

Kayonia L. Whetstone

TEACHING INTERESTS

Legal Writing and Research & Lawyering Skills, Criminal Law & Procedure, Professional Responsibility and Ethics, Race and Gender in the Law, Constitutional Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Wrongful Convictions and Post-Conviction Matters, and Appellate Advocacy

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The George Washington University Law School, Washington, DC

Associate Professor of Fundamentals of Lawyering, July 2023 to present

Courses Taught: Fundamentals of Lawyering I & II

- Taught full-year legal research and writing course to first-year law students.
- Helped develop trial and appellate problems on criminal procedure matters and a predictive open research memo involving tort law for the Fundamentals of Lawyering Team.
- Crafted practice problems, in-class peer review exercises, and sample answers of varying complexity related to wrongful convictions, criminal law, criminal procedure, and family law.
- Created and implemented wellness and self-reflection exercises that promote professional identity formation, self-awareness, and self-directed learning.
- Selected, supervised, and trained writing center liaisons in providing student feedback and teaching fellows in teaching citations, research skills, professionalism, mentoring, and providing student feedback.
- Collaborated with student and faculty Inns of Courts Advisors to facilitate effective weekly programs, provided feedback, and served as a resource to students.
- Provided career and life advice for students and recent graduates through bar preparation mentorship.
- Service on committees: Online Education and Student Wellness Committees.

Howard University School of Law, Washington, DC

Assistant Professor of Lawyering Skills, August 2020 to July 2023

Courses Taught: Legal Writing I & II

- Taught full-year legal research and writing course to first-year law students and semester-long required appellate advocacy course to second-year law students.
- Developed first-year trial problem on employment law matters and co-created closed and open universe predictive memos for the entire Lawyering Skills Team, including hosted employment law practice panel for first-year students.
- Crafted practice problems, in-class peer review exercises, and sample answers of varying complexity related to religious freedom under the Establishment Clause, prison conditions and constitutional law, criminal law and procedure, tort law, and employment law.
- Created and implemented various wellness and community-building exercises for first-year and second-year law students to deal with anxiety, stress, and pandemic trauma and to enhance student learning.
- Supervised and trained writing center and teaching assistants in teaching a citations course, mentoring, and providing student feedback.
- Mentored students, including providing advice on course selection and career planning, resulting in students' obtaining full-time employment at a high-volume prosecutor's office and post-graduate federal and state judicial clerkships.
- Note, Journal, and Independent Study Advisor for students' scholarly works.
- Service on committees: Judicial Clerkship, University Faculty Senate Council, Academic Affairs, and Legal Writing Review Committees.

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

Assistant Professor of Legal Writing, July 2018 to August 2020

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 predictive memos, client alerts, and trial and post-conviction matters related to the Family and Medical Leave Act and Title VII, 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 teams of teaching assistants in teaching, mentoring, and providing student feedback.
- Advised students on careers, including conducting 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 2020); Faculty Council Co-Secretary (2018 to 2019); University Senate Member (2019 to 2020); 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 oral argument and debate skills and engaged them in an oral argument regarding Professor Ta-Nehisi Coates' congressional hearing and Atlantic article on reparations.
- Trained and managed two teaching assistants.

PRESENTATIONS

Teaching Online: Thinking about how Online Techniques can Optimize Learning and Increase Inclusivity for our Students and Ourselves (with Mary M. Ksobiech)

Legal Writing Institute's Summer New Teacher Virtual Bootcamp, July 2025

Learning to be Teacher You: Course Design and Classroom Implementation for Faculty Teaching Legal Analysis, Writing, & Research (with Brenda D. Gibson, Catlin Meade, and Moderator, Heather Kolinsky)

AALS New Law Teacher Workshop, Washington, D.C., June 2025

One Prosecutor's Journey

Professor Robert Cottrol's Criminal Law Class, George Washington University Law School, March 2025

Appellate Brief Writing Workshop

The Northeast Black Law Student Association's Northeast Region's Annual Convention, October 2024

Moderator, Issues of Criminal Justice Reform in Prosecution: Prosecutors I

CrimFest 2024, Cardozo School of Law, New York, July 2024

Taking Rally Week Rituals Online

Legal Writing Institute's Summer New Teacher Virtual Bootcamp, July 2024

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Windy City Heartbreak: Legal Analysis Writing Workshop (with Cori Alonso-Yoder, Natalia Blinkova, and Gabriel Reyes)

Black Law Student Association-Fundamentals of Lawyering Writing Workshop, George Washington University Law School, October 2023

Moderator, Prosecutor Panel: Charging Matters

CrimFest 2023, Brooklyn Law School, New York, July 2023

Appellate Prosecutors as Agents of Change (Panel on Prosecutors with Justin Murray, Russell Gold, Carissa Byrne Hessick, and Ron Wright)

CrimFest 2022, Cardozo School of Law, New York, July 2022

Should the Exchange of Feedback be a Learning Outcome? (with Sabrina Little, Paige Snelgro, and Eurilynne Williams)

AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education - Lawyering with Creativity and For Equity, Workshop for New Law School Clinical Teachers, May 2022

Making Progress on Scholarship with an Online Writing Group (with Catharine Dubois, Lisa Grumet, Hilary Reed, and Maria Termini)

The Biennial Empire State Legal Writing Conference, Plenary Session, May 2021

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

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

The Pros & Cons of New Technology (with Robin Boyle)

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

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

WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

Gibson, Kolinsky, Meade, and Whetstone, *Transitioning from Being a Practicing Lawyer to a Law School Professor: Learning to be "Teacher You"* (forthcoming)

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Whetstone, *One-Stop Shops: Using Concrete Strategies Like Writers' Blocks and Shops to Build Well, Self-Directed, Practice-Ready Learners*

Whetstone, *Show Me the Money: Becoming the Good Global Citizens Workers and Consumers Expect and Deserve*

Whetstone, *Appellate Prosecutors as Change Agents*

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

The Montgomery County Maryland Chapter of Twigs, Inc., Chartering Member 2024 to present

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

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

CLERKSHIP EXPERIENCE

Chambers of the Honorable Vernida R. Chaney, Alexandria, VA

Judicial Law Clerk, Virginia Court of Appeals, September 2021 to February 2022

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 numerous 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 NYCPLR 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

- 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.

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- 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 the Southern District of New York