

Kayonia L. Whetstone

LEGAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

St. John's University School of Law, Queens, NY

Assistant Professor of Legal Writing, July 2018 to August 2020

Teaching Interests: Legal Writing and Research, Wrongful Convictions, Criminal Law & Procedure, Evidence, Lawyering Skills, Race and Gender in the Law, Constitutional Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Appellate Advocacy

Courses Taught: Legal Writing I & II

- Taught full-year legal research and writing course to first-year law students.
- Created seven problems of varying complexity for graded assignments related to employment discrimination, criminal law, criminal procedure, and tort law.
- Crafted numerous practice problems and smaller in-class exercises to engage students in oral and written advocacy, as well as sample answers to aid students' learning.
- Supervised team of teaching assistants in teaching, mentoring, and providing student feedback.
- Advised students on careers, including conducted mock interviews resulting in a graduating student obtaining full-time employment at his top choice at a local prosecutor's office.
- Served on committees: Diversity Committee Member (2018 to present); Faculty Council Co-Secretary (2018 to 2019); University Senate Member (2019 to present); Associate Dean for Library Services and Associate Professor of Legal Research Candidate and Search Committee Member (2019); Legal Writing Candidate and Search Committee Member (2019)

St. John's University School of Law, Queens NY

Instructor with Ronald H. Brown Prep Program, June 2019

Courses Taught: Critical Reading and Thinking

- Taught critical reading and thinking skills to undergraduate men of color who were interested in pursuing legal careers.
- Introduced students to the American Legal System through a case study that allowed students to journey through a case from an initial demand letter to several appeals.
- Provided feedback on students' oral and written presentations.
- Taught students oral argument and debate skills, as well as engaged them in oral argument regarding Professor Ta-Nehisi Coates' congressional hearing and Atlantic article on reparations.
- Managed two teaching assistants.

PRESENTATIONS

Panelist, Write it! Spurring Summer Scholarship through Distance Writing Groups with Catharine Dubois, Lisa Grumet, and Maria Termini

Legal Writing Institute's Biennial Conference, July 2020

Panelist, No More Talking, What Are We Going to Do?

Ron H. Brown Dialogue Day: Responding to Systemic Anti-Black Racism, St. John's University School of Law, June 2020

Co-Presenter with Professor Robin Boyle, The Pros & Cons of New Technology

Legal Writing Institute's One-Day Workshop, Rutgers Newark, December 2019

Moderator, Criminal Law and Procedure Panel: Criminal Law Structure and Institutions

CrimFest, Brooklyn Law School, New York, July 2019

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Scholarly Ideas Presenter, In Plain Sight: Uncloaking the Invisibility of Violence Against Women Fast-food Workers

ALWD Legal Writing Scholarship Forum, Empire State Legal Writing Conference, N.Y. Law School, New York, May 2019

Speaker, Diversity in the Legal Field

National People of Color Scholarship Conference, Diversity Reception, American University Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C., March 2019

Facilitator, Ethics Breakout Session

Convocation, St. John's Law School August 2018

SCHOLARSHIP

Whetstone, Quality Control: The Benefits of Open TA Sessions. In progress.

Whetstone, In Plain Sight: Uncloaking the Invisibility of Violence Against Women Fast-food Workers. In progress.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- 2020 Executive Committee for AALS' section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research, Member
- 2020 AALS' Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research, Diversity Committee Liaison
- Association of Legal Writing Directors Member, 2020-present
- Legal Writing Institute Member, 2018-Present
- American Bar Association Member, 2018-present

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Ronald H. Brown Program, Mentor, June 2018 to October 2018

Grandparents Around the World, Inc., Member, 2009 to present

LEGAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Queens County District Attorney's Office, Queens, NY

Assistant District Attorney, Appeals Bureau, December 2014 to July 2018

- Litigated direct appeals before the Appellate Division, Second Department and the New York State Court of Appeals involving a variety of issues including Second Amendment implications of possessing a dangerous knife, and the prosecution's use of pre-trial inmate calls.
- Investigated, researched, and drafted memoranda to Chief, Executive, and Deputy Assistants, and Appeals Bureau Chief regarding the advisability of vacating convictions.
- Supervised and edited paralegals and interns in filing miscellaneous motions and respondent's briefs in Queens County Criminal and Supreme Courts and intermediate appellate courts.
- Responded to numerous post-conviction motions and CPLR Article 78 petitions on issues with varying degrees of complexity including jurisdictional defects of an indictment, ineffective assistance of counsel, immigration consequences, and bail pending appeal.

Bronx County District Attorney's Office, Bronx, NY

Assistant District Attorney, Appeals Bureau, September 2005 to November 2014

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- Answered federal petitions for writ of *habeas corpus* in the Southern District of New York.
- Briefed and argued appeals in New York's intermediate appellate courts and New York State Court of Appeals.
- Investigated post-conviction motions, writ of *mandamus* petitions, and *coram nobis* applications requiring collaboration with government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
- Counseled senior and junior prosecutors during pre-trial and trial criminal proceedings, as well as post-conviction mental health civil proceedings.
- Conducted a civil jury trial in conjunction with the New York State Attorney General's Office.
- Resolved felony prosecutions through the plea-bargaining process.
- Created instructional memorandum for electronic filing for intermediate appellate courts.
- Investigated homicide and violent felony crimes in special duty capacity, which required securing trap and trace and search warrant orders, reporting to homicide scenes, interviewing suspects, and drafting charging documents.

EDUCATION

Howard University School of Law, Washington DC

Juris Doctor, May 2005

Relevant Coursework: Alternative Dispute Resolution Seminar and Clinic; Equal Employment and Labor Law; and Race, Law & Change

Wesleyan University, Middletown CT

Bachelor of Arts in Economics, May 2002

Relevant Coursework: Labor Law and Economics; Economics of Gender and Race; Race and Ethnicity in the Labor Market; and Economic Analysis of the Law

Study Abroad: University of Cape Town, South Africa, Spring 2001

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York and Southern District of New York