

SHAKIRA D. PLEASANT

300 S. State Street, MC 300 • Chicago, IL 60604
(c) 312-427-2737 ext. 348 • spleasan@uic.edu

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 I, 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. Provided supplemental assistance and training to 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; Administrative Law; Legislation & Regulation; Disability Law; Higher Education Law

RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

LAW REVIEW PUBLICATIONS

- [*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 (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).

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/SW POC) 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 and ALWD Outstanding Service Award (2019).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA)

Contract Hearing Officer

Washington, D.C.
Oct. 2016 – Jan. 2019

District of Columbia Department on Disability Services (DDS)

Contract Human Resources Specialist

Washington, D.C.
Jul. 2016 – Dec. 2016

District of Columbia Fire & Emergency Medical Services Department (FEMS)

Information & Privacy Officer

Washington, D.C.
Apr. 2013 – Jul. 2014

Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG)

Assistant Attorney General

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)

Assistant Attorney General and Dispute Resolution Specialist

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

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 CERTIFICATION

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

