponsor for the Clean Slate Initiative. Principal Investigator with subcontracts to co-PIs Ericka Adams (San Jose State University) and Sarah Lageson (Rutgers-Newark).

“Putting First-Year Students First: A Signature First-Year Experience at Santa Clara University.” 2018. Led a collaborative effort between Academic Affairs and Student Life and successfully secured \$640,000 from a private donor to support a new initiative for a Signature First-Year Experience, including (1) Institute for Teaching Excellence, (2) First-Year Seminars, (3) Comprehensive Enhanced First-Year Advising, and (4) First-Year Immersions & Excursions.

“RUI: Analysis of the Implementation and Effectiveness of Three Strikes Sentencing Reforms” (SES-1354490). National Science Foundation Law and Social Sciences Program (Social and Behavioral Sciences and Economics Directorate) with co-funding from the National Institute of Justice. July 2014 – September 2020 (\$184,979).

“WORKSHOP: Prisoner Reentry and Reintegration: Improving Data Collection and Methodology to Advance Theory and Knowledge” (SES-1535615). National Science Foundation Law and Social Sciences and Sociology Programs (Social and Behavioral Sciences and Economics Directorate) September 2015 – August 2020 (\$48,753). Co-PI with Johnna Christian (Rutgers University) and Andrea Leverentz (UMass). Organized a [two-day conference on Prisoner Reentry and Reintegration Research](#) on April 14-15, 2016.

“Determinants of Successful Desistance Associated with Criminal Record Expungement.” SCU Faculty/Student Research Assistant Program. June 2015 – June 2016 (\$1,000).

“The Impact of Criminal Record Clearance on Ex-Offenders and their Families.” SCU Faculty/Student Research Assistant Program. June 2014 – June 2015 (\$1,000).

“Implementation and Effects of Proposition 36 to Reform Three Strikes in California.” Grant to conduct preliminary research and develop a proposal for external funding. SCU Faculty Research Course Release Initiative. July 2013 – June 2015 (\$4,000).

“Public Policy and the Homelessness-Crime Nexus.” SCU Faculty/Student Research Assistant Program. June 2011 – June 2012 (\$1,050); June 2009 – June 2010 (\$1,050); July 2008 – June 2009 (\$1,050).

Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute. Criminal Justice Research Center, Ohio State University. July 2008. One of 8 scholars nationwide selected to participate in a 3-week intensive research and professional development program funded by National Science Foundation.

“In the Furtherance of Injustice? Prosecutorial Discretion and Sentencing Disparities in California Counties.” SCU Presidential Research Grant. March 2008 – June 2009 (\$3,892).

“Race, Ethnicity, and ‘Three Strikes’ in California.” Arthur Vining Davis Grant, Santa Clara University. July 2006 – June 2007 (\$3,265).

“Racial and Ethnic Disparities in California’s Criminal Justice System.” SCU Faculty/Student Research Assistant Program. July 2006 – June 2007 (\$1,750).

“Three Strikes: Crime and Offender Impacts” SCU Faculty/Student Research Assistant Program. July 2005 – June 2006 (\$1,000).

“You’ve Got Politics!” SCU Faculty/Student Research Assistant Program. July 2004 – June 2005 (\$1,000).

“DISCOVERing Public Sector Opportunities: Internships as Vocational Exploration.” DISCOVER Program, Santa Clara University. June 2004 – June 2006 (\$1,300).

“Research Support, Student of Color Mentoring, and Conference Attendance.” Center for Multicultural Learning, Santa Clara University. April 2004 – December 2005 (\$4,385).

“Assessing the Impacts of Three Strikes and You’re Out in California.” SCU Faculty/Student Research Assistant Program. July 2003 – June 2004 (\$1,000).

“E-mail and Politics Survey.” SCU Center for Science, Technology and Society. May 2002 – June 2003. (\$9,128).

“E-mail and Politics.” Thomas Terry Research Grant, Santa Clara University. March 2001 – June 2003. (\$4,880).

National Institute of Justice Graduate Research Fellowship. June 1998 – June 2000. (\$34,997).

Graduate Research Mentorship, UCLA Dept. of Political Science. September 1995 – June 1996.

UCLA Institute for Social Science Research Traineeship in Minority Politics. 1993 – 1995.

Woodrow Wilson Fellowship in Public Policy and International Affairs. June 1990 – June 1993. Summer institute, funding for summer internship, and full scholarship for Harvard MPP.

Selected Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award “in recognition of sustained and significant contributions and lifelong accomplishments in research on criminal justice reform and reentry, shaping policy changes, advancing diversity and inclusion... and dedicated service to the discipline of criminology and criminal justice,” American Society of Criminology, Division on People of Color and Crime, November 2024.

Public Intellectual Award, Santa Clara University College of Arts & Sciences, September 2024.

Best Seminar, 2025-26, 2023-24, 2022-23, 2013-14, 2012-13, 2011-12. Department of Political Science, Santa Clara University. Awarded by students of the Political Science Department.

Julius Debro Award for outstanding contributions in service to professional organizations, academic institutions, and/or the advancement of criminal justice. American Society of Criminology, Division on People of Color and Crime, November 2017.

David E. Logothetti Teaching Award, 2014-15. Highest teaching award in the College of Arts & Sciences, Santa Clara University.

Inclusive Excellence Award, 2012. Awarded by President and Provost of Santa Clara University for contributions to the University in the areas of diversity and inclusion.

President's Special Recognition Award, 2011. Awarded by President and Provost of Santa Clara University for Contributions to the University.

Faculty Award, Pan-Asian Graduation Ceremony (Santa Clara University Center for Multicultural Learning), June 2007. Chosen by Asian-Pacific-American students from the graduating class.

Best Professor, 2005 – 2006. Department of Political Science, Santa Clara University. Awarded by students of the Political Science Department.

Selected Conference Presentations

Chen, Elsa Y. “Algorithmic Justice: The Implementation of Automated Criminal Record Sealing.” Law and Society Association Meeting, San Francisco, CA, May 29, 2026.

Chen, Elsa Y. “Clean Slate Awareness and Notification: Findings from 9 States.” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC, November 12, 2025. Earlier version presented at Clean Slate Initiative annual convening, Chicago, IL, June 5, 2025.

Chen, Elsa Y. “Remediating Prosecutorial Racial Disparities - Data and Measurement Gaps in the California Racial Justice Act (RJA).” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC, November 12, 2025.

Chen, Elsa Y. and Elizabeth Lashley-Haynes. “Building a Case for RJA: 3 Strikes Sentencing & Resentencing.” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA November 2024.

Chen, Elsa Y., Sarah E. Lageson, and Ericka B. Adams. “This is Everyone’s Issue: A Strategic Framework for Successful Clean Slate Passage.” Clean Slate Initiative annual convening, Philadelphia, PA, June 13, 2024.

Chen, Elsa Y., Sarah E. Lageson, and Ericka B. Adams. “Online Recruitment for Qualitative Interviews of Justice-Involved People: Possibilities and Limits.” Western Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, February 10, 2024; Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, June 6, 2024.

Chen, Elsa Y., Ericka B. Adams, and Sarah E. Lageson. “Passage and Implementation of Automatic Criminal Record Expungement,” American Society of Criminology annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November 14, 2023.

- Adams, Ericka B., Elsa Y. Chen, and Sarah E. Lageson. "Criminal Record Expungement and Family Relationships," American Society of Criminology annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November 15, 2023.
- Chen, Elsa Y. "20 Years of the RDCJN – Looking Back." Racial Democracy, Crime & Justice Network Annual Workshop, Newark, NJ, July 13, 2023.
- Chen, Elsa Y., Ericka B. Adams, and Sarah E. Lageson. "Automated Record Expungement: Challenges and Opportunities." Law and Society Association meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 4, 2023.
- Rosenfeld, Richard, Elsa Chen, Ronald Day, and Christy Visser. "[The Limits of Recidivism: Measuring Success After Prison](#)." Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA, November 2022.
- Chen, Elsa Y., Ericka B. Adams, and Sarah E. Lageson. "The Impact of Automated Record Clearance on Individuals, Families, and Communities: A Qualitative Inquiry." Law and Society Association Global Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal, July 14, 2022. Also presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA, November 2022.
- Chen, Elsa Y., Emily Chung, and Emily Sands. "Effects of Reform on Racial Disparities in Three Strikes Sentencing." Western Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI, February 4, 2022.
- Chen, Elsa Y. "Mid-Career Considerations: Becoming a Full Professor – Now What?" Roundtable, American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2019.
- Chen, Elsa Y. "Author Meets Critics: Convicted and Condemned: The Politics and Policies of Prisoner Reentry (Critic)." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.
- Chen, Elsa Y. "Courtroom Dynamics and the Implementation of Three Strikes Reform." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 2016.
- Chen, Elsa Y. and Ericka Adams. "'I've risen up from the ashes that I created': Expungement and Female Offenders' Narratives of Desistance and Self-Reinvention." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 2015. Also presented at Prisoner Reentry and Reintegration Research Workshop, Newark, NJ, April 15, 2016.
- Chen, Elsa Y. "Discretion in the Implementation of Three Strikes Reform." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 2015.
- Adams, Ericka A. and Elsa Y. Chen. "Erasing the Mark of a Criminal Past: Ex-Offenders' Expectations and Experiences with Record Clearance." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2014.
- Chen, Elsa Y. and Rosella Chapman. "Proposition 36 to Reform 3 Strikes: The First Year." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2013.

Chen, Elsa Y. “Social Justice, Social Advocacy, and Academic Survival (one humble perspective).” Invited presentation at the Racial Democracy, Crime, and Justice Network Conference, Columbus, OH, July 2013.

Selected Invited Lectures and Presentations

“This is Everyone’s Issue: A Strategic Framework for Successful Clean Slate Passage.” Corporate Coalition of Chicago webinar, June 5, 2026.

“So You Think You Have an RJA Claim... What Next? Working with Experts to Ensure Success.” Capital Case Defense Seminar, San Diego, CA February 15, 2026.

“Peanut Butter Chocolate Cup: Navigating the Relationship Between Attorneys and Experts.” Northern California Racial Justice Act Convening, University of San Francisco School of Law, November 7, 2025.

“‘This is Everyone’s Issue’: The Role of Policy Entrepreneurs, Coalition Building, and Issue Framing in the Passage and Adoption of Automatic Criminal Record Expungement.” Clean Slate Initiative webinar, October 14, 2025.

“Recruiting Research Participants Directly Impacted by the Legal System” (co-presented with Sarah Lageson and Ericka Adams). Clean Slate Initiative webinar, August 7, 2025.

“Data-Based RJA for Trial Attorneys” (co-presenter with Elizabeth Lashley-Haines, Deputy Public Defender, Los Angeles County). Santa Clara Law Racial Justice Act Symposium, March 1, 2024.

The Urgency of Now: Mass Incarceration roundtable. Santa Clara University Center for Arts and Humanities. February 7, 2024.

“National Academies Report on Recidivism.” Charting a Course Toward Social Justice in Corrections Symposium. George Mason University Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence. May 6, 2022.

“The Limits of Recidivism: Measuring Success After Prison” report release webinar. National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Management. April 28, 2022. Also presented in a briefing to National Network for Victim Recovery, Washington, D.C., July 21, 2022; National Institute of Justice, August 25, 2022.

Racial and Ethnic Sentencing Disparities in California (panelist). Voice of San Diego Politifest 2021: Law and Justice, October 19, 2021.

“Others as Allies for Black Women in Higher Education.” *The Circle* (YouTube talk show). November 7, 2020.

“What Matters to Me, and Why?” Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education, Santa Clara University, May 25, 2014.

“Discretion and De-incarceration: Early Implementation of Three Strikes Reform in California.” Lecture and workshop at Santa Clara University School of Law, April 2, 2014.

Radio program on Proposition 36. “A Meeting of the Ways,” KKUP public radio, Cupertino, CA, October 14, 2012.

Expert testimony in favor of Proposition 36 to Amend Three Strikes. California Senate Committee on Public Safety and Assembly Committee on Public Safety Joint Informational Hearing on “Proposition 36: Three Strikes Law. Repeat Felony Offenders. Penalties.” Sacramento, CA, September 19, 2012.

Op-Ed Publications

Elsa Y. Chen. “[Trump’s mug shot was undoubtedly entertaining. But here’s why it’s a problem.](#)” *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 28, 2023.

Elsa Chen, Richard Rosenfeld, and Ronald Day. “[Recidivism isn’t the only measure of progress after incarceration.](#)” *The Hill*, July 7, 2022.

Professional Activities and Service

Leadership and Appointed Roles in Professional Organizations

- [National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine](#)
 - Appointed Member, [Committee on Law and Justice](#) (2024 – present)
 - Appointed Member, [Committee on Evaluating the Success Among People Released from Prison](#) (2021 – 2022)
- [Race and Justice: An International Journal](#)
 - Editorial Board (2024 – present)
 - Editor selection committee (2023)
- [Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network](#)
 - Steering Committee (2023 – present)
 - Chair, Summer Research Institute selection committee (2024, 2025)
 - Program Committee (2012 – 2015)
- American Society of Criminology
 - Executive Board (elected) (2017 – 2020)
 - Herbert Bloch Award Committee (2025)
 - Michael Hindelang Book Award Committee (2021 – 2023)
 - Edwin Sutherland Award Committee (2014, 2020)
 - Member (appointed), National Policy Committee (2015 – 2018)
- United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs Science Advisory Board, Appointed Member (2015 – 2019)
- Division on People of Color and Crime, American Society of Criminology
 - Co-Chair (2013 – 2017. Elected 2013, re-elected 2015)
 - Executive Council (2007 – 2010, 2012 – 2013)
- Asian Pacific Council on Democracy Advisory Board (2004 – 2008). Co-organizer, “Rethinking Freedom and Democracy in a Rapidly Changing World” conference, Santa Clara, CA, October 2004. Panel chair, “Transnational Forces and Democracy in Asia” and panel discussant, “Freedom and Democracy in Action in Asia”

Membership in Professional Organizations

Current

- American Society of Criminology
- Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network
- Law & Society Association

Past

- Western Society of Criminology
- American Political Science Association
- Midwest Political Science Association
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
- Society for Political Methodology
- Justice Research and Statistics Association
- Western Political Science Association

Journal Manuscript and Grant Proposal reviews

- *Criminology & Public Policy*
- NYU Press, (1) edited volume book chapters; (2) full book manuscript (356 pp), (3) book proposal and multiple chapters
- *Law & Social Inquiry*
- *Crime & Delinquency*
- *Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy*
- *Deviant Behavior*
- *Punishment and Society*
- *Criminal Justice Policy Review*
- *Criminology*
- Technical reviewer, U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice
- *Race and Justice: An International Journal*
- *American Journal of Criminal Justice*
- *Justice Quarterly*
- *The Social Science Journal*
- National Science Foundation, Law and Social Science Program, proposal review
- *California Journal of Politics and Policy*
- *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*
- *American Political Science Review*
- *State and Local Government Review*
- *AAPI Nexus: Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders, Policy, Practice and Community*
- *American Politics Research*

External Tenure and/or Promotion Reviews

- UC Berkeley, Goldman School of Public Policy
- Howard University, Department of Political Science
- Northeastern University, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
- University of Tennessee – Chattanooga, Dept. of Social, Cultural, and Justice Studies
- University of Denver, Department of Sociology x2.

University Service

- Santa Clara University Faculty Senate, elected at-large representative, 2025 – present
- Coordinator, SCU Faculty Women of Color Network, 2012 – 2016; 2025 – present
- University Rank & Tenure Committee, 2020-23

- Member, Search Committee for Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, 2020-21
- Co-Chair, COVID Resilience & Recovery Working Group on Teaching & Learning, 2020-21
- Member, Infectious Disease Task Force, 2020
- Chair, Search Committee – Executive Director, Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship, 2020
- Chair, Campus Climate Follow-up Team, 2019; Co-Chair, Campus Climate Survey Committee, 2018-19
- Chair, Search Committee – Executive Director, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics. 2018
- Chair, Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion, 2017
- Member, President's Blue-Ribbon Commission on Diversity and Inclusion, 2016
- Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education Steering Committee, 2016 – 2017
- Markkula Center for Applied Ethics Faculty Scholar, 2003 – present
- College of Arts & Sciences, Rank & Tenure Committee, June 2012 – June 2015; Chair, 2014-15
- Academic Affairs University Policy Committee, January 2011 – 2013; Chair 2011-12
- Provost's Advisory Committee on Diversity, Retention, and Success, 2013-14
- Provost's Advisory Committee on Global Engagement, 2012 – 13
- Faculty Keynote Speaker, Pan-Asian Graduation Ceremony, SCU, June 2012
- Faculty/Staff Immersion trip to El Salvador, Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education, 2010
- Western Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education, Seattle, WA, 2010

Department Service

- Chair, Search Committee in American Politics (Racial and Ethnic Politics), Fall 2022
- Director, Public Sector Studies Program, 2000 – 2016
- Research/Quantitative Methods Task Force, 2010 – 2016
- Promotion and evaluation committees for faculty colleagues (tenure-track and lecturers) in Political Science and Liberal Studies, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2023, 2024
- Program Review, 2015 – 2017. Research Methods and Public Sector committees
- Search committees: American Political Institutions (2-year lecturer, 2004; Tenure-track, 2005), Applied Quantitative Methods (2-year lecturer, 2007; Tenure-track, 2008), American Political Institutions (one-year lecturer, 2013 and 2014; Tenure Track, 2014), State and Local Politics (Tenure Track, 2020-21)
- Amos Dana Award for Public Service, committee chair, 2004 – 2016; member, 2021
- Panetta Congressional Internship, selection committee chair and liaison between SCU and Leon & Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy, 2001 – 2016
- Kronick Student Research Award, selection committee, 2005, 2007 – 2008, 2010 – 2016, 2021, 2022

Additional Service to the Discipline, Profession, and Community

- California Racial Justice Act expert consultant, 2021 – present
 - Consultation on RJA cases for San Francisco, Santa Clara, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties and Office of the CA State Public Defender
 - Member, RJA Data & Research Consortium
- Provided data analysis to assist with *Amicus Curiae* on Three Strikes resentencing case by the Office of the State Public Defender in Support of Petitioner before California Supreme Court, November 2020
- [Crime & Justice Research Alliance](#) expert, 2016 – present
- External reviewer, Department of Political Science, Gonzaga University, 2020 – 2021
- Mission Examen External Review Team member, Saint Louis University, 2019

- Steering Committee (elected), Santa Clara County Collaborative on Housing and Homeless Issues, 2009 – 2011
- Discharge Planning Committee, Santa Clara County Collaborative on Housing and Homeless Issues, 2009 – 2011
- Santa Clara Police Department, Citizens' Police Academy, September – December 2009