

KEESHEA L. TURNER ROBERTS

5819 Pin Oak Commons Court, Burke, Virginia 22015 (202) 810-2257 kturner@widener.edu

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Law

Widener University, Delaware School of Law

July 2022- present

Courses: Civil Procedure, Critical Race Theory, Family Law, Family Law Skills, and Law and Poverty

Research Areas: family law, access to justice; the relationship between law, civil courts, and structural inequality in high volume courts; legal design and legal regulatory innovation, DEI and academic freedom, DEI and the legal profession.

Adjunct Clinical Professor & Supervising Attorney, Fair Housing Clinic

July 2019 – Jun. 2022

Howard University School of Law

Course planned, co-taught, supervised, and mentored law students in representation of low-income clients in housing matters.

Collaborated with clinical students in developing and enhancing core competencies needed for successful lawyering, including client interviewing, case planning, client counseling, fact development, problem solving, legal research and writing, ethical decision-making, negotiation, and trial presentation skills.

Housing Advocacy & Litigation Clinic, Adjunct Clinical Law Professor

Dec. 2017 – Aug. 2019

Criminal Defense Clinic, Adjunct Clinical Law Professor

Jun. 2017- Dec. 2017

Rising for Justice (formerly D.C. Law Students in Court)

Developed curriculum for intensive clinical experience. Provided direct instruction to 24-27 students during weekly seminar focused on client-centered lawyering and the effective lawyering process, including client interviews, counseling, negotiating, factual investigations, case theory development and trial practices. Facilitated bi-weekly small group discussions focused on practical application and mastery of skills presented during instructional component. Supervised law students and law fellows during interactions with clients and while litigating civil and landlord/tenant cases in D.C. Superior Court.

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP

The Superior Court of the District of Columbia, The Honorable Andrea Harnett, Karen Howze, Richard Ringell, and Janet Albert, Washington, D.C.

Judicial Law Clerk, October 2006 - July 2007

Researched and drafted court orders pertaining to child support, domestic violence, juvenile, and criminal law. Created a juvenile bench book for the judge assigned to New Referrals calendar. This bench book provided all relevant case law, procedure, and court rules applicable for the juvenile division practice. Assisted judges in chambers and in courtroom during status hearings, trial, deliberations, and post-conviction hearings.

LAW REVIEW ARTICLES & ESSAYS

Set Up to Fail: Systemic Barriers that Prevent Respondents from Complying with Civil Protection Orders, ____ FAMILY LAW QUARTERLY ____ (forthcoming 2025)

Indoctrination at its Apex: 'Stop Woke Act' and its Ramifications on Law Schools and Professors of Color, 30 WIDENER L. REV. ____ (forthcoming 2024).

Martin V. PGA Tour: Applicability of the ADA in Professional Sports, 8 WILLAMETTE SPORTS L.J. (2011)

WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

Justice Denied: Systemic Failures Preventing Respondent Compliance in Civil Protection order Cases within the Civil Judicial System

Lack of Successful Filing of Civil Protection Order Violations in the District of Columbia

Letters from the Trenches: Words of Encouragement to Professors of Color in the Era of Anti-DEI

Twisted Racial Progress: Misuse of Civil Rights Litigation Tactics in Anti-DEI Efforts

BOOKS

Family Law Simulations: Bridge to Practice (with Jessica Dixon Weaver and Jamie R. Abrams), 2nd Edition (West Academic, forthcoming 2025/2026)

Family Law Simulations: Bridge to Practice (with Jessica Dixon Weaver and Jamie R. Abrams), 1st Edition, Teaching Manual (West Academic, forthcoming Fall 2024)

BOOK CHAPTERS

Building A Law School, Legal Academy, and Legal Profession, Vol. 5: Teaching and Learning: Words Matter: The Conflict Between Professional Academic Freedom and the Implementation of DEI Policies in Today's Law Schools, UC Davis Publishing (forthcoming 2024/2025).

SHORT ARTICLES, TESTIMONY, AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Reparations Can Mitigate Wealth Inequity, American Bar Association, Human Rights Magazine, Vol. 48, No. 2, January 2023.

Testimony for Council of the District of Columbia Re: The Pro Bono Legal Representation Expansion Amendment Act of 2021, October 27, 2021.

Testimony for Council of the District of Columbia Re: Access to Justice Initiative FY2022, June 11, 2021

Comment on the Initial Filing Fees for Landlord and Tenant Actions, April 12, 2021 (prepared in collaboration with Fair Housing students).

A Looming Eviction Tidal Wave Brings Pro Bono Opportunities for New Lawyers, American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, After the Bar, December 22, 2020

Law Schools Push to Require Anti-Racism Training and Courses, American Bar Association, Human Rights Magazine, Vol. 46, No. 1, December 2020

Testimony for Council of the District of Columbia Re: Michael A. Stoops Anti-Discrimination Act of 2019, October 27, 2020 (prepared in collaboration with Fair Housing students).

Testimony for Council of the District of Columbia Re: Fair Tenant Screening Act of 2019, October 27, 2020 (prepared in collaboration with Fair Housing students).

Comment on Docket No.FR-6152-P-01, RIN 2506-AC53, Department of Housing and Urban Development's Proposed Rule Change to the Equal Access Rule, "Making Admission or Placement Determinations Based on Sex in Facilities Under Community Planning and Development Housing Programs," September 21, 2020 (prepared in collaboration with Fair Housing students).

Comment on Docket No. FR-6123-P-02, Department of Housing and Urban Development's Proposed Rule Change to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Requirement, March 16, 2020 (prepared in collaboration with Civil Rights and Fair Housing students).

Comment on Docket No.FR-6111-P-02, Department of Housing and Urban Development's Proposed Change to the Disparate Impact Standard, October 23, 2019 (prepared in collaboration with Civil Rights and Fair Housing Clinic students).

SELECTED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, INTERVIEWS AND CONFERENCES

Antiracist Development Institute, Inaugural Convening: Building an Antiracist Law School, Legal Academy, and Legal Profession, Penn State Dickinson Law, October 12-14, 2023

Presenter, Chapter Contributor Presentations, October 12, 2023

Association of American Law Schools, 2024 Annual Meeting: Defending Democracy, Washington, D.C.

Presenter, "Set Up to Fail: Stories and Experiences of Respondents Who Violate Civil Protection Orders," January 5, 2024
Panelist, "Where DEIB meets Academic Freedom: The Tea and The Tips," January 5, 2024

Critical (Legal) Collective Conference, Duke University School of Law, Durham, North Carolina

Panelist, "Threats to the Right to Teach and the Right to Learn, November 10, 2023

D.C. Bar, Pro Bono Week, Virtual

Panelist, "Access to Justice in Family Law: Everyone Deserves a Lawyer," October 24, 2022

DETV, The Agenda, Wilmington, D.E.

Interviewee, "The Black Audit Project," May 16, 2024

2023 Equal Justice Works Leadership Training, Bethesda, Maryland

Facilitator, "What is Systems Design?," October 23, 2023

Facilitator, "Engaging Antiracist Lawyering Using Systems Design and Case Studies," October 24, 2023

2024 Family Law Quarterly Journal Writing Workshop, Virtual

Presenter, "Set Up to Fail: Systemic Barriers that Prevent Respondents from Complying with Civil Protection Orders," June 24, 2024

2024 Family Law Scholars & Teachers Conference, Baltimore, Maryland

Presenter, "Set Up to Fail: Stories and Experiences of Respondents Who Violate Civil Protection Orders," June 18, 2024

Community Research Group, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

Lecturer, "Introduction to the Civil Protection Order Process in the District of Columbia," June 13, 2024

Lecturer, "Introduction to the Civil Protection Order Process in the District of Columbia," September 8, 2023

Lecturer, "Introduction to the Civil Protection Order Process in the District of Columbia," August 7, 2023

Lecturer, "Introduction to the Civil Protection Order Process in the District of Columbia," November 4, 2022

Lecturer, "Introduction to the Civil Protection Order Process in the District of Columbia, July 25, 2022

Junior Scholars Conference at Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, Massachusetts

Presenter, "Set Up to Fail: Stories and Experiences of Respondents Who Violate Civil Protection Orders," March 2, 2024

Southern Association of Law Schools, Boca Raton, Florida

Moderator, "Criminalizing Family," July 27, 2023

Panelist, "Family Law Workshop: Family Law Pedagogy Discussion Group #2, July 28, 2023

Panelist, "Family Law Workshop: New and Emerging Scholarship," July 29, 2023

The 18th Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop, Durham, North Carolina

Panelist, "An Overview of the "Traditional" Process and Nontraditional Pathways into the Legal Academy," June 27, 2024

Panelist, "Engaging in Empirical Research and Cross-Disciplinary Collaborations," June 28, 2024

Panelist, "WIPs & Incubators," June 29, 2024

The 17th Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop, Hershey, Pennsylvania

Panelist, "WIPs & Incubators," June 24, 2023

The 18th Annual National Black Pre-Law Conference & Law Fair, Virtual

Panelist, "Things You Need to Know About Being A (Black) Lawyer that They Do Not Tell You in Law School," November 8, 2022

Urban Transformative Symposium, Virtual

Panelist, "Resident Struggles, Voices, and Rights to the City: A Matter for the Law Too!, March 26, 2022

Panelist, "Policing and Public Safety in the State of Gentrification, September 25, 2020

Widener University Delaware School of Law, Wilmington, D.E.

Presenter, "Indoctrination at its Apex: 'Stop Woke Act' and its Ramifications on Law Schools and Professors of Color,"

Faculty Development Workshop, November 6, 2023

Panelist, "Beyond Admissions: Discussing Implications and Impact of Striking Down Race-Conscious Admissions Programs in Higher Education, September 27, 2023

Panelist, "DEI and Legal Decision-making in Legislative and Judicial Systems, April 14, 2023

RESEARCH GRANTS & WRITING AWARDS

Faculty Summer Research Grant, 2024

Faculty Summer Research Grant, 2023

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Neighborhood Legal Services Program (NLSP), Washington, D.C.

Managing Attorney (Polk Street and SE Offices)

Dec. 2012 – May 2017

Served as lead counsel in cases involving divorce, legal separation, alimony, custody (including third party custody matters), and child support. Represented clients at mediations, administrative hearings and trials. Responsible for document creation, case management, research, trial, and appellate preparation. Drafted pleadings, motions, and discovery requests. Took and defended depositions.

Identified and prepared witnesses to testify at trial, including preparing expert witnesses. Supervised all family law and public benefits staff attorneys. Mentored pro bono attorneys assigned to family law and public benefits cases. Developed and oversaw training of all family law and public benefits staff attorneys, paralegals, legal interns, and legal externs. Served as lead attorney in developing and presenting family law presentations for community and NLSP's partners.

VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY SERVICE

American Bar Association – Section on Civil Rights and Social Justice, Co-chair of the African American Committee (2020-2022), Task Force on Eviction, Housing Stability, and Equity (2020-2024)), Member, Editor, Human Rights Magazine (Present), Associate Editor, Journal of Affordable Housing & Community Development Law (Present), and Contributor to the *After Bar* and *TYL*

Association of American Law Schools, Clinical Sections Communication Committee, Vice-Chair & Senior Editor for AALS Clinical Section Newsletter (2021-2022)

District of Columbia Bar, Continuing Legal Education Committee, Member (2018-2022)

BAR ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia; United States District and Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Columbia