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Katherine Porter

Faculty

Professor Porter specializes in commercial and consumer law, including bankruptcy, mortgage foreclosure, and credit cards. Her research focuses on empirical studies of consumer bankruptcy and has been published in journals including the *Texas Law Review*, the *Georgetown Law Journal*, the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal*, and the *Cornell Law Review*.

She is a principal investigator in the 2007 Consumer Bankruptcy Project, a fellow of the Bankruptcy Data Project at Harvard, and a member of the World Bank Insolvency and Creditor/Debtor Regimes Task Force Working Group on Natural Persons' Insolvency. She is a frequent speaker at judicial education and continuing legal education programs.

She blogs about credit and debt issues at www.creditslips.org.

Professor Porter previously was on the faculty at the University of Iowa College of Law and has been a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, UC Berkeley Law, the University of Illinois College of Law, and the UNLV Boyd School of Law. She practiced bankruptcy law in Portland, Oregon, and clerked for the Honorable Richard S. Arnold of the Eighth Circuit. She earned her J.D. from Harvard Law School and her B.A. from Yale University.

Expertise: Bankruptcy, commercial law, consumer law, mortgages, credit and debit cards, empirical studies of legal systems

Prior Courses Taught: Consumer Bankruptcy Seminar, Consumer Law, Secured Transactions, Bankruptcy, Credit Cards

In the News

- The Orange County Register Opinion piece: "[Mortgage settlement needs teeth](#)"
- The New York Times: Prof. Porter tells NY Times mortgage settlement not enough
- Marketplace: Prof. Porter on public radio discusses impact of \$25 billion mortgage settlement
- American Bankruptcy Institute: Prof. Porter talks about *Broke*, her new book on bankruptcy
- The Boston Phoenix: Prof. Porter's new bankruptcy book has chapter by Warren
- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Prof. Porter on failure to help homeowners in mortgage crisis
- Herald-Tribune: Prof. Porter weighs in on new mortgage relief program
- The New York Times Magazine: Prof. Porter: Candidate Warren known for mild temperament
- Washington Examiner: Prof. Porter supports Massachusetts Senate bid by Elizabeth Warren
- Financial Times: Prof. Porter on mortgage banks waiving liabilities (PDF)
- Jacksonville Daily News/Associated Press: Prof. Porter: Banks don't need original documents to foreclose
- U.S. Senate Webcast: Prof. Porter appears in Senate today to testify on consumers
- NPR/Associated Press: Prof. Porter on 'robo-signings' practice in mortgage industry
- Marketplace/NPR: Prof. Porter on interim consumer protection chief Elizabeth Warren
- USA Today: Prof. Porter comments on new rules for mortgage servicers
- The National Law Journal: "[UC Irvine reaches into the Ivy League for new hires](#)"



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> Recent Publications

- Book: *Broke: How Debt Bankrupts the Middle Class* (editor; Stanford University Press, 2012)
- The Orange County Register Opinion: "Mortgage settlement needs teeth"
- Book chapter: "Risk Allocation in Homeownership: Revisiting the Role of Mortgage Contract Terms" (with Tara Twomey), in *Shared Responsibility, Shared Risk*, Jacob Hacker and Ann O'Leary (Eds.), (Oxford University Press, 2011)