

Jessica V. Den Houter

University of Baltimore School of Law
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EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C.

Juris Doctor, May 2017

LLM, Civil Justice, December 2018

Clinic: Juvenile Justice Clinic

Honors: Public Interest Fellow

Exceptional Pro Bono Service Honoree

Joyce Chang Memorial Award (awarded to one evening student for demonstrated commitment to public service)

Juvenile Justice Public Service Award

First Place, Crane Disability and the Law Writing Competition

University of Michigan School of Social Work, Ann Arbor, MI

Master of Social Work, December 2008

Honors: Merit Scholarship

Cranefield Scholarship

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Bachelor of Science, School of Education and Social Policy, with honors, June 2005

Honors Thesis: *Attitudinal and Emotional Factors Influencing the Decision to Enroll in College*

LAW SCHOOL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Baltimore School of Law | Baltimore, MD

Assistant Visiting Professor, Acting Director of the Bronfein Family Law Clinic

August 2023-present

- Direct the Bronfein Family Law Clinic, an in-house one-semester six-credit clinic providing individual legal representation and community education projects in the area of family law.
- Design and teach weekly three-hour seminar on lawyering skills.
- Provide non-directive supervision to students practicing as lead attorneys on family law cases.
- Manage the docket and waitlist as well as provide case coverage between semesters.
- Faculty Advisor, Students Supporting the Women's Law Center (AY 2023-2024).

Clinical Teaching Fellow, Bronfein Family Law Clinic

June 2020- August 2023

- Design and co-teach weekly seminar classes on lawyering skills.
- Provide non-directive supervision to students practicing as lead attorneys on family law cases, including custody, divorce, adoption, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, name change, and school discipline cases.
- Guest lecturer in doctrinal Family Law class on best interest factors and third-party custody.
- Provide case coverage during winter, spring, and summer breaks.
- Supervise students on community advocacy projects including research on implementation of victims' fund compensation across the United States, legislative advocacy, and work with the Maryland Student Representation Project.
- Faculty Comment Advisor for the University of Baltimore Law Forum (AY 2020-2021, AY 2022-2023).
- Member, New Faculty Orientation Planning Committee (Summer 2022), Clinical Teaching Fellow Hiring Committee (Fall 2022), and Clinic Social Work Hiring Committee (Summer and Fall 2023).
- Chair, Clinic Virtual Court Technology Committee (Spring 2023).

- Bar Exam Mentor (Summer 2023).

ADDITIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Disability Rights D.C. | Washington D.C.

Staff Attorney

October 2018-May 2020

- Advocated and litigated on behalf of children and adults with mental health and development disabilities.
- Represented students and families throughout the special education process.
- Monitored and conducted outreach and intakes at psychiatric hospitals, youth detention facilities, and community based residential treatment facilities.
- Litigated cases of reductions in personal care aide services provided through the Home and Community-Based Services Waiver Program.
- Co-founded a coalition advocating for the regulation of the use of seclusion and restraint in D.C. schools.
- Drafted and delivered testimony to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education and the D.C. Council.
- Member of the Youth Justice Project, a coalition led by the Georgetown Law Juvenile Justice Clinic & Initiative advocating for a smaller and less harmful juvenile legal system in D.C.
- Member of a team litigating a class action lawsuit against D.C. alleging that the children's mental health system in D.C. failed to provide federally required community-based services to children.

D.C. Affordable Law Firm | Washington D.C.

Fellow, Associate

August 2017-October 2018

- Provided representation to individuals making between 200 and 400 percent of the federal poverty line through a unique partnership among Georgetown University Law Center, Arent Fox, and DLA Piper.
- Litigated custody and divorce cases in all stages of representation, including drafting initial complaints and motions for contempt, serving and responding to discovery, negotiation and formal mediation, depositions of opposing parties and expert witnesses, and trials.
- Represented students in special education and school discipline disputes in both public and private schools in D.C.
- Represented asylum seekers in both affirmative and defensive applications, including completing initial application for asylum and attending asylum interviews.
- Developed and implemented curriculum for incoming fellows, including developing an assessment to identify fellow growth and remaining gaps in knowledge.

Juvenile Justice Clinic, Georgetown University Law Center | Washington D.C.

Student Attorney

August 2016-May 2017

- Represented juvenile clients in all stages of delinquency proceedings in D.C. Superior Court.
- Prepared for an evidentiary hearing with an expert witness challenging the results of the government's violence risk assessment.
- Completed year-long intensive clinical seminar with focus on litigation skills and holistic lawyering.

Children's Law Center | Washington D.C.

Law Clerk, Guardian ad Litem Program

August 2016-December 2016

- Conducted client intakes to identify potential legal issues.
- Interviewed clients and witnesses in preparation of hearings and school-based meetings.
- Researched and drafted memoranda on education law questions.

Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice | Washington D.C.

Legal Intern, Housing and Civil Enforcement Section

June 2016-August 2016

- Conducted legal research and writing, including for support during depositions, and drafting memoranda on the interactions of state and federal law

- Assisted with preparing a litigation team for oral argument, including assistance with a moot of the hearing, and assisted a second litigation team by identifying potential responses to defendants' objections regarding the admissibility of evidence.
- Researched, drafted, and presented a systemic testing proposal for the Fair Housing Testing program.

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

- *Making State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies Work for Transition-Age Youth with Disabilities*, 40 T. Jefferson L. Rev. 23 (2017).
- *Are Children Inmates? Dehumanizing and Denying Care to Our Most Vulnerable Youth* (work in progress)

SELECTED PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Paper Presentation, *Are Children Inmates? Dehumanizing and Denying Care to Our Most Vulnerable*, N.Y.U. Clinical Law Review Workshop, forthcoming October 2023
- Paper Presentation, *Are Children Inmates? Dehumanizing and Denying Care to Our Most Vulnerable*, Mid-Atlantic Clinical Writing Workshop, June 2023
- Paper Presentation, *Are Children Inmates? Dehumanizing and Denying Care to Our Most Vulnerable*, Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, June 2023
- Paper Presentation, *Rehabilitating Rehabilitation in the Juvenile Legal System*, N.Y.U. Clinical Law Review Workshop, October 8, 2022
- Moderator, "The Dobbs Decision: What Does it Mean and What Might be Next?," University of Baltimore School of Law, forthcoming, September 28, 2022
- Presenter, "Using Case Rounds in Clinical Legal Education," University of Baltimore School of Law New Faculty Orientation, July 6, 2022
- Presenter, "Teaching Methods: Facilitating Discussion in the Clinic Seminar," University of Baltimore School of Law Clinical Faculty, February 8, 2022
- Presenter, "Constructing a Helpful (Not Harmful) Juvenile Legal System," University of Baltimore RED (Research Engagement Day) Talks, March 17, 2022
- Moderator, "Big Ideas in Human Rights," 13th Annual Feminist Legal Theory Conference, University of Baltimore School of Law, April 8, 2022
- Panelist, *Our Children in Crisis: A Focus on D.C.'s Crossover Youth*, Council for Court Excellence, Washington, D.C. July 29, 2021
- Paper Presentation, *Continuity of Mental Health Care for Medicaid-Eligible Youth Involved with the Juvenile Legal System*, Mid-Atlantic Clinicians' Writing Workshop, Washington, D.C., June 10, 2021
- Presenter, "Restraint and Seclusion in DC: What is the state of the law, and what does it mean for students and their families?," Advocates for Justice and Education Policy Forum, December 3, 2019
- Presenter, "Introduction to Asylum Law," DC Affordable Law Firm New Fellow Training, Washington, D.C., October 11, 2018
- Presenter, "Accessing Vocational Rehabilitation Services for System Involved Youth, D.C. Criminal Justice Act Attorneys," Georgetown Juvenile Justice Initiative, January 26, 2017

MEDIA

- Quoted in "Baltimore County schools use virtual learning as punishment. Experts say that hurts students." by Cassidy Jenson and Sabrina LeBoeuf, Baltimore Sun (August 22, 2023).
- Quoted in "When D.C. Schools Use Restraint or Seclusion, No Laws Govern Them. Allegations of Abuse are Piling Up" by Joshua Kaplan, Washington City Paper (December 13, 2019).

SELECTED ADDITIONAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

KIPP DC: College Preparatory Public Charter School | Washington, D.C.

Transition Coordinator, Clinical Social Work Supervisor, and Founding Social Worker

June 2009-July 2016

- Created social work program at a new high school including peer mediation program, HIV awareness education and testing, and implementation of curriculum fostering social and emotional health.
- Counseled over 200 ninth through eleventh grade students individually and in groups.
- Established transition department for students with disabilities ensuring compliance with federal and local law.
- Advocated on behalf of more than 75 students to ensure receipt of services from the DC Rehabilitation Services Administration, including testifying before the DC Council's Committee on Health and Human Services.
- Created and implemented transition curriculum and instructed over 100 youth with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).
- Awarded the National Association of Social Workers DC Metro Chapter "Emerging Social Work Leader" award (2012).

Teach For America | Mississippi Delta

Teacher, Corps Member Advisor

June 2005-August 2007

- Founded an elementary art program, including producing a student-designed, community-enhancing tile mosaic displayed on the side of the community center.
- Selected as lead instructor for 14 incoming Teach For America corps members in an intensive summer training program.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Volunteer Judge, University of Baltimore School of Law Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and The Courts Truancy Court, August 2022-present
- Member by Mayoral Appointment, State Advisory Panel on Special Education for the District of Columbia, January 2019-present

BAR ADMISSIONS

- District of Columbia (2017)
- Maryland (2020)