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# **EDUCATION**

# Howard University School of Law, Washington, DC

J.D., Cum Laude, May 1997

Academic: Class Rank: 1 / 118

G.P.A.: 92.98 / 100

Honors: Articles Editor, Howard Law Journal Recipient, Merit Scholarship

National Moot Court Team Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity

# University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

B.A., Mathematics (Distinguished Majors Program) and Spanish, May 1994

Academic: G.P.A.: 3.748 / 4.0

Class Rank: 93 / 1953

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa Key Jerome Holland Scholars Program

Echols Scholars Honors Program Dean's List (1990—1994)

#### TEACHING INTERESTS

Wills and Trusts (Law 650) Professional Responsibility (Law 620) Lawyering Process I (Law 900) Lawyering Process II (Law 930) Writing Advisors Seminar

#### HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Houston, TX (2008—present)

**Professor of Law** (present); Tenured Associate Professor of Law (2014—2016); Associate Professor of Law (2012—2014); Assistant Professor of Law (2008—2011)

# Executive Leadership Team (2017—present)

- Appointed by University President to three-member Executive Leadership Team, which includes new Acting Dean.
- Assisted with administration of the law school and new Acting Dean's transition to law school environment, rules and policies.
- Attended strategy meetings regarding the law school's administration, curriculum, and accreditation.
- Assessed the law school's readiness for the ABA's fact-finding visit and identified needed documentation for visit.
- Attended a meeting with ABA officials in Chicago regarding accreditation matters.
- Reviewed course syllabi and examinations for compliance with law school's requirements.
- Organized law school's remedial plan in conjunction with key faculty committees and staff members.
- Developed protocols for complying with ABA directives in a timely and comprehensive manner.
- Identified and assessed law school's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities as part of ongoing selfstudy.

### **Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development** (2015—present)

- Played leadership role in preparing legal writing and academic portions of ABA and AALS Self-Study documents.
- Spearhead new faculty series with professors in other university departments to promote interdisciplinary research collaborations and facilitate regular exchange.
- Created new faculty research exchange and networking group with law schools at historically black
  institutions, including Howard University School of Law, University of the District of Columbia
  David A. Clarke School of Law, North Carolina Central University School of Law, Florida A&M
  University School of Law, Southern University Law Center, and Thurgood Marshall School of Law.
- Manage regional faculty research and scholarship exchange with Texas A&M's Law School, St.
  Mary's Law, Texas Tech, University of Memphis Humphries School of Law, Southern Law Center,
  University of Arkansas William S. Bowen School of Law (Little Rock, Arkansas), and University of
  Arkansas School of Law (Fayetteville, Arkansas).
- Manage local faculty research and scholarship exchange with South Texas College of Law and oneto-one faculty exchange with Concordia School of Law (Boise, Idaho).
- Hold programs to support faculty scholarship and offer seminars on the writing and submission process and opportunities to moot works-in-progress.
- Identify guest speakers for law school's *Scholars-in-Residence Program* to deliver faculty talks, student-focused programming, and opportunities to co-teach with faculty in core courses.
- Broaden faculty series programming to address student wellness, teaching, bar passage, and research support.
- Provide strategic counsel to faculty organizing scholarly colloquia and conferences.
- Administer summer faculty research stipend program.
- Apprise and counsel faculty of external opportunities to present research and to enhance teaching.
- Compile faculty news for monthly school newsletter.
- Liaise with external organizations (e.g., ABA Assistant/Associate Deans Listsery, SEALS).
- Collaborate with law school units, student organizations, and faculty committees to better integrate faculty's teaching and research and to expose students to external scholars and diverse styles of teaching

# **Director of the Legal Writing Program** (2008—2015)

- Developed innovative and effective legal writing curriculum focusing on practice-oriented legal analysis, legal research, legal writing, and clinical skills.
- Designed and incorporated multiple and varied formative assessment measures into curriculum.
- Created new legal writing fellows program in which second-year and third-year law students assist first-year students with legal methods, analysis, and writing skills.
- Founded law school's writing center that serves as resource for first-year law students on legal analysis and writing matters.
- Trained, supervised, and managed new and tenure-track legal writing faculty regarding course curriculum and effective teaching methods.
- Organized and implemented legal writing program assessment projects with assessment director.
- Taught weekly writing fellows seminar and supervise students who serve as writing fellows.
- Established legal writing program budget for academic year and prepare reports and descriptions for inclusion in law school strategic plans, accreditation reports, and self studies.

# UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles, CA (2004—2008)

# Lecturer in Law, Lawyering Skills.

- Taught legal research, analysis, writing, and advocacy to first year students.
- Also taught other legal skills including statutory interpretation, fact development, interviewing, and client counseling.
- Critiqued and edited students' written work and provided substantial written comments to such work.
- Met with students individually regarding research, written work, exam writing skills, and other academic and career matters.
- Organized and supervised mock oral arguments and mock trial.
- Supervised lawyering skills writing advisors and taught such writing advisors research and writing skills and other techniques to assist first year students with their written work and understanding of legal analysis.
- Assisted fellow law professor with Community Economic Development course and edit students' written work.
- Supervised and monitored legal work and experience of student externs placed in federal and state criminal law departments.

# California School of Law, Santa Barbara, CA (2006) Online Faculty.

- Developed online curriculum and taught online legal analysis and writing class using Ventrilo software system which created a virtual classroom for teaching and interacting with students.
- Critiqued students' work and provided comprehensive instruction in writing and professionalism.

#### LEGAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

# **Baker Botts, L.L.P.**, Houston, TX (1999—2004)

# Associate, ERISA/Employee Benefits Section.

- Drafted qualified retirement plans, welfare plans, incentive compensation plans, executive arrangements, and employment agreements.
- Advised clients regarding employee benefit matters in connection with corporate mergers and acquisitions.
- Prepared filings with the IRS and DOL, including IRS determination letters requests.
- Conducted research on issues arising under ERISA, including fiduciary duties, HIPAA, COBRA, and other laws affecting employee benefits.
- Prepared dispositive and discovery motions for ERISA litigation.

# United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston, TX (1997—1999) Law Clerk for the Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore.

- Researched and drafted orders for dispositive motions in civil lawsuits, prisoner civil rights litigation, federal and state habeas corpus petitions, and criminal cases, including novel issues of federal law.
- Reviewed and prepared orders for social security appeals.
- Prepared jury instructions and for hearings and trials.

#### **SCHOLARSHIP**

# **BOOK, ARTICLES AND ESSAYS**

LEGAL ANALYSIS: 100 EXERCISES FOR MASTERY and TEACHER'S MANUAL (co-author) (LexisNexis Matthew Bender) (July 2017) (2nd ed.)

LEGAL ANALYSIS: 100 EXERCISES FOR MASTERY and TEACHER'S MANUAL (co-author) (LexisNexis Matthew Bender) (March 2012) (1st ed.)

ALWD CITATION COMPANION and TEACHER'S MANUAL (contributing scholar to online exercises) (Wolters Kluwer) (June 2014)

The Elephant in the Law School Assessment Room: The Role of Student Responsibility and Motivating Our Students to Learn, 56 HOWARD L.J. 101 (2013)

Peer Editing: A Comprehensive Approach to Maximize Assessment Opportunities, Integrate Collaborative Learning, and Achieve Desired Outcomes, 13 Nevada L.J. 101 (Spring 2011)

*Now I See: Redefining the Post-Grade Conference as Process and Substance Assessment*, 54 Howard L.J. 1 (Fall 2010) (co-author) (lead article)

Collaboration Training With an Eye toward Outcomes and Assessment, The Second Draft, Legal Writing Institute (Fall 2010)

All Hands on Deck: Maximizing Existing Resources to Improve Students' Basic Writing Skills, AALS Section on Teaching Methods Newsletter (2010-2011)

Psychology of Hope: Legal Educators Must Strengthen Students' "Waypower" to Succeed, The Learning Curve, AALS Section on Academic Support (Spring 2012) (forthcoming article)

#### > PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

Leveraging Faculty Collaborations and Partnerships with Practitioners to Develop Meaningful Program Assessment, 4th Annual Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers (ETL) Conference in Denver, Colorado (with Docia Rudley) (November 2015)

Using Data to Reform the Curriculum, Law School Survey of Student Engagement (LSSSE) Symposium, St. Louis University School of Law (November 2014) (Co-panelists include Barry Currier (Managing Director of the ABA), Catherine Carpenter (Southwestern Law School and ABA Standards Review Committee member) and Bryant Garth (UC Irvine School of Law and LSSSE Advisory Board Chair))

The Elephant in the Law School Assessment Room: The Role of Student Responsibility and Motivating Our Students to Learn, University of Arkansas Little Rock Bowen School of Law, Scholarly Faculty Exchange Program with Thurgood Marshall School of Law, March 2013

The Scholarly Way: Understanding Publication Expectations for Legal Writing Faculty; Publishing Everything from Shorter Pieces to Articles to Books; and Finding Time to Publish, Texas Wesleyan

School of Law Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop (co-presenter), December 2012

Using Foundational Outcomes and Outcomes Assessment for First Year Law Students: Identifying Outcomes, Developing Formative Assessment Tools, and Engaging in Programmatic Assessment, Albany Law School Center for Learning and Teaching (CELT), Inaugural Conference (Conference Title: Setting and Assessing Learning Objectives from Day One), March 2012

LRW Staffing Models and Status Issues, Junior Faculty Development Workshop, Sixteenth Annual LatCrit Conference, October 2011

The Bottom Drawer: Exploring Scholarship Topics, Association of Legal Writing Directors Biennial Conference, Pacific McGeorge School of Law (co-presenter), June 2011

Using Outcomes Assessment to Develop and Measure Students' Acquisition of Fundamental Lawyering Skills, Institute for Law Teaching and Learning, New York Law School (co-presenter), June 2011

Making It All Work—A Three-Pronged Approach to Law School Assessment, Thurgood Marshall School of Law's Research Week Faculty Presentations (co-presenter), April 2011

Peer Editing: A Comprehensive Approach to Maximize Assessment Opportunities, Integrate Collaborative Learning, and Achieve Desired Outcomes, American University Washington College of Law's How Legal Rhetoric Shapes the Law: Pedagogy, Theory, Practice Colloquium, October 2010

Critical Approaches to Law School Teaching: A Methodology to Reach All Students (and Maintain Our Sanity) in an Outcomes and Assessment Based Era, Third National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, Seton Hall University School of Law (presenter and panel moderator), September 2010

Sharing What Works: Enhancing Our Teaching Through Technology, Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference (co-presenter), June 2010

Legal Writing Seminar, Houston Bar Association, Minority Opportunities in the Legal Profession, April 2010

Now I See: Redefining the Post-Grade Conference as Process and Substance Assessment, Texas Southern University's Research Week Faculty Presentations (co-presenter), April 2010

Writing Collaboration—Getting Going as Scholarly Writers, Thurgood Marshall School of Law's Research Week Faculty Presentations (co-presenter), April 2010

Now I See: The Post-Grade Conference as a Positive Strategy Session, Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference (co-presenter), March 2010

#### SELECT UNIVERSITY/LAW SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS AND SERVICE

- Recipient, University President's Award for Academic Programs and Research (2018)
- Chair, Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference hosted by Law School (2014)
- University Faculty Senate Member, Law School Representative (2010—2015)
- Chair, Law School Budget and Priorities Committee (2015—2016)
- Law School Faculty Appointments Committee and Key Interview Team Member for Law School (2009—present)

- Law School Strategic Planning Committee (2012—present)
- University Search Committee Member for University Associate Vice Provost for Research (2013)
- Recipient, First Place Award for TSU Faculty Oral Presentation, *Now I See: Redefining the Post-Grade Conference as Process and Substance Assessment*, University Research Week (2010)
- Appointed writing coach for junior law school faculty

#### OTHER PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITIONS AND SERVICE

- Chair (2017—present) and Invited Member (2016), American Bar Association Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar Conferences and Programming Committee
- Invited American Bar Association Law School Accreditation Site Team Member (March 2015)
- Board of Directors, Legal Writing Institute (LWI), First Elected African-American Board Member (2014—present)
- Managing Editor (and Editorial Board Member), LWI's Monograph Series (2012—2016)
- Invited Keynote Speaker on Assessment, North Carolina and South Carolina Legal Writing Colloquium, North Carolina Central University School of Law, *Assessment-Driven Collaboration Inside and Outside the Classroom* (May 2011)
- Invited Speaker on Assessment, Law School Survey of Student Engagement (LSSSE), (November 2014)

#### SELECT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

- Houston Texans YMCA, Board of Directors (2011—present)
- Wesley Foundation Community Center, Board of Directors (2000—2003)
- Houston READ Commission, Mayoral Appointment (2002—2004)

**BAR ADMISSIONS:** Texas State Bar (admitted in 1997); District of Columbia Bar (admitted in 2004); New York State Bar (admitted in 2007)