

JOYCE SADKA

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Current Position

Assistant Professor and Researcher, ITAM.

I have been affiliated to the Centro de Investigación Económica and the Department of Economics at ITAM since 1998. Since 2009 I am affiliated to the Centro de Investigación Económica as well as to the Departments of Economics and Law.

Education

Ph.D., Economics, Rice University, May 1998.

Juris Doctor, George Mason University, July 2001.

Master's in Economics, Rice University, May 1996.

Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, American University of Beirut, May 1991.

Work Experience

Post-doctoral researcher and fellow, George Mason University, August 1996 – May 1998, January – December 1999.

Professor and Researcher, ITAM, August - December 1998, January 2000 to date.

Courses taught: *Introductory Microeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, Economic Analysis of Law, Economics of Regulation, Game Theory, Bargaining and Litigation Research Seminar.*

Visiting Professor, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, August 2008 – June 2009.
Taught *Principles of Microeconomics* in the Bachelor's in Commerce degree program.

Visiting Professor, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, July – December 2013.

Co-director, Master's in Economics Theory and Doctorate in Economics, ITAM, April 2007 to date.

Distinctions

Presidential Fellowship, Rice University, 1992 – 1996.

Levy Fellowship in Law and Liberty, George Mason University, 1996 – 1999.

Microsoft Research Award for Scholarship in Law and Economics, 2008, based on the paper “Enforceability of Labor Law: Evidence from a Labor Court in Mexico”.

Victor L. Urquidi Prize, First Place, 2008, given by the Centro de Estudios Económicos, Colegio de México, for the paper “Enforceability of Labor Law: Evidence from a Labor Court in Mexico”.

Research

Main areas of interest: Applied Microeconomic Theory, Economic Analysis of Law, Industrial Organization, Applied Game Theory, Regulation, International Commercial Law and Regulation

Publications

Sadka, Joyce and Kei-Mu Yi. “Consumer Durables, Permanent Terms of Trade Shocks, and the Recent U.S. Trade Deficits,” *Journal of International Money and Finance*, 15(5): 797-811, October 1996.

Sadka, Joyce and Tapen Sinha. “Is NAFTA the Trojan Horse of the US Insurance Industry?” *International Insurance Law Journal*, pp. 285-319, Summer 2001.

Condon, Bradley, Joyce Sadka and Tapen Sinha. *Insurance Regulation in North America: Integrating American, Canadian and Mexican Markets*, Global Trade and Finance Series, Vol. 5, Kluwer Law International, 2003, ISBN 90-411-2226-5.

Kaplan, David, Joyce Sadka and Jorge Luis Silva-Mendez. “Litigation and Settlement: New Evidence from Labor Courts in Mexico”, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, 5(2): 309-350, May 2008.

Kaplan, David and Joyce Sadka. “Enforceability of Labor Law: Evidence from a Labor Court in Mexico”, *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper* No. 4483, 2008.

Gotthard, Alexander, David S. Kaplan y Joyce Sadka. “The Effects of Exaggeration in Labor Lawsuits in Mexico”, chapter in *Teoría de Juegos y Derecho Contemporáneo*, David Enriquez, editor, Porrúa, Mexico, 2009, pp. 315-337.

Kaplan, David and Joyce Sadka. "The Plaintiff's Role in Enforcing a Court Ruling: Evidence from a Labor Court in Mexico", *Inter-American Development Bank Working Paper Series*, December 2010.

Databases

Since 2005 I have headed several projects to collect data from labor litigation case files in Mexico. At present, the following data sets are complete:

- Random sample of 3000 case files from 1991 – 1999, from the Federal Labor Courts, covering the following manufacturing industries: Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals, Auto Manufacturing and Auto Parts, Rubber, Sugar, and Textile.
- Random sample of 2500 case files from 1994 – 1996 from the Federal Labor Courts, covering lawsuits against the Mexican Social Security Institute in relation to disability.
- 1500 case files from 1988 – 1997 covering all case files of lawsuits against the Federal Education Ministry, from the archives of the Federal Tribunal dealing with labor lawsuits of public sector employees.
- 15,000 case files from the Local Labor Court of Mexico State, covering all cases filed during 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

Currently work continues on the following data sets:

- Case files from the Local Labor Court of Mexico State, covering all cases filed during 2006.
- Case files and draft decisions of the Local Labor Court of Mexico State, from current litigation beginning after September 2011.

It is important to note that these data were coded from paper case files at the archives of each court, with access granted under the Mexican Law for Transparency and Access to Public and Governmental Information, in accordance with confidentiality agreements stipulated by this Law.

Current grants

During 2012 I won two grants (International Development Research Center, Canada, and Fundacion Dondé, Mexico), to conduct randomized field experiments in Mexico:

- Two experiments are currently in the process of conclusion in the Local Labor Court of Mexico State, with interventions in the notification stage of lawsuits as well as at the stage of first draft decision for cases litigated to court. Both experiments test the effects of low cost monitoring policies over the performance of low to middle level bureaucrats, as well as the effects on case outcomes and payments exchanged in firing lawsuits, of the improvement to the quality of legal services provided by the court.
- One experiment carried out in 6 branches of a large pawn shop company has concluded. The experiment's main aim was to test the effects of randomly altering the frequency of payments on loan performance, and linking results to self-control

or more general control problems, as well as attempting to measure self-control with sophistication as opposed to naiveté.

Selected working papers

Negrín, Jose Luis and Joyce Sadka, “The Interchange Fee Transmission to Merchant Discount Rates with Closed Transactions. Evidence from Mexico”, March 2010.

Emmanuel García-Morales, David Kaplan, and Joyce Sadka, “Endogenous Asymmetric Stakes in Litigation: The Effects of the Mexican Social Security Authority as Co-Defendant”, September 2011.

David S. Kaplan, Joyce Sadka, and Jorge Luis Silva-Mendez, “Monitoring and Notification: Evidence from a Field Experiment in a Mexican Labor Court”, May 2014.

Lorenzo Aldeco Leo, David S. Kaplan, and Joyce Sadka: “Delay and Corruption: a simple model with empirical tests”, January 2014.

David S. Kaplan, Joyce Sadka, and Jorge Luis Silva-Mendez, “Improving Courts’ Initial Decisions: An Experiment in a Mexican Labor Court”, May 2014.

Presentations

Stanford Law School, Palo Alto, USA, February 2006: “Litigation and Settlement: New Evidence from Labor Courts in Mexico”.

American Law and Economics Association Meetings, Berkeley, USA, May 2006: “Litigation and Settlement: New Evidence from Labor Courts in Mexico”.

Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, Mexico City, Mexico, October 2006: “An Empirical Analysis of Labor Courts in Mexico”.

Latin American and Caribbean Economics Association Meetings, Mexico City, Mexico, November 2006: “Litigation and Settlement: New Evidence from Labor Courts in Mexico”.

Empirical Legal Studies Meetings, Berlin, Germany, July 2007: “Litigation and Settlement: New Evidence from Labor Courts in Mexico”.

Law and Society Meetings, Berlin, Germany, July 2007: “Costs of Collection and Lawsuit Outcomes”.

American Law and Economics Association Meetings, New York, USA, May 2008: “Enforceability of Labor Law: Evidence from a Labor Court in Mexico”.

University of Melbourne Microeconomics Seminar Series, Melbourne, Australia, March 2009: “Enforceability of Labor Law: Evidence from a Labor Court in Mexico”.

Monash University Microeconomics Workshop, Melbourne, Australia, May 2009: “The Effects of Migration and Remittances on Years of Schooling”.

Colloquim Sobre Organización Industrial y Competencia Económica, Monterrey, Mexico, March 2010, “The Interchange Fee Transmission to Merchant Discount Rates with Closed Transactions. Evidence from Mexico”.

American Law and Economic Association Meetings, Princeton, USA, May 2010: “The Plaintiff’s Role in Enforcing a Court Ruling: Evidence from a Labor Court in Mexico.”

Cornell/Michigan conference on Enforcement, Evasion and Informality: Theory and Practice, Ann Arbor, USA, June 2010: “The Plaintiff’s Role in Enforcing a Court Ruling: Evidence from a Labor Court in Mexico.”

XX Coloquio Mexicano de Economía Matemática y Econometría, Guanajuato, Mexico, September 2010: “The Plaintiff’s Role in Enforcing a Court Ruling: Evidence from a Labor Court in Mexico.”

6th IZA-World Bank Conference on Development and Employment, Mexico City, Mexico, May 2011: “Empirical Legal Research in Mexico.”

Latin American Meeting of the Econometric Society, Lima, Peru, November 2012: “Endogenous Asymmetric Stakes in Litigation: The Effects of the Mexican Social Security Authority as Co-Defendant”.

American Law and Economics Association Meetings, Vanderbilt, May 2013: “Monitoring and Notification: Evidence from a Field Experiment in a Mexican Labor Court”.

Microeconomics Seminar series, Monash University, August 2013: “Monitoring and Notification: Evidence from a Field Experiment in a Mexican Labor Court”.

Behavioral and Experimental Theory Workshop series, Monash University, October 2013: “The impact of frequency of payments on micro-loan performance: Evidence from a field experiment in pawn shops.”

Personal Information

Nationalities: Australian, Lebanese

Date of birth: December 31, 1970.

Languages: English (native), Arabic (native), Spanish (fluent).

Family Status: Married, two children.