

SHAKIRA D. PLEASANT

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Illinois Chicago School of Law (formerly John Marshall Law School) Chicago, IL
Assistant Professor of Law Jun. 2019 – Present
Director, Legal Writing Resource Center Jun. 2019 – Jul. 2023

- COURSES: Lawyering Skills (LS) I and II, Civil Procedure II (Spring 2024)
- ADMINISTRATIVE: Served as Director of the law school's writing center and supervised an interdisciplinary team of professional writers, including JDs and PhDs. Conducted 1,235 individualized, supplemental, feedback sessions with recent alumni and enrolled students. Facilitated group workshops, developed content for diverse learning styles, and served as the principal investigator for an empirical study evaluating the efficacy of supplemental writing instruction and its impact on bar passage.

University of Miami School of Law Coral Gables, FL
Professor of Legal Writing & Lecturer in Law Aug. 2017 – May 2019

- COURSES: Legal Communication and Research (LComm) I and II

Savannah Law School Savannah, GA
Associate Professor of Law Aug. 2014 – Jul. 2017

- COURSES: Legal Writing, Research and Analysis (LWRA) I and II, Advanced Appellate Advocacy, Pretrial Advocacy, and Client Interviewing and Counseling.

University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law Washington, D.C.
Adjunct Professor Aug. 2009 – May 2013

- COURSES: Lawyering Process (LP) I and II.

University of the District of Columbia—College of Arts and Sciences Washington, D.C.
Adjunct Professor Jan. 2007 – Dec. 2010

- COURSES: American Government, Civil Rights and Liberties, and Constitutional Law.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Lawyering Skills; Civil Procedure; Disability Law; Higher Education Law; Administrative Law; Legislation & Regulation

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Race-Conscious Admissions in Higher Education; Vocational Rehabilitation; Reasonable Accommodations in Higher Education; Legal Writing Pedagogy

LAW REVIEW PUBLICATIONS

- [*Data's Demise and the Rhetoric of SFFA*](#), 77 SMU L. Rev. 161 (2024).
- [*A Black Man May Eliminate Race-Conscious Admissions in the United States*](#), 103 B.U. L. REV. ONLINE 147 (2023).
- [*Fisher's Forewarning: Using Data to Normalize College Admissions*](#), 21 U. PA. J. CONST. L. 813 (2019).
 - SSRN Top Ten Downloads for: PSN Education (Topic); Law & Society: Private Law – Discrimination Law eJournal; Education Law eJournal.
- [*Overcoming Writing Challenges: Counsel for Aspiring, Novice, and Experienced Legal Professionals*](#), 13 LEG. COMM. & RHETORIC: JALWD 245 (2016).
- [*More Than Just the Numbers: Fisher v. Texas and the Practical Impact of Texas's Top Ten Percent Law*](#), 24 U. OF MIA. BUS. L. REV. 111 (2016).
- [*Gaining Exposure to Law Practice through Best Practices*](#), 93 DENV. L. REV. ONLINE 83 (2016).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- *The Unique Effect of Texas' Top Ten Percent Law on Fisher v. Texas*, available at <https://casetext.com/posts/the-unique-effect-of-texas-top-ten-percent-law-on-fisher-v-texas> (2016).
- *Amicus Brief* filed in *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin, et al.* (14-981) (2015).

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Panelist (with Professors Sheldon Bernard Lyke, Meera Deo, Kim Forde-Mazrui, Marc-Tizoc Gonzalez, Lucy Jewell, Athena Matua, and Darren Rosenblum) – “Closing Roundtable: Strategizing Responses and Next Steps to Ensure Diversity in Education and Law.” EPOCH 2023 Symposium. Seattle University School of Law (Sept. 8-9, 2023).
- Panelist (with Professor Daiquiri Steele and Devon Lewis-Buchanan of the Las Vegas Raiders) – “Hot Topics in Sports Law: To DEI, or not to DEI, that is the question.” 36th Annual Sports & Recreation Law Association (Feb. 23, 2023).
- Panelist (with Professor Jennifer A. Gundlach) – “Research-Driven 1L Interventions for Academic and Bar Success.” AccessLex Institute Legal Education Research Symposium (Nov. 8, 2022).
- Panelist (with Professors Kim Ricardo and Art Acevedo) – “Destroying Diversity? The Supreme Court and the Future of Diversity in Higher Education: *SFFA v. UNC/Harvard*.” University of Illinois Chicago School of Law Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (Oct. 28, 2022).
- Panelist (with Professors Heidi Brown and Kathleen Vinson) – “Being Your Own Best Advocate.” ALWD Committee on Leadership and Development (Apr. 22, 2022).
- Panelist (with Professors Emily Behzadi, Vinay Harpalani, Shanda Sibley, and Megan Boone) – “So You Want to be a Law Professor?” ABA Young Lawyers Division Women of Color Task Force (Nov. 16, 2021).
- Panelist (with Professors Ben Cooper, Corinna Lain, and Brannon Denning) – “Prospective Law Teachers Workshop: Navigating the Hiring Market.” SEALS Annual Conference (Jul. 26-Aug. 1, 2021).

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter (with Cara Schaffer and Jeremy Francis) – “Legal Writing Centers: Supporting Student & Professor Well-being in the Post-Pandemic Era.” LWI Biennial Conference. Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law (July 17-20, 2024).
- Presenter (Works-in-Progress) – “Legal Writing Centers.” 17th Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop and Writing Retreat. Penn State Dickinson Law (Jun. 22-29, 2023).
- Moderator – Writing Connections: Discussion Group “Supporting Student Writing at Every Stage of Legal Education.” SEALS Annual Conference (Jul. 27-Aug. 3, 2022).
- Panelist (with Professor Amanda Foster) – “Adapting to Change: How to Use a Variety of Conferencing Methods and Bite-Sized Feedback Assignments to Engage Students while being Mindful of One’s Time and Wellness.” LWI Virtual Biennial Conference hosted by Texas Tech University School of Law (Sept. 18, 2020).
- Discussant – Aspiring Law Teachers Workshop: Discussion Group “Beating the Odds.” SEALS Annual Conference (Jul. 30-Aug. 5, 2020).
- Discussant – Writing Connections: Discussion Group “Restructuring Legal Education.” SEALS Annual Conference (Jul. 28-Aug. 3, 2019).

- Panelist (with Professors Suzanne Rowe and Danielle Tully) – “The Intersectionality of Leadership and Diversity.” ALWD Biennial Conference hosted by Suffolk Law School (May 29-31, 2019).
- Panelist – “Sharing Strategies for Encouraging Diversity within the Legal Writing Community,” AALS Annual Conference Roundtable hosted by AALS Section on Legal Writing, Research, and Analysis Diversity Committee (Jan. 5, 2017).
- Panelist (with Professor Vinay Harpalani) – “DeFacto Segregation, Diversity, and Disparities: Fisher v. Texas, the Remix,” Law and Society Association (Jun. 1-5, 2016).
- Panelist (with Professors Diana Donahoe, Jessica Wherry, and Kristen Murray) – “Using Technology to Teach the Flipped Classroom: A Presentation of Various Tools, Techniques, and Tips,” The Capital Area Legal Writing Conference hosted by University of Maryland, Francis King Carey School of Law (Mar. 11-12, 2016).
- Panelist - “Trust Your Instincts-Developing an Upper Division Pretrial Advocacy Course that Incorporates Best Practices and a Practitioner’s Perspective,” LWI One-Day Workshop hosted by University of Denver, Sturm School of Law (Dec. 5, 2015).
- Panelist (with Professor Elizabeth Berenguer) – “Leveraging Uniform Student Outcomes to Prepare Practice-Ready Students While Preserving Academic Freedom,” SE Regional Legal Writing Conference hosted by University of Tennessee College of Law (Apr. 17-18, 2015).
- Panelist – Teaching & Working in the For-Profit Legal Education Arena. Southeast/Southwest People of Color Conference hosted by North Carolina Central University School of Law (Mar. 19-22, 2015).
- Panelist (with Professor Kosiso Onyia) – “Predictive Writing, Advocacy + Providing Feedback,” LWI One-Day Workshop hosted by George Washington University Law School. Washington, D.C. (Nov. 30, 2012).
- Panelist (with Professor Crisarla Houston) – “What’s Your Ranking? The Impact of LRW Pedagogy, Academic Success Strategies, and Bar Passage Rates.” The Capital Area Legal Writing Conference hosted by Georgetown University Law Center (Mar. 10, 2012).

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES, SERVICE, and AWARDS

Public Service

- Illinois State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), appointed by Governor J.B. Pritzker (term: Aug. 2023-Jul. 2026).
 - The State Rehabilitation Council advises the Secretary of the Department of Human Services and the Director of the Division of Rehabilitation Services in matters concerning individuals with disabilities and the provision of rehabilitation services.

Legal Academy Service

- Legal Writing Institute (LWI)
 - Board of Directors (2018-2022).
 - Member – “Faces of LWI / LWI Lives” Committee (2016).
 - Member –LWI (2012-Present).
- Writing as Resistance (WAR) Legal Writing Professors of Color Scholarship Workshop
 - Co-founder and Program Co-chair (2018-Present).
- Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS)
 - Co-chair – Prospective Law Teachers Workshop (2022-Present).
 - Co-chair – Writing Connections Programming (2018-2019).
 - Member – Writing Connections Programming (2017-2018).
- Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD)
 - Inaugural Cohort Member – ALWD Leadership Academy (2019).
 - Member – ALWD 2019 Biennial Conference Site Committee (2017-2019).

- Member – ALWD 2017 Biennial Conference Program Committee (2016-2017).
- Member – ALWD Bylaws Committee (2015-2016).
- Member – ALWD (2014-Present) and Delegate (2014-2017).
- Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop & Writing Retreat
 - Member – Program Committee (2019).
- University of the Pacific-McGeorge School of Law Alumni Association
 - Alumni Board of Directors (2014- 2022).
 - Co-Chair – McGeorge School of Law, Washington, D.C. Alumni Chapter (2008-2010).
- Track Leader – Ethics and Professionalism Track, Southeast/Southwest People of Color (SE/SWPOC) Conference (2014-2015).
- Faculty Advisor/Coach – National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA), Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition (2011).

Institutional Service

- University of Illinois Chicago School of Law
 - Academic Support Specialist Search Committee (2023).
 - Chair – Legal Writing Resource Center Assistant Director Search Committee (2022).
 - Instructor/Reference Librarian Search Committee (2022).
 - Library and Information Services Committee (2021-2022).
 - Site Committee – LWI One-Day Workshop hosted by University of Illinois Chicago School of Law (2021).
 - Co-Chair – National Day on Writing, Write Chicago: Words and Power (2020-2023)
 - Student Support & Emergency Team (2019).
 - Assessment Committee (2019-Present).
- University of Miami School of Law
 - Admissions Committee (2017-2018).
 - Supervised three Research Assistants and three Dean's Fellows (2018-2019); three Research Assistants and one Dean's Fellow (2017-2018).
 - Served as Comment Advisor to two 2L students.
- Savannah Law School
 - Faculty Advisor to Mock Trial Advocacy Board (2016-2017).
 - Curriculum (Chair), Admissions, and Assessment Committees (2016-2017).
 - Law Review Student Note Co-Advisor with Professor Vinay Harpalani (2016-2017).
 - Faculty Advisor to National Women's Law Student Organization (2015-2017).
 - Curriculum (Vice Chair), Admissions, and Assessment Planning Committees (2015-2016).
 - Faculty panelist during 1L Orientation and Open House (2015).
 - Faculty panelist during Prospective Student Open House (2015).
 - Faculty representative at Savannah State Career Fair (2015).
 - Faculty Advisor to 1L, 2L, and 3L (day and evening) students (2014-2017).
 - Faculty Advisor to Black Law Students Association (2014-2015).
 - Admissions, Information Technology, and Code of Student Responsibility Committees (2014- 2015).
 - Faculty panelist during Accepted Students Day (2014 and 2016).
 - Guest judge for Southeast Regional Mock Trial Scrimmage (2014).

Legal Community Service

Bylaws Committee Chair – Greater Washington Area Chapter (GWAC) Foundation (2011-2012).

Awards

- SEALS Distinguished Service Award (2019)
- ALWD Outstanding Service Award (2019)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) <i>Contract Hearing Officer</i>	Washington, D.C. Oct. 2016 – Jan. 2019
District of Columbia Department on Disability Services (DDS) <i>Contract Human Resources Specialist</i>	Washington, D.C. Jul. 2016 – Dec. 2016
District of Columbia Fire & Emergency Medical Services Department (FEMS) <i>Information & Privacy Officer</i>	Washington, D.C. Apr. 2013 – Jul. 2014
Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG) <i>Assistant Attorney General</i> Department on Disability Services - Office of the General Counsel (OGC)	Washington, D.C. Oct. 2008 – Apr. 2013
Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG) <i>Assistant Attorney General and Dispute Resolution Specialist</i> Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs – Office of the General Counsel (OGC)	Washington, D.C. Sept. 2006 – Oct. 2008

EDUCATION

The George Washington University (Washington, D.C.)
Certified Public Manager (CPM) and Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Certification, 2014
- The Certified Public Manager® Program is a nationally accredited, academically rigorous program, that consisted of approximately 300 hours of graduate-level instruction. CPM focused on team building and leadership to provide a solid foundation for subsequent coursework, as well as additional leadership and strategic project management training. Lean Six Sigma Belts are critical to the success of an organization's continuous improvement efforts.

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law (Sacramento, CA)
Juris Doctor, 2004

California State University, Chico (Chico, CA)
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, 1999

LICENSURE

California (inactive); District of Columbia (inactive); United States Supreme Court

RESEARCH CERTIFICATIONS

- Information Privacy & Security (IPS) for Researchers
- Human Research – Group 2. HSP, Social/Behavioral Research Investigators and Key Personnel (Basic and Refresher Course)