

TIANNA N. GIBBS
4300 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20016
tgibbs@american.edu
(202) 274-4081

EDUCATION

Yale Law School, New Haven, Connecticut
Juris Doctor, June 2008

Honors: American Bar Association Legal Opportunity Scholarship; Stephen J. Massey Prize (awarded to the clinic student who most exhibits the values of the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization); Arthur Liman Public Interest Fellowship

Stanford University, Stanford, California
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with Distinction, Minor in Psychology, June 2004

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa; John Gardner Public Interest Fellowship, Dean's Award for Academic Excellence (every quarter); Condoleezza Rice Award for Academic Excellence; Gates Millennium Scholarship

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

American University Washington College of Law, Washington, DC
Professor of Law and Director of the Gender Justice Clinic, July 2024 to Present

Direct the operations of the Gender Justice Clinic. Teach a weekly seminar to law students about foundational lawyering skills for civil law practice. Supervise law students in civil law cases and legal advocacy projects. Serve on faculty committees. Produce and engage with legal scholarship.

University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law, Washington, DC

Professor of Law and Co-Director of the General Practice Clinic, October 2023 to May 2024

Associate Professor of Law and Co-Director of the General Practice Clinic, October 2020 to September 2023

Assistant Professor of Law and Co-Director of the General Practice Clinic, July 2017 to September 2020

Taught Civil Procedure, Negotiations, and Family Law. Directed the operations of the General Practice Clinic. Taught a biweekly seminar to law students about foundational lawyering skills for civil law practice. Supervised law students in civil law cases and legal advocacy projects. Served on faculty committees. Produced and engaged with legal scholarship.

PUBLICATIONS

- *Designing Litigation Alternatives for Marginalized Families* (forthcoming in *Family Law Quarterly*, Winter 2026)
- *Right-Sized Access to Protection*, 93 UMKC L. REV. 285
- *Lessons from Pandemic Co-Parenting: Towards Family Mediation that Centers Low-Income, Never-Married Black Mothers*, ROUTLEDGE COMPANION TO GENDER AND COVID-19 (2024)
- *Using Simulations to Negotiate the Impact of Trauma and Emotions on Professional Identity Development*, HOW TO ACCOUNT FOR TRAUMA AND EMOTIONS IN LAW TEACHING (2024)
- *Centering Family Violence in Family Law as Racial Justice*, 30 VA J. SOC. POL'Y & L. 44 (2023)
- *Using Experiential Learning to Create an Inclusive Classroom, Promote Equity, and Develop Professional Identity*, 60 FAM. CT. REV. 706 (2022) (special pedagogy issue)
- *Paper Courts and Parental Rights: Balancing Access, Agency, and Due Process*, 54 Harv. C.R.-C.L. L. Rev. 549 (2019)
- *Developments in Family Law in the District of Columbia: Three Significant Legislative Changes for Child Support*, 18 UDC/DCSL L. Rev. 201 (2015) (with Meridel Bulle-Vu and Ashley McDowell)
- *District of Columbia Practice Manual, 2014 Edition*, “Parentage” and “Child Support” (with Stacy Brustin et al.)
- *District of Columbia Practice Manual, 2011 Edition*, “Parentage” and “Child Support” (with Vanessa Batters-Thompson et al.)
- Brief of Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia et al. as *Amici Curiae* in Support of Petitioner, *Turner v. Rogers*, 564 U.S. 431 (2011), (No. 10-10)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) Junior Faculty Award, 2022
- UDC Student Bar Association Professor of the Month Award, March 2021 and November 2020
- UDC National Lawyers Guild, John C. Brittain Chapter, Student Support Award, 2018
- UDC Black Law Students Association, #BlackGirlMagic Award (for student support), 2018

OTHER LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia

Supervising Attorney, Domestic Violence/Family Law Unit, September 2013-June 2017

Supervised staff attorneys, loaned associates, legal assistants, and law student interns. Supervised intake interviews across practice areas, including volunteer attorneys. Drafted grant applications and managed grants. Represented domestic violence survivors in child custody and civil protection order cases, and custodial and noncustodial parents in child support cases. Mentored pro bono attorneys in family law cases. Advocated for systemic reform of the District's family law (particularly child support) and domestic violence systems.

Staff Attorney, Domestic Violence/Family Law Unit, September 2010-August 2013

Represented domestic violence survivors in child custody and civil protection order cases, and custodial and noncustodial parents in child support cases. Conducted intake interviews across practice areas. Drafted a reply brief for a child support case before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Supervised law student interns and a law graduate fellow. Mentored pro bono attorneys in family law cases. Advocated for systemic reform of the District's child support system.

Arthur Liman Public Interest Fellow, Domestic Violence/Family Law Unit, September 2008-August 2010

Represented custodial and noncustodial parents in child support cases. Conducted intake interviews across practice areas. Advocated for systemic reform of the District's child support system.

Domestic Violence Clinic, Student Supervisor, Yale Law School, Spring 2008

Represented survivors of domestic violence in divorce, child custody, child support, and immigration cases. Supervised two law students.

Community Lawyering Clinic, Law Student Intern, Yale Law School, Fall 2007

Represented survivors of domestic violence in divorce, child custody, and child support cases.

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Landlord Tenant Clinic, *Law Student Intern*, Yale Law School, Fall 2006, Spring 2007,
Fall 2007, Spring 2008

Represented low-income tenants in eviction cases.

Relman & Dane, PLLC (now Relman Colfax, PLLC), *Summer Associate*, Washington, DC,
Summer 2007

Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda, an amicus brief, and a motion in limine for fair housing, employment discrimination, and public accommodations cases.

Covington & Burling, LLP, *Summer Associate*, Washington, DC, Summer 2007

Researched legal issues such as the conditions under which the statute of limitations for a wrongful death claim would be equitably tolled, and the extent to which Medicaid regulations allow reimbursement for the educational costs of residential facilities for children with developmental disabilities. Drafted the articles of incorporation and bylaws for a housing cooperative.

Fair Housing Justice Center, *Legal Intern*, New York, NY, Summer 2006

Researched the use of mixed-income housing development as a remedy in public housing desegregation and site selection cases. Investigated a fair housing case involving racial discrimination in a federal housing program.

American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland, *Law Clerk*, Fair Housing Project, Baltimore, MD,
Summer 2006

Drafted and analyzed client surveys and conducted phone interviews and home visits to assess the efficacy of a housing mobility program created pursuant to the partial consent decree in a public housing desegregation case. Conducted legal research and wrote a memorandum regarding whether non-renewal of the leases of Section 8 voucher holders violates the federal Fair Housing Act.

Community and Economic Development Clinic, *Law Student Intern*, Yale Law School,
Spring 2006

Drafted municipal legislation for a community group that operates local farmers' markets. Conducted legal research on tax-related issues and accessibility requirements for a local Montessori school, and assisted the organization with grant applications.

BAR ADMISSIONS

State of New York, January 2009-Present

District of Columbia, December 2009-Present

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PRESENTATIONS

- Faculty Speaker, *Broadening Our Lens as a Path to Ending Family Violence*, UC Irvine Initiative to End Family Violence, 2025
- Presenter, *Parentage and Child Support Representation in DC*, DC Affordable Law Firm Fellowship Program, 2025
- Panelist, *The Demands and Delights of Institutional Citizenship: Exploring a Range of Service Opportunities*, Workshop for New Law Teachers, 2025
- *Decolonizing and Decarcerating Family Law*, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, 2025
- *The Importance of, and Strategies for, Teaching Hope: Turning Critique into Problem-Solving, Cynicism into Action*, American Association of Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education, 2025
- Moderator, Incubator Session; February 7, 2025; Mid-Atlantic Clinical Conference
- Presenter, *Parentage and Child Support Representation in DC*, DC Affordable Law Firm Fellowship Program, 2024
- Panelist, *Fostering Resistance to the Status Quo in Family Law: Harms of and Alternatives to Litigation*, American Association of Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education, 2024
- Panelist, *Getting Creative & Collaborative to Maximize Experiential Learning Opportunities*, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, 2023
- Small Group Facilitator & Panelist, *The Demands and Delights of Institutional Citizenship: Exploring a Range of Service Opportunities*, AALS Workshop for New Law Teachers, 2023
- Presenter, “Right-Sized Access to Protection,” *Surviving Intimate Partner Violence: How the Legal System Routinely Fails Survivors of Domestic Abuse*, Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender & Society Symposium, 2023
- Presenter, *Centering Family Violence in Family Law as Racial Justice*, Centering Family Violence Roundtable, 2023
- Presenter, *Reconceptualizing “Access to Justice,”* UVA Poverty Law Course, 2022
- Presenter, *Child Support Representation in DC*, DC Affordable Law Firm Fellowship Program, 2022

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- Presenter, *Incorporating Clinical Lessons in the Broader Law School Curriculum*, AALS Clinical Conference, 2022
- Discussion Group Leader, *Clinic at Night: An Access to Justice Model*, AALS Clinical Conference, 2022
- Presenter, *Lessons from Pandemic Co-Parenting: Towards Family Mediation that Centers Low-Income, Never-Married Black Mothers*, Routledge Companion on Gender and COVID-19 Contributors Workshop, 2022
- Panelist, *Ethics and Family Law Practice*, Boston College of Law Family Law Course, 2022
- Presenter, *Legislating Belonging* (now *Right-Sized Access to Protection*), Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop and Writing Retreat, 2021
- Presenter, *Legislating Belonging* (now *Right-Sized Access to Protection*), Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, 2021
- Small Group Facilitator, Clinical Law Education Association New Clinicians Conference, 2021
- Presenter, *Rights Dilution* (now *Right-Sized Access to Protection*), Clinical Law Review Writing Workshop, 2020
- Presenter, *Rights Dilution* (now *Right-Sized Access to Protection*), Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, 2020
- Presenter, *Rights Dilution* (now *Right-Sized Access to Protection*), Mid-Atlantic Clinicians Writing Workshop, 2020
- Panelist, “Addressing Procedural Deficits in the Adjudication of Child Protection Claims in Immigration Court and Before USCIS,” *In Children’s Best Interests: Advancing a Fundamental Standard for the Treatment of Immigrant Children*, Symposium, American University Washington College of Law, 2020
- Panelist, *Best Practices in Pro Bono: Challenging Cases, Clients & Counsel*, Washington Council of Lawyers, 2019
- Moderator, *Pathways to Practice: Litigation Strategies and Career Opportunities*, UDC Law School 2019
- Panelist, *Teaching Intersectional Lawyering in the Clinical Seminar: Pedagogical Tools to Strengthen Student Engagement with Marginalized Communities*, Southern Clinical Conference, 2018

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- Panelist, *Teaching Intersectional Lawyering in the Clinical Seminar: Pedagogical Tools to Strengthen Student Engagement with Marginalized Communities*, Society of American Law Teachers Conference, 2018
- Presenter, *Paper Courts and Parental Rights: Balancing Access, Agency, and Due Process*, Chapman School of Law Junior Faculty Works-in-Progress Conference, 2018
- Presenter, *Paper Courts and Parental Rights: Balancing Access, Agency, and Due Process*, Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, 2018
- Presenter, *Paper Courts and Parental Rights: Balancing Access, Agency, and Due Process*, Mid-Atlantic Clinicians Writers Workshop, 2018
- Moderator, *Building on #MeToo: Disarming Efforts to Wield Power and Control over Female Tenants*, UDC Law School Fair Housing Act Symposium, 2018
- Moderator, *Pathways to Practice: Trends in Family Law*, UDC Law School, 2018
- Presenter, *Family Law Primer*, DC Superior Court Attorney Negotiator Training, 2017

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES AND COMMITTEES

- District of Columbia Child Support Guideline Commission, August 2018-Present (appointed by Council of the District of Columbia for three, three-year terms)
- Judicial Conference of the District of Columbia Circuit Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services, July 2018-June 2025 (appointed by Judicial Conference of the District of Columbia Circuit for two, three-year terms)
- District of Columbia Bar Association, Family Law Section Steering Committee, July 2016-June 2019 (elected for a three-year term)
- District of Columbia Superior Court Paternity and Support Rules Drafting Committee, 2010- 2015
- District of Columbia Superior Court Paternity and Support Subcommittee of the Family Court Implementation Committee, 2010-2014