

PROFESSIONAL

Interim Director of Legal Clinic and Field Placements
Florida A&M University College of Law

November 2019 – August 2021

Instructor, Criminal Defense Clinic
Florida A&M University College of Law

Fall 2018 - Present

1. Design course for implementation.
2. Teach weekly course seminars focused on substantive and practical skills development as well as the skills necessary for effective and responsible participation in the legal profession.
3. Observe and supervise student-attorneys during live client representation through every aspect of criminal misdemeanor matters to include client interviewing; arraignment hearings; pretrial conferences; plea negotiations; trial preparations; and bond hearings.
4. Teach integrating problem analysis and strategic planning exercises in written and oral advocacy.
5. Provide student evaluations and feedback regarding coursework and client representation.
6. Collaborate and participate in community outreach and events associated with the Legal Clinic Program.
7. Consistently received high ratings and reviews from students in course evaluations.

Instructor, Guardian ad Litem Clinic
Florida A&M University College of Law

August 2019 – Present

1. Design course for implementation.
2. Teach weekly course seminars focused on substantive and practical skills development as well as the skills necessary for effective and responsible participation in the legal profession.
3. Provide students with hands on learning experience for the actual practice of law in the areas of family, juvenile dependency, and delinquency law.
4. Provide student evaluations and feedback regarding coursework and client representation.
5. Fostered excellent relationships with local legal aid associations and community-based organizations in providing legal representation of abused, abandoned, or neglected children.
6. Consistently received high ratings and reviews from students in course evaluations.

Instructor/Supervisor, Field Placement
Florida A&M University College of Law

November 2019 – Present

1. Assure students are receiving the educational quality of the internship/externship experience.
2. Provide frequent communication with placement site supervisors to assure the quality of the student educational experience and ensure that requirement standards are being met.
3. Provide students with an evaluation of their educational achievement.
4. Provide students with opportunities for feedback from site supervisor and self-evaluation.
5. Assist students in locating an internship/externship placement.

Instructor, Juvenile Law
Florida A&M University College of Law

January 2019 – May 2019

1. Taught weekly course seminars focused on the theoretical and practical approaches of juveniles in the delinquency and dependency justice system.
2. Provided statutory procedures dealing with juvenile delinquents; abandoned, abused, and neglected children.
3. Reviewed case law, case studies and statutes of State's approach to regulating juvenile law matters.
4. Provided students with learning experience for the actual practice of law in the areas of juvenile delinquency and dependency law.

LAW RELATED EXPERIENCE:

ATTORNEY FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Department of Children and Families, Orange County, Florida
Senior Attorney

August 2005-August 2018

1. Supervise and teach the practices and procedures of dependency law to interns from local law schools.
2. Prepare various legal documents: Petitions for Dependency, Petitions for Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) and other motions and pleadings.
3. Represent the State of Florida in trials for Dependency and Termination of Parental Rights.
4. Plan, organize and coordinate work assignments.
5. Provide effective verbal and written communication to ensure proper representation with protective investigators, caseworkers and opposing counsels on various aspects of dependency and Termination of Parental Rights proceedings.
6. Maintain strict confidentiality of sensitive case information.

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER,
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, Orange County, Florida
Attorney

January 2001-July 2005

1. Appointed supervisor for law student interns: responsible for training law students in court practices and procedures.
2. Supervise and train new attorneys in misdemeanor division.
3. Solely responsible for caseload in excess of 400 cases in misdemeanor/traffic/felony division.
4. Prepare and deliver opening and cross-examination for death penalty case and assisted with voir dire and mitigation phase for sentencing.
5. Prepare and preside over jury trials.
6. Negotiate favorable pre-trial resolutions in criminal matters.
7. Represent clients during bond reduction, violation of probation, baker act and restitution hearings.

TERRITORIAL COURT, *St. Thomas, Virgin Islands*
Judicial Clerk for HONORABLE SORAYA DIASE

September 1997-July 2000

1. Assist Judge in drafting opinions and orders.
2. Conduct research, review, and analyze memoranda of law.
3. Assist Judge with disposition recommendations in felony, misdemeanor, traffic, and civil cases.
4. Preside over judgment debtor examination.
5. Mediate small claims matters.

EDUCATION:

Indiana University School of Law

Indianapolis, Indiana

Juris Doctor, 1997

East China University of Politics and Law

Shanghai, China

Summer Program 1995

University of the Virgin Islands

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

Bachelor of Arts, Business Administration, 1990

BAR ADMISSION: Admitted to Florida Bar 2000

FACULTY COMMITTEES:

(Law School): Academic Standards Committee (2019-2020); Ad Hoc Retroactive Withdrawal Committee (2019-2020); Strategic Planning Committee (2019-2020); Ad Hoc Community Engagement Committee (2020-Present); Judicial Clerkship Committee (2020-2021); Strategic Planning Committee (2020-Present); Ad Hoc Student Handbook Committee (2021-2021); Academic Standards committee (2019-2022); Ad Hoc Faculty Development Committee (2021-2022); Ad Hoc Retroactive Withdrawal Committee (2021-2022).

(University): Provost's Fall 2020 Internship & Research Experiences Scenario Analysis Workgroup (April 2020 – August 2020)

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

EHAP, Inc. – “Behind the Scenes” – Provide mentorship to at risk youth

Second Harvest Food Bank - Volunteer

Orlando Serve: He Got Up! – Community Outreach Events and Collection Court

He Got Up! Inmate I.D. Project

Idignity – help the disadvantaged in Central Florida obtain personal identification - documents like birth certificates, Florida ID cards, and Social Security cards are essential for anyone to fully take part in society.

Florida Restorative Rights Coalition – committed to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against people with convictions.

CERTIFICATES:

State of Florida Certified County Court Mediator – 2021

Graduate of the Central Region Leadership Academy – 2017

Department of Children and Families
State of Florida

AWARDS:

Child Welfare Excellence Award – 2017

Orange County B.A.B.Y. Court Initiative
Department of Children and Families

Outstanding Attorney Award – April 2016

Department of Children and Families
Children's Legal Services Circuit 9

Appreciation Award – October 2015

Department of Children and Families
Children's Legal Services Circuit 9

Excellence in Child Welfare Services Award – August 2013

Department of Children and Families
Children's Legal Services Circuit 9

Outstanding Attorney Award – April 2011

Department of Children and Families
Children's Legal Services Circuit 9

Professionalism and Positive Attitude Award – December 2009

Department of Children and Families
Children's Legal Services Circuit 9

Outstanding Performance Award – April 2008

Department of Children and Families
Children's Legal Services Circuit 9

MEMBERSHIPS:

Florida Bar

Orange County Bar Association

Paul C. Perkins Bar Association

Virgin Hawkins National Bar Association