



Erez Aloni

Assistant Professor

Born and raised in Israel, Erez Aloni found himself still drawn to academia after completing law school and a clerkship in his native country. He decided to pursue graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania, where he completed his LLM and SJD degrees, focusing on family law. He has since held a post-doctoral fellowship at Columbia Law School and the Center for Reproductive Rights and, most recently, a tenure-track position at Whittier Law School in California. He is very much looking forward to putting down roots in Vancouver at the Allard School of Law.

It's clear that Aloni is excited about the possibilities of his new post. As a passionate and innovative teacher who focuses on active learning—"I don't do my students any service by just lecturing!"—he is thrilled about working with the notable talent at Allard Hall, where he'll be teaching Contracts, and Sexuality and the Law. The Allard School of Law and UBC offer an ideal setting for his research agenda.

"Both will allow for exciting interdisciplinary work," he says enthusiastically. "Family law draws from work in a great variety of fields: demography, sociology, psychology—to mention only a few. And UBC is ideal for interdisciplinary collaborations. Also, family law is impacted by many different sets of rules: tax, property, contracts, etc.—so, I will also learn from the expertise of my colleagues in these different fields of law."

Moving away from family law's traditional, nearly exclusive focus on the formation and dissolution of marriages, Aloni's research explores the law's various impacts on families. In particular, he is interested in instances in which the law recognizes relationships without a person's consent, as when the state does so to terminate such benefits as needs-based assistance or spousal support. He calls this dark side of relationship recognition "deprivative recognition."

Aloni's work also looks critically at the menu of options for legal recognition of relationships beyond "married" and "not married." While more options would seem a positive thing to most people, Aloni's guiding question is: "Who benefits from more choice?" A differently constructed menu of options may better support fair distribution of resources between a couple, he suggests. This idea that choice is not always beneficial to the economically weaker party brought him recently to explore another area, far from his regular academic interest: the "sharing" economy. "It may sound great to have more choices like Uber, Lyft, or Airbnb—and, indeed, sometimes it's wonderful—but it can also be detrimental to the workers of this industry, or to incumbents."

Drawn to the active West Coast lifestyle while in California, Aloni is looking forward to settling into Vancouver and exploring the city's many outdoor activities and cultural opportunities—including, not least, its culinary offerings. Above all, he's delighted with the chance to do so while at an academic institution that provides an exceptional home for his research and teaching interests.