

DESHUN NICOLE HARRIS

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, July 2018 – present

Assistant Professor of Teaching & Director of Bar Preparation. Directs law school's efforts in improving bar passage for students which includes collaborating with administration/staff, faculty and students to create a comprehensive approach for bar passage, creating workshops, counseling students, and instructing courses.

Texas A&M University School of Law, Fort Worth, TX, August 2015-July 2018

Director of Academic Support and Bar Readiness. Assisted in the development of first-year, peer tutoring and upper-level academic support programs. Individually counseled students about preparing for law school or the bar exam. Trained and supervised bar graders for the Preparing for the Bar Examination course. Co-taught the three-credit Preparing for the Bar Examination course.

William S. Boyd School of Law, Las Vegas, NV, August 2012-July 2015

Assistant Director of Academic Success Program. Provided support for Program and individually counseled students in regard to their legal studies. Monitored and trained student mentors, assisted in curriculum development for the bar passage program, counseled current students and alumni on bar passage issues, and conducted workshops for the first-year class. Created and edited manual for peer mentor program and handbook for bar passage program. Created or updated program data. Collaborated with the law school faculty and senior administrators. Taught one-credit legal writing and analysis upper-level course.

Arizona Summit Law School (formerly Phoenix School of Law), Phoenix, AZ, August 2011-August 2012

Critical Legal Skills Instructor. Instructed legal skills courses and workshops. Developed lesson plans and course materials for courses or workshops. Counseled students individually about preparing for law school or the bar exam.

Texas Tech University School of Law, Lubbock, TX, August 2010-July 2011

Assistant Director of Recruitment, Adjunct Professor. Persuaded students to attend law school at Texas Tech, drafted recruitment schedules and related budget proposals, and traveled. Taught employment law course.

PRESENTATIONS

“Let’s Talk About Grading, Maybe: A Pathway to Building Equity in Grading,” DeShun Harris, Presented at AASE Diversity Conference, 2023.

“Black Lawyers Matter: Eradicating Barriers to Licensing for Aspiring Black Lawyers,” Presented at the Florida Journal of Law and Public Policy (JLPP) virtual symposium, 2021.

“Let's Talk About Grading, Maybe: Using Transparency About the Grading Process to Aid in Student Learning,” DeShun Harris, Presented at *Epoch: Institutional Transformation and the Law* at Seattle University Law Review and BLSA virtual symposium, 2022.

“The Rule of Three: Righting Inequities in Legal Education Through Three Lenses,” Renee Nicole Allen, DeShun Harris, & Alicia Jackson, Panel Presentation at Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, 2020.

“Can Law Schools Have it All?: Law Schools as a Checkbox or Mechanism for Change,” DeShun Harris, Camesha Little, and Yolonda Sewell, Presented at Association of Academic Support Educators, 2019.

“#PutSomeRespectonMyName: How Xennial Minority Faculty Can Navigate Student Bias,” Renee Nicole Allen and DeShun Harris, Presented at 4th National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, 2019.

“Whose Job is it Anyway: Examining the Role of Legal Writing and Academic Support in Bar Prep, Renee Allen, Alicia Jackson, and DeShun Harris, Presented at LWI One Day Workshop—University of Tennessee, 2018.

“Let’s Talk About Grading, Maybe: Dialogues About How Instructors Assess Classroom Assessments,” DeShun Harris, Presented at West Coast Consortium of Academic Support Professionals Seventh Annual Conference, 2018.

“Whose Job is it Anyway: Examining Academic Support’s Role in Bar Preparation,” Renee Allen, Alicia Jackson, DeShun Harris and Jendayi Saada, Presented at Association of Academic Support Educators, 2018.

“Opening the Door to Transformative Office Hours,” DeShun Harris, Poster presentation at Texas A&M University Transformational Teaching & Learning Conference, 2018.

“Equal Access to Justice: Supporting Law Students from Diverse Backgrounds from Admissions Through the Bar Exam,” Panelist for Academic Support Section at Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, 2018.

“#SocialJustice: Combatting Implicit Bias in an Age of Millennials, Colorblindness & Microaggressions,” Renee Nicole Allen and DeShun Harris, Presented at Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender, & Class, Fall Symposium 2017.

“Culturally Competent: Using Orientation to Teach First-Year Students about Implicit Bias,” DeShun Harris, National Association of Law Student Affairs Professionals First Annual Conference, 2017.

“The MPT: A Vehicle for Teaching Students to Critically Self-Assess,” DeShun Harris, Association of Academic Support Educators, 2017.

“#ImplicitBias: Millennials, the “Colorblind” Generation,” Renee Nicole Allen and DeShun Harris, Presented at New Directions in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Conference, 2017.

“Recognizing Implicit Bias: A Crash Course for the “Colorblind” Generation,” Renee Nicole Allen and DeShun Harris, Presented at SALT Teaching Conference, 2016

“From the Classroom to the Office: How the Reflective Process Can Improve Student Thinking and Transform Our Teaching,” Renee Nicole Allen and DeShun Harris, Presented at 17th Biennial LWI Conference, 2016.

“Building Better Faculty-Student Conferences by Integrating Stronger Cues,” DeShun Harris, Association of Legal Writing Directors Conference, 2015.

“Building Better Instructor-Student Conferences by Integrating Stronger Cues,” DeShun Harris, Association of Academic Support Educators Conference, 2015.

Diversity Discussion, DeShun Harris, Facilitated at Association of Academic Support Educators Conference, 2014.

“Using Critical Reflection to Improve ASP Materials,” DeShun Harris, Association of Academic Support Educators Conference, 2014.

“Unraveling Hidden Clues: How Using Cues Helps Student Learning,” DeShun Harris, Poster presentation at Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, 2013.

PUBLICATIONS

Let’s Talk About Grading Maybe, Using Transparency About the Grading Process to Aid in Student Learning, 45 Seattle University Law Review (2022).

Cultural Modesty in the Academy: A Trait Exploited and Penalized Through Service, Southwestern Law Review (2022).

Do Black Lawyers Matter to the Legal Profession?: Applying an Antiracism Paradigm to Eliminate Barriers to Licensure for Future Black Lawyers, DeShun Harris, 31 University of Florida Journal of Law & Public Policy 59 (2020).

The “Pink Ghetto” Pipeline: Challenges and Opportunities for Women in Legal Education, Renee Nicole Allen, DeShun Harris and Alicia Jackson, 96 University of Detroit Mercy Law Review 525 (2019).

Office Hours Are Not Obsolete: Fostering Learning through One-on-One Student Meetings, DeShun Harris, 57 Duquesne Law Review 43 (2019).

#SocialJustice: Combating Implicit Bias in an Age of Millennials, Colorblindness & Microaggressions, Renee Nicole Allen & DeShun Harris, 18 University of Maryland Journal of Race, Religion, Gender, and Class 1 (2018).

The Who, Where, Who, and How of Transforming Your Idea into a Presentation Proposal, DeShun Harris, Learning Curve, Summer 2017.

Transformative Learning: Rethinking the One-On-One Student Meeting, DeShun Harris, Equipoise, December 2016.

A Scavenger Hunt: A Fun Way to Navigate Important Concepts, DeShun Harris, Learning Curve, Summer 2014.

Welcome to ASP: How Hiring and Training Mentors Aids in Professional Development, DeShun Harris, Learning Curve, Winter 2014.

AWARD

Farris Bobango Faculty Scholarship Award for *Office Hours Are Not Obsolete: Fostering Learning through One-on-One Student Meetings*, DeShun Harris, 57 Duquesne Law Review 43 (2019).

UNLV Administrative Faculty Development Event Award 2014

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Professional Organizations

Association of Academic Support Educators, Immediate Past President, 2021-2022

Association of Academic Support Educators, President, 2020-2021

Association of Academic Support Educators, President-Elect, 2019-2020

The Learning Curve, AALS Publication of Section on Academic Support, Editor 2016-2019

Association of Academic Support Educators, Vice President of Diversity, 2017-2018

LSAC Diversity Writing Competition, Grader 2017

Association of Academic Support Educators, Diversity Committee, Chair 2013-16, Co-Chair 2016-17

AALS, Academic Support Section, Programming Committee Member 2014

Clark County Law Foundation, Volunteer 2013-15

Law School

ABA Site Visit, University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, 2024-present.
ABA Site Visit, University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, 2023-2024.
NextGen Bar Exam Task Force, University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, 2023-2024.
Curriculum Committee, University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, 2022-2023.
Curriculum Committee, University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, 2021-2022.
Admissions Committee, University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, 2020-2021.
Assessment Committee, University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, 2018-2021
Diversity Council, Texas A&M University School of Law, 2017-2018
Saul Lefkowitz Moot Court Team, Advisor 2014-15

University

University of Memphis, Provost Search Committee, 2022-2023.
UNLV, Student Conduct Hearing Board, Member 2012-2015.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Admitted, State Bar of Texas, November 2009

U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Solicitor, Washington, DC, February-May 2010
Legal Intern, Plan Benefits Security Division. Researched Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) issues. Prepared discovery documents and assisted attorneys in drafting internal litigation memoranda. Assisted attorneys in analyzing ERISA regulations.

Washington Legal Foundation, Washington, DC, July-August 2008
Law Clerk. Researched a variety of issues. Prepared memoranda and comments. Edited work of supervising attorney.

Dallas County Court at Law No. 4-Judge Ken Tapscott, Dallas, TX, May-June 2008
Intern, ABA Judicial Intern Opportunity Program. Researched procedural and evidentiary issues. Discussed with the judge various trial methods and strategies. Observed oral arguments and trials in civil cases.

Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, Lubbock, TX, May-November 2007
Extern/Intern. Researched various matters including but not limited to wills, deeds, and divorces. Observed client interviews and case staffing. Prepared, drafted, and/or filed various petitions and orders.

EDUCATION

American University, Washington College of Law, Washington, DC

Master of Laws, Program on Law & Government

May 2010

Concentration in Civil Rights and Constitutional Law

Activities: Dean's Fellow, Fall 2009

Texas Tech University School of Law, Lubbock, TX

Doctor of Jurisprudence

May 2009

Honors: Summa Cum Laude

Order of the Coif

Dean's List, Spring 2007-Spring 2009

Activities: Estate Planning and Community Property Journal, Articles Editor
Legal Practice Teaching Fellow, 2007-2009
Black Law Students Association, Secretary 2007-2008; Sergeant at Arms
2008-2009
Grades Appeal Committee 2008-2009

Baylor University, Waco, TX

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

May 2006

Honors: Dean's List, Spring 2004-Spring 2006

Outstanding Student, Political Science 2005-2006

Activities: NAACP, Baylor University Chapter, Corresponding Secretary 2005-2006
Association of Black Students, Member 2004-2006
Baylor Women's League, Member 2003-2005
Baylor Student Ministries, Kid's Club, Mentor 2003-2006