

PATRICIA N. JJEMBA, ESQ.

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BAR ADMISSIONS

Illinois State Bar | Northern District of Illinois | Southern District of Illinois | Eastern District of Michigan | Western District of Illinois

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

08/2022 – Present

Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender – Chicago, IL

- Work on policy and legislation which advances criminal justice reform efforts.
- Serve as representative for the office in Springfield.

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

08/2022 – Present

Loyola University Chicago School of Law – Chicago, IL

- Regularly instruct second-year law students on legal writing and appellate practice.
- Particularly help students develop thorough research, writing, and oral advocacy skills that will empower them to serve as supreme advocates inside and outside of the courtroom.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL – CIVIL RIGHTS BUREAU

10/2020 – 05/2023

Illinois Attorney General's Office – Chicago, IL

- Consistently build cases and conduct investigations regarding civil rights violations, specifically patterns and practices of discrimination, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois.
- Litigate and negotiate election cases in support of complainants and the Illinois Human Rights Commission.
- Draft legal memoranda such as pleadings, responsive pleadings and motions, and settlement agreements.
- Regularly oversee and monitor compliance of court ordered reporting, training, and activity necessary to end discrimination following findings of such unlawful behavior.
- Engage with Attorneys General nationwide and Congressional members in multistate legislative and investigative efforts, providing thoroughly researched recommendations for proposed legislations and investigations on topics such as school discipline reform, criminal justice reform, LGBTQ rights, and employment.
- Manage and monitor compliance with enumerated sections of the Chicago Police Consent Decree, including Hiring, Recruitment, & Promotions, Officer Wellness, Search Warrants.
- Head and project manage legal team launching investigations into local jails for allegations of unconstitutional or unlawful policing conduct, access to medical care, and treatment of incarcerated people.
- Lead coordinated school discipline investigations alongside ISBE to scrutinize claims of discrimination based on race and student disability status.
- Participated on team coordinating the national athletic organization's address of players allegations of sexual harassment and abuse.
- Review and mark up proposed legislative bills, providing recommendations to the Attorney General and OAG legislative team on support, denial, or no stance from civil rights-focused lens.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL – WORKERS' COMPENSATION BUREAU

04/2018 – 09/2020

Illinois Attorney General's Office – Chicago, IL

- Regularly defended and prosecuted civil, workers' compensation cases on behalf of the State of Illinois.
- Routinely settled \$100,000+ settlement agreements.
- Maintained active caseload of 250-300 cases consistently, while making daily courtroom appearances.
- Engaged in all phases of pre-trial, trial, and appellate stages of adjudication.
- Frequently conducted meticulous evidence depositions of lay and expert witnesses.
- Regularly wrote and researched legal briefs, motions, and proposed finding decisions for judicial review.

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

05/2017 – 03/2018

Edelman, Combs, Lattuner & Goodwin, LLC – Chicago, IL

- Participated in litigation work such as motion drafting and practice, witness interviewing, and deposition preparation.
- Assisted in various phases of litigation on matters related to class actions, consumer protection and wage and hour claims at the state and federal level.
- Aided in Americans with Disabilities Act class action suit against an online entity by conducting extensive legal research.
- Interacted daily with clients to conduct interviews, advise on settlement options, and gather supporting facts.
- Facilitated numerous settlement negotiations and mutual release agreements on behalf of clients.

LAW CLERK

09/2016 – 12/2016

Legal Services of South-Central Michigan – Lansing, MI

- Routinely negotiated rental payment settlement agreements on behalf of indigent clients, frequently arguing landlord/tenant claims in district court.
- Assisted clients with retaining vital public benefits and consumer-related issues.
- Regularly interviewed indigent clients through the intake process.

LAW CLERK

06/2015 – 08/2015

Michigan Department of Civil Rights – Detroit, MI

- Analyzed and composed internal guidance memos directing Civil Rights investigators procedure processing individual education plan claims.
- Regularly drafted reconsideration appeals regarding public accommodation discrimination claims.
- Hosted 13 African delegates in the International Leadership Program to promote and discuss civil rights related to religious freedom.
- Conducted thorough research to draft internal guidance memo on state and federal pregnancy discrimination distinctions.

LAW CLERK

06/2014 – 08/2014

Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Children in Need of Assistance Division – Prince George, MD

- Exercised comprehensive legal research and writing skills to draft legal memoranda including a Motion to Compel, Motion to Contest Post Adoption Contact Agreement, and subpoenas.

LAW CLERK

03/2014 – 03/2014

Navajo Nation Supreme Court – Window Rock, AZ

- Conducted legal research of traditional tribal law and drafted family law-related Decision Memorandum on behalf of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court.

LEGAL INTERN

07/2013 – 08/2013

Graydon, Head & Ritchey, LLP – Cincinnati, OH

- Drafted internal “HR Matters” article on employee psychiatric diagnoses and employer accommodation.

LEGAL INTERN

06/2011 – 08/2011

Hon. Judge Susan J. Dlott- United States District Court – Cincinnati, OH

- Conducted legal research on The Americans with Disability Act Amendments to assist judge in her ruling of a case.
- Observed and assisted in settlement conferences as needed.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

YOUTH SERVICES ASSISTANT/TEACHER

09/2012 – 02/2013

Young Women’s Christian Association of the United States (YWCA) – Cincinnati, OH

- Supervised daily afterschool program for urban Appalachian community, monitoring educational, familial, trauma, and mental health needs of students and families.
- Offered substance abuse prevention, uplift and empowerment programming for students in grades 4th-8th alongside school administrators, teachers, and paraprofessional staff members.
- Implemented *Girls, Inc.* curriculum for at-risk female youth.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor | May 2016

Michigan State University College of Law – East Lansing, MI

Bachelor of Arts in Diplomacy & Foreign Affairs | May 2012

Miami University – Oxford, OH

PUBLICATIONS

“Expanding the Scope of Title VII: Will Sexual Orientation Become a New Basis for Employment Discrimination?”

Chicago Bar Association Law Journal | October 2017

“The Final Cut: The West’s Opportunity to Accommodate Victims of Female Genital Mutilation”

University of Massachusetts Law Review | Spring 2017

“Failure Turned Inside Out”

Ms. JD Writers in Residence | Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall 2017

CERTIFICATES

Geoffrey Fieger Trial Practice Institute Litigation Certification | 2016

Michigan State University College of Law

HONORS & AWARDS

Jurisprudence Award- Global Perspective on Women & the Law | 2016

Michigan State University College of Law

Jurisprudence Award- Law & Religion | 2015

Michigan State University College of Law

Volunteer Coach/Advisor | 2015 - 2016

Michigan State University College of Law Moot Court Board

NMCC Region 6 2nd Place Winner | 2015

Michigan State University College of Law Moot Court Board

Researcher | 2015

Lori E. Talsky Center for Human Rights Research: Mitigating Circumstances of Former Child Soldiers

Manuscript Editor | 2014 - 2015

Midwest Journal of Law & Policy

Kyoto, Japan Study Abroad Program Participant | 2014

Michigan State University College of Law