

EXPERIENCE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, STUDENT HEARING OFFICE

Impartial Hearing Officer (2014 - present)

Preside over special education due process hearings. Adjudicate, mediate and facilitate resolution of disputes brought in the District of Columbia pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act.

EVOLVING FAMILIES (THE LAW OFFICES OF NAKEISHA BLOUNT)

Attorney (2009 - 2014)

Served as guardian *ad litem* for children in child abuse and neglect, child support, paternity, custody and visitation matters. Represented parents in child abuse and neglect, child support, paternity, custody and visitation matters. Served as an appointed member of the Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect ("CCAN") Panel of the District of the Columbia Superior Court, and as a Virginia Supreme Court qualified guardian *ad litem*.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Washington Policy Advocacy Officer for Racial Justice and Human Rights (2009 - 2011)

Advocated on Capitol Hill for federal policy consistent with the priorities of each organization. Strengthened ecumenical cooperation in the areas of ending gun violence, criminal justice reform, educational equality, and ending poverty. Worked to facilitate increased interracial/intercultural cooperation and understanding within the ecumenical community.

ADVANCEMENT PROJECT

Senior Attorney (2008 Election Cycle)

Advocated for the interests of low-income and minority voters through negotiations with election officials, and by employing strategic communications strategies. Provided legal support to grassroots civic engagement organizations. Researched and analyzed barriers to voter participation. Contributed to published reports on polling place resources and the misuse of provisional ballots. Recruited law firms to serve as pro bono partners in Advancement Project's work.

DRISCOLL & SELTZER, PLLC

Of Counsel (2005 - 2007)

Helped to litigate insurance, contractual and employment disputes on behalf of corporations and nonprofit organizations. Researched and analyzed relevant law. Drafted motions and memoranda. Conducted discovery.

PROJECT VOTE

Director, Special Projects (2004 Election Cycle)

Coordinated Project Vote's faith-based, high school and former felon voting initiatives. Advocated in 15 states for fair implementation of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 ("HAVA"). Trained and provided guidance and support for agency partners around the country. Responded to press inquiries. Spoke at conferences and taught seminars and workshops on behalf of Project Vote. Prepared educational materials on civic engagement and participation. Recruited volunteers.

MURRELL & ASSOCIATES

Special Education Associate (2003)

Represented parents of special needs students in due process hearings under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act.

CROWELL & MORING LLP

Government Contracts and Litigation Associate (1999 - 2001)

Counseled clients on government procurement preferences and government ethical regulations. Provided debarment defense. Worked on bid protests. Prepared compliance training materials for federal contractors. Litigated tax, insurance and employer retaliation cases. Litigated landlord/tenant and child custody cases pro bono. Provided libel counsel to *The New Republic* magazine. Covered and analyzed legislative hearings.

CROWELL & MORING LLP

Summer Associate (1998)

Researched litigation, business crimes, product liability and antitrust issues. Drafted legal memoranda. Attended trials and depositions.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY (Crowell & Moring Public Interest Fellowship)

Legal Intern (1998)

Researched family law and landlord/tenant issues. Drafted legal memoranda and motions. Assisted with an administrative appeal. Conducted client intake.

OWENS CORNING

Legal Intern (1997)

Researched asbestos litigation, labor and employment and international arbitration issues. Drafted legal memoranda. Conducted due diligence for a pending merger.

EDUCATION

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY — Washington, DC

Degree: Masters of Divinity, *cum laude*

May 2007

Honors/Awards: Deans Award Merit Scholarship recipient (2004 - 2007)

HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW — Washington, DC

Degree: Juris Doctor, with honors

May 1999

Honors/Awards: Graduated 6th of 118 (top 5%). Academic scholarship recipient (1996 - 1999). *Howard Law Journal* (1997 - 1999). Highest class average ("Amjur" award) in Torts, Contracts and Jurisprudence. *Who's Who: American Law Students*.

ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY — Elizabeth City, NC

Degree: Bachelor of Arts (English/news media), *summa cum laude*

May 1996

Honors/Awards: Graduated 15 of 303 (top 5%). Graduated 1st in the Department of Language Literature and Communications. University Honors Program (1992 - 1996). Academic scholarship recipient (1992 - 1996). Attorney General, Student Government Association (1994 - 1995). Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. Pickwick Literary Honor Society. *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges*. Awarded collegiate scholarship to travel to Ghana, West Africa as a part of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s Habitat for Humanity International Build Project.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Virginia State Bar (1999)

District of Columbia Bar (2000)

United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (1999)

United States Court of Federal Claims (2000)