

YULANDA L. CURTIS

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EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh - School of Law, J.D., 2009

Emphasis: Employment Discrimination

Leadership: Executive Board of Black Law Students Association

Additional: Research Paper - "Are You Man Enough For Combat?"

University of Michigan - Ross School of Business, B.B.A, 2006

Emphasis: Marketing

Leadership: President of Stockwell Residence Hall

Member of Residence Hall Association

Additional: Participant in the Michigan in Washington (MIW) internship program

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois College of Law

Clinical Associate Professor (2018-Present)

Champaign, IL

- Responsible for the design, development, and implementation of all aspects of the Veterans Legal Clinic (VLC).
- Teach students in the VLC seminar lawyering skills, substantive law, procedure, and ethics.
- Supervise students in their representation of veterans throughout central Illinois in a variety of legal matters ranging from contract disputes to family law issues.
- Obtained \$15,000 research grant from the Military Service Knowledge Collaborative (MSKC) to study veteran homelessness following incarceration.

University of Michigan Law School

Clinical Teaching Fellow (2015 – 2018)

Ann Arbor, MI

- Developed curriculum for inaugural and subsequent semesters, strengthened relationships with veteran related organizations, and conducted outreach to increase the referral base for the full service Veterans Legal Clinic.
- Co-managed and co-taught seven-credit general, civil clinic designed to address the legal and social needs of veterans and their families.
- Independently supervised upper level law students representing veterans in child support/custody, landlord/tenant, disability benefits, and estate planning matters.
- Taught substantive veterans law (such as administrative law and trial advocacy) and lawyering skills (such as client counseling, negotiation, and collaboration).

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Department of Veterans Affairs

Associate Counsel (2013-2015)

Washington, DC

- Selected by senior government officials to present ideas regarding potential training upgrades as part of an agency innovation competition.
- Volunteered to participate in VA outreach programs and selected for the VA's yearlong Aspiring Leaders Program.
- Drafted appellate decisions and remands for approval by Veterans' Law Judges that consistently exceeded their established quality rubric.
- Researched and applied applicable case law from the United States Court of Veterans Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.
- Analyzed medical and lay evidence, identified multiple legal issues, and ensured all appropriate procedural requirements were met.

Veterans Service Representative (2011-2012)

Detroit, MI

- Volunteered to participate in VA outreach programs and received three awards for exceeding performance guidelines.
- Adjudicated claims submitted for compensation and income based pension by researching, interpreting, and applying VA regulations, case law, policies, and procedures.
- Identified relevant legal issues, weighed the probative value of medical and lay evidence, and composed legal decisions that fully discussed the factual and regulatory basis in plain language.

Social Security Administration

Senior Case Assistant (2010-2011)

Livonia, MI

- Drafted administrative dismissals and provided support to the Chief Administrative Law Judge by reviewing cases for issues such as substantial gainful activity and violent tendencies.
- Applied and interpreted laws, regulations, and written guidelines when processing appeals cases for individuals who were initially denied Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income in prototype states such as Michigan.

Legal Aid

Legal Extern (Summer 2007)

Ann Arbor, MI

- Successfully represented indigent clients facing possible eviction in court.
- Advocated for clients at formal administrative hearings regarding their continued Section 8 eligibility.

Legal Extern (Summer 2008)

Pittsburgh, PA

- Provided landlord/tenant advice to low-income clients via the Neighborhood Legal Services hotline.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- *VA Education Benefits*, The Legal Pad, January 2015, pp. 19-20.

Book Chapters

- Co-author Angela Drake, *Veterans' Appeals, in* Servicemember and Veterans Rights, (Brian Clauss and Stacey Rae Simcox eds., 2016).

PRESENTATIONS

- Veterans Legal Clinics Working Group Co-Facilitator, Association of American Law Schools Clinical Conference (May 2021).
- Veterans Legal Clinics Working Group Facilitator, Association of American Law Schools Clinical Conference (July 2020).
- Co-Presenters Gautam Hans and Katie Ladewski, *Cross-Clinic Collaboration: Building Community in Different Practices*, Midwest Clinical Conference (October 2019).
- Courts as Forces to Eradicate or Perpetuate Vulnerability, International Society of Family Law Conference (June 2019).
- Preparing Students to be Interdisciplinary Collaborators for Change, Association of American Law Schools Clinical Conference (May 2019).
- Strategic Planning for New Clinics, Midwest Clinical Conference (October 2018).
- Co-presenters Kimberly Thomas, and Alicia Alvarez, *Teaching to the Times*, Midwest Clinical Conference, Oklahoma 2016. (October 2016).
- University of Michigan Veterans Legal Clinic - Discharge Upgrades, Ann Arbor Rotary Club, Michigan. (July 2016).

MEDIA

- *Featured in*, Timmins, Mary, InClass Law | Veterans' Advocate, *Illinois Alumni*, Spring 2021.
- *Featured in*, Toledo, Adalberto, "One-on-One | UI Veterans Legal Clinic director advocates for overhauling housing code," *The News-Gazette*, May 6, 2019.

CERTIFICATIONS

- Preparing Future Faculty Seminar, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan, 2016
- Accredited Attorney, Department of Veterans Affairs, 2015
- Veterans Affairs Leadership Program, VA Learning University, Department of Veterans Affairs, 2015

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

- National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium Advocacy Committee
- State Bar of Illinois & State Bar of Michigan
- Association of American Law Schools
- Clinical Legal Education Association

