

YULANDA L. CURTIS

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EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh - School of Law, J.D., 2009

Emphasis: Employment Discrimination
Leadership: Executive Board of Black Law Students Association
Additional: Gender and the Law Seminar Paper - "Are You Man Enough For Combat?"

University of Michigan - Ross School of Business, B.B.A, 2006

Emphasis: Marketing
Leadership: President of Stockwell Residence Hall
Member of Residence Hall Association
Additional: Participant in the Michigan in Washington (MIW) internship program

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Clinical Teaching, Disability Law, Veterans' Law, & Poverty Law

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois College of Law

Clinical Assistant Professor (2018 – Present) *Champaign, IL*

- Responsible for the design and development of all aspects of the Veterans Legal Clinic (VLC).
- Teach students in the VLC seminar lawyering skills, substantive law, procedure, and ethics.
- Supervise students in their representation of veterans throughout central Illinois.
- Obtained \$15,000 research grant from the Military Service Knowledge Collaborative (MSKC) to study veteran homelessness following incarceration.

University of Michigan Law School

Clinical Teaching Fellow (2015 – 2018) *Ann Arbor, MI*

- Develop curriculum for inaugural and subsequent semesters, strengthen relationships with veteran related organizations, and conduct outreach to increase the referral base for the full service Veterans Legal Clinic.
- Co-manage and co-teach seven-credit general, civil clinic designed to address the legal and social needs of veterans and their families.
- Independently supervise upper level law students representing veterans in child support/custody, landlord/tenant, disability benefits, and estate planning matters.
- Teach substantive veterans law (such as administrative law and trial advocacy) and lawyering skills (such as client counseling, negotiation, and collaboration).

- Presented work-in-progress at Michigan Law faculty work-in-progress lunch series.

LEGAL AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Department of Veterans Affairs

Associate Counsel (2013-2015)

Washington, DC

- Drafted appellate decisions and remands for approval by Veterans' Law Judges that consistently exceeded their established quality rubric.
- Researched and applied applicable case law from the United States Court of Veterans Claims and the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit to independently determine the validity of a veteran's claim for benefits.
- Analyzed medical and lay evidence, identified multiple legal issues, and ensured all appropriate procedural requirements were met.
- Selected by senior government officials to present ideas regarding potential training upgrades as part of an agency innovation competition.
- Volunteered to participate in VA outreach programs and selected for the VA's yearlong Aspiring Leaders Program.

Veterans Service Representative (2011-2012)

Detroit, MI

- Adjudicated claims submitted for compensation and income based pension by researching, interpreting, and applying VA regulations, case law, policies, and procedures.
- Identified relevant legal issues, weighed the probative value of medical and lay evidence, and composed legal decisions.
- Volunteered to participate in VA outreach programs and received three awards for exceeding performance guidelines.

Social Security Administration

Senior Case Assistant (2010-2011)

Livonia, MI

- Drafted administrative dismissals and provided support to the Chief Administrative Law Judge by reviewing cases for issues such as substantial gainful activity and violent tendencies.
- Applied and interpreted laws, regulations, and written guidelines when processing appeals cases for individuals who were initially denied Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income in prototype states such as Michigan.

Legal Aid

Legal Extern (Summer 2007)

Ann Arbor, MI

- Successfully represented indigent clients facing possible eviction in court.
- Advocated for clients at formal administrative hearings regarding their continued Section 8 eligibility.

Legal Extern (Summer 2008)

Pittsburgh, PA

- Provided landlord/tenant advice to low-income clients via the Neighborhood Legal Services hotline.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- *VA Education Benefits*, The Legal Pad, January 2015, at 19.

Book Chapter

- Co-author Angela Drake, *Veterans' Appeals*, in *Servicemember and Veterans Rights 7-1* (Brian Clauss and Stacey Rae Simcox eds., 2016).

PRESENTATIONS

- *Preparing Students to be Interdisciplinary Collaborators for Change* (May 2019).
- *Strategic Planning for New Clinics*, Midwest Clinical Conference (October 2018).
- *Analyzing the Department of Veterans Affairs Process to Determine Incompetency: Is the Federal Government Violating the Second Amendment?* University of Michigan Work-In-Progress Series (June 2017).
- Co-presenters Kimberly Thomas and Alicia Alvarez, *Teaching to the Times*, Midwest Clinical Conference (October 2016).
- *University of Michigan Veterans Legal Clinic - Discharge Upgrades*, Ann Arbor Rotary Club (July 2016).
- *University of Michigan Veterans Legal Clinic Partnership with the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC)*, Ann Arbor (June 2016).

CERTIFICATIONS

- Preparing Future Faculty Seminar, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan, 2016
- Accredited Attorney, Department of Veterans Affairs, 2015
- Veterans Affairs Leadership Program, VA Learning University, Department of Veterans Affairs, 2015

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium Advocacy Committee
- Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Bar Association
- State Bar of Michigan & State Bar of Illinois
- Association of American Law Schools
- Clinical Legal Education Association