

## **Miranda B. Johnson**

Loyola University Chicago School of Law  
25 East Pearson Street, Rm. 1126 ▪ Chicago, IL 60601  
(312) 915.7952 ▪ [mjohnson11@luc.edu](mailto:mjohnson11@luc.edu)

### **EDUCATION**

#### **New York University School of Law**

J.D., *magna cum laude*, May 2006

Honors: Order of the Coif  
Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar

#### **Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University**

Master in Public Affairs, June 2006

#### **Dartmouth College**

A.B. in Government and Women's Studies, *magna cum laude*, June 1997

Honors: *Phi Beta Kappa*  
Martin Luther King Jr. Social Justice Alumni Award (2002)  
Truman Scholar

### **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

#### **Education Law and Policy Institute, Loyola University Chicago School of Law**

*Clinical Professor of Law and Director*, Apr. 2017–present

*Associate Director*, July 2012–Apr. 2017

- Oversee the law school's curriculum, events, research, and programs related to education law, growing the program into the top-rated education law program in the country.
- Teach doctrinal and experiential learning courses in education law and child and family law.
- Lead a team of attorneys and law students who provide legal information and representation in school discipline, special education, and school bullying matters.
- Conduct research and produce scholarship on school discipline and school policing reform, with a focus on race and disability equity.
- Develop and organize training and outreach events on education law topics, including ten years of the law school's annual "Education Law: A Year in Review" program.
- Present at national and local conferences and trainings on topics related to education law, school discipline, restorative justice, and law teaching.
- Secured gifts and grants totaling more than \$1 million to support the work of the Institute and its partners.

#### **Civitas ChildLaw Clinic, Loyola University Chicago School of Law**

*Salisbury Clinical Teaching Fellow in Child and Family Law*, July 2010–June 2012

- Supervised law student representation of children in child protection, child custody, school discipline, and special education cases.
- Participated in teaching clinic seminar on child representation, focusing on substantive knowledge, skills development, and ethical concerns in child advocacy.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Current courses:**

**Child, Family, and the State:** Lecture course examining the legal relationships among children, families, and the state. Areas of law addressed include child welfare, education, immigration, and juvenile justice. The course explores Supreme Court jurisprudence on the issue of parental rights and family privacy as well as the doctrine of children's rights. Attention is paid to the role of race, gender, and class and their intersection in shaping the ways in which children and families interface with governmental systems.

**Education Law and Policy:** Seminar exploring the difficult legal, political, and practical issues currently confronting American education. Students learn the fundamental political and legal principles underlying the American public education system and are challenged to apply these principles to difficult areas of education law, such as school funding, curricular disputes, the constitutional rights of students, and special education.

**Education Law Practicum:** Seminar and field placement course addressing substantive education law and skill development tailored to the practice of education law. The seminar explores current legal and policy issues related to educational inequity, with a focus on race, ethnicity, disability, gender, and their intersection.

**Advanced Education Law Practicum:** Advanced course for students who have completed the Education Law Practicum. This course deepens skills development and knowledge of students related to the practice of education law and covers topics like trauma-informed practices, systemic reform litigation, and the role of lawyers in addressing educational inequities.

**Special Education Dispute Resolution:** Experiential learning course that provides students with an intensive simulated experience in the various processes of resolution of special education disputes.

**Student Disciplinary Hearing Workshop:** Experiential learning course that provides students with an intensive simulated experience in conducting a student disciplinary administrative hearing.

### **Prior courses:**

**Professional Identity Formation:** Lead faculty member for the law school's Professional Identity Formation course, a mandatory course for first-law students that focuses on diversity, inclusion, and bias in relation to the role of lawyers and the legal profession.

**Legal Issues in Student Discipline:** Seminar course addressing the constitutional implications of student discipline and the statutory provisions governing student discipline and the administrative hearing process.

**School Discipline Reform: Linking Law, Policy, and Practice:** A co-taught interdisciplinary course for students in the School Discipline Reform Certificate program, supporting students to create an action plan for their schools and districts.

**Civitas ChildLaw Clinic:** Clinical seminar and supervision of students in the representation of children in child protection, domestic relations, and education cases.

### **PROGRAM OVERSIGHT & STUDENT COLLABORATION AND ADVISING**

**Faculty Advisor, Stand Up for Each Other! (SUFEQ) Chicago,** Aug. 2014–present

- Collaborated with law students to create SUFEQ, a law student organization that provides information and advocacy support to parents and students in special education, school discipline, and school bullying matters involving PreK-12 students.
- Developed structured experiential curriculum and extracurricular opportunities to enable law students in their first, second, and third years to contribute to the project and develop skills in client intake, community outreach, legal research, case analysis, and legal advocacy.
- Spearheaded SUFEQ's expansion, including the creation of the Anti-Bullying Project and the hiring of two attorneys to supervise law student intake and accompanying casework.

**Faculty Advisor, Education Law and Policy Society (ELPS),** Jan. 2013–present

- Advise students in the Education Law and Policy Society, a student organization that provides opportunities for interested students to deepen their understanding of the range of law and policy issues affecting children and parents, teachers, and school administrators.
- Work with student leaders of ELPS to organize an annual career panel for students interested in education law-related careers.

**Faculty Advisor, ChildLaw Fellows,** Fall 2017–present

- Provide academic and career advising to students selected as ChildLaw Fellows based on their commitment to legal representation and advocacy on behalf of children.

**Convenor, Community Circle Initiative,** Aug. 2017–present

- Launched law school initiative to train student leaders, faculty, and staff to lead dialogues on important community issues using principles of restorative practices.

**Co-Director, School Discipline Reform Certificate program,** Mar. 2017–July 2021

- Co-created and administered an innovative interdisciplinary program designed to support school leaders to gain skills and tools to lead school discipline reform initiatives in their schools and districts.

**Co-Director, JD/MA in Law and Comparative Education & JD/MEd in Law and Education Policy,** Jan. 2013 – June 2023

- Worked with School of Education faculty to develop and launch the JD/MEd in Education Policy in Fall 2018.
- Advised students seeking dual degrees with the School of Education.

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Advocates for Children of New York, Inc., New York, New York** **Staff Attorney**, Oct. 2007–July 2010

- Represented parents of students with disabilities in administrative proceedings to obtain appropriate educational services.
- Represented parents and students in federal class action lawsuits to remedy systemic legal violations with respect to education in New York City.
- Developed case strategy, drafted pleadings and motions, conducted discovery, participated in settlement negotiations, and appeared in court and administrative proceedings.
- Drafted proposed state regulatory language on parent and student participation in school districts' decisions regarding allocation of additional educational funding made available due to a successful class action lawsuit.

### **Hon. Allyn R. Ross, U.S. District Judge, Eastern District of New York, Brooklyn, New York** **Law Clerk**, Sept. 2006–Sept. 2007

- Researched questions of law and assisted in drafting of memoranda and opinions of law.

### **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), New York, New York** **Consultant, Gender and Human Rights, Global Policy Section**, Aug. 2005–Feb. 2006

- Developed training manual for country staff on legislative advocacy to advance children's and women's rights, focusing on reproductive health and domestic violence.
- Drafted policy brief on implications of women's labor migration for children's rights.
- Published article in internal publication for staff worldwide on potential conflicts between children's and women's rights and strategies for minimizing such conflicts.
- Conducted statistical research on child labor globally, focusing on children's domestic labor.

### **Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania** **Programme Officer, Activism, Lobbying and Advocacy**, Mar. 2000–Mar. 2002

- Coordinated advocacy, capacity building, and networking of organizational coalition seeking to address gender inequities in laws, policies, and budgetary allocation.
- Facilitated campaign to increase number of women in political and decision-making positions.
- Trained and supported staff of reproductive rights partner organization to design and implement an advocacy strategy to enhance the impact and sustainability of their work.

### **Fulbright Scholar Program, Dar es Salaam, Arusha, and Dodoma, Tanzania** **Fulbright Research Scholar**, Feb. 1999–Feb. 2000

- Conducted field research on small-scale women's income generating projects in two rural regions of Tanzania, focusing on identifying strategies for outside support of grassroots rural development.

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

*School Discipline and Exclusion*, OXFORD RES. ENCYCLOPEDIA EDUC. (invited publication).

## **PUBLICATIONS**

EXPLORING AND ADDRESSING DISCIPLINE DISPARITIES AMONG STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (2022) (co-editor, with Pamela Fenning).

*Promoting Statewide Discipline Reform through Professional Development with Administrators*, 64 PREVENTING SCH. FAILURE 172 (2020) (with Kelsie N. Reed, Pamela Fenning, & Ashley Mayworm) ([link](#)).

*A Place for Bullying Protections in School Lawyering*, A.B.A. CHILD.'S RTS. LITIG., Winter 2020 (with Jackie Ross, Brenda Alvarez, & Theodore Gelderman).

*Just Another School?: Strengthening Legal Protections for Students Facing Disciplinary Transfers*, 33 NOTRE DAME J. LAW, ETHICS & PUB. POL'Y 1 (2019) (with James Naughton) ([link](#)) (resulted in passage of Ill. Pub. Act 103-0473, eff. Jan. 1, 2024).

*Making a Systemic Difference: Working with the Changing System, in IMPLICIT BIAS IN SCHOOLS: A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE* (Gina L. Gullo et al., 2018) (with Pamela Fenning).

*Developing Prevention-Oriented Discipline Codes of Conduct*, 36 CHILD.'S LEGAL RTS. J. 107-36 (2016) (with Pamela Fenning) ([link](#)).

Review of EUROPEAN CONQUEST AND THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, by Paul Keal, 26 N.Y.U. J. INT'L L. & POL. 653 (2004).

PROMOTING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO POLITICS AND DECISION-MAKING: THE ROLE OF TGNP AND OTHER ADVOCACY GROUPS IN THE 2000 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN TANZANIA (2004) (with Aggripina Mosha) ([link](#)).

*Key Strategies and Tools Adopted to Take Forward the Gender Budget Initiative in Tanzania, in GENDER BUDGET ANALYSIS IN TANZANIA 1997-2000* (2003) (with Mary Rusimbi).

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

Model Student Code of Conduct, Transforming Sch. Discipline Collab. (Mar. 2017) (with Monica Llorente et al.) ([link](#)).

Manual for Representing Children at Chicago Public Schools Expulsion Hearings, Chi. Lawyers' Comm. for Civ. Rts. Under L. (Jan. 2012) (with Jessica Schneider et al.).

Free To Learn: A Rights Based Approach to Universal Primary Education in Kenya, Princeton Sch. Pub. & Int'l Affs. (Feb. 2006) (with Andrew Egan et al.).

*Governance and Civil Society Interventions in Land Reform Processes in Tanzania* (MWENGO Land Res. Paper Series, 2003) (with Deus Kibamba).

### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

Scholarship cited in: Alexandra Walsh et al., *Is It Time to Suspend School Suspensions?*, REGUL. REV., Feb. 4, 2023 ([link](#)).

Quoted in: Kathleen Foody, *When School is Home and Home is School, Which Rules Prevail?*, ASSOCIATED PRESS, Oct. 13, 2020 ([link](#)).

Quoted in: Kalyn Belsha, *Virtual Suspensions. Mask Rules. More Trauma. Why Some Worry a Student Discipline Crisis is on the Horizon*, CHALKBEAT, Aug. 21, 2020 ([link](#)).

Interviewed on: Legal Faceoff, *Knight and Shapiro on LGBTQ Supreme Court Victory, Johnson on Removing CPD from CPS, Inside Out, and Much More*, WGN RADIO, at 13:24 (June 18, 2020) ([link](#)).

Opinion Contributor: *Commentary: Remove Chicago Police from CPS Schools*, CHI. TRIB., June 8, 2020 ([link](#)).

Opinion Contributor: *Commentary: Limiting Use of School 'Quiet Rooms' Is Not Enough. Teachers Need Training and Support.*, CHI. TRIB., Dec. 11, 2019 ([link](#)).

Research mentioned in: Kalyn Belsha, *How Illinois Obscures Racial Disparities in School Discipline Data*, CHI. REP., July 18, 2018 ([link](#)).

Opinion Contributor: Valerie Strauss, *Why Are We Criminalizing the Behavior of Students with Disabilities?*, WASH. POST, April 25, 2017 ([link](#)).

Interviewed on: Morning Shift, *No Post-Graduation Plan? No Graduation, Proposes Mayor Emanuel*, WBEZ CHI., Apr. 11, 2017 ([link](#)).

Interviewed in: Elena Gooray, *Chicago Has a Controversial Plan to Prepare Students for Life After High School*, PAC. STANDARD, Apr. 10, 2017 ([link](#)).

Quoted in: Hal Dardick & John Byrne, *Emanuel Wants to Add a CPS Graduation Requirement: Get Acceptance Letter*, CHI. TRIB., April 5, 2017 ([link](#)).

Quoted in: Tawnell D. Hobbs, *Chicago Mayor Touts New Requirement to Graduate: Proof of a Plan*, WALL ST. J., April 5, 2017 ([link](#)).

Interviewed on: Perrie Small Show, *Youth Violence and School Discipline*, WVON, March 7, 2017.

Opinion Contributor: *Education Investment Critical in Ending Chicago's Violence*, THE HILL, Feb. 17, 2017 ([link](#)).

## **GRANTS AND SUB-AWARDS**

**Co-Investigator** (with Dr. Pamela Fenning, Principal Investigator)

July 2022–June 2024

University of Illinois–Springfield and Illinois State Board of Education

Illinois Partnership for Disciplinary Equity

\$174,238.00 sub-award to the School of Law

**Co-Investigator** (with Thalia González, Principal Investigator and Dr. Amy Nelson Christensen, Co-Investigator)

Jan. 2023–Dec. 2024

Spencer Foundation Conference Grant

An Antiracist Research Agenda to Advance Restorative Practices in PreK-12 Schools

\$50,000 grant to University of California San Francisco School of Law

**Co-Investigator** (with Dr. Pamela Fenning, Principal Investigator)

July 2021–June 2022

University of Illinois – Springfield and Illinois State Board of Education

Illinois Partnership for Disciplinary Equity

\$348,172 sub-award to Loyola University Chicago

**Co-Investigator** (with Dr. Pamela Fenning, Principal Investigator)

July 2020–June 2021

Robert R. McCormick Foundation

SB100: Understanding the Issues and Supporting Implementation Efforts

\$61,319 grant

**Principal Investigator**

July 2019–June 2020

Helen Brach Foundation

Restorative Justice Initiative

\$50,000 grant

**Co-Investigator** (with Dr. Pamela Fenning, Principal Investigator)

July 2018–July 2021

Spencer Foundation Conference Grant

Reducing Suspensions and Expulsions of Students with Disabilities: Intersecting Research, Law, Policy and Practice

\$49,938 grant

**Co-Principal Investigator** (with Dr. Pamela Fenning, Principal Investigator)

Aug. 2016–Aug. 2017

W.K. Kellogg Foundation Subaward (contract with the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law)

Evaluating Administrators' Academies in the Context of Illinois Discipline Reform Legislation: Lessons Learned by a Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration

\$30,000 grant

**TRAININGS, CONFERENCES, AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Conferences and Presentations Related to Legal Education**

Co-Facilitator, Community Building Circle Training, Santa Clara University School of Law (May 24–25, 2022; Feb. 2, 2024).

Presenter, Teaching Students How to Blog, Legal Writing Institute, Vermont Law & Graduate School (Dec. 8, 2023).

Co-organizer, Works-In-Progress Session, Association of American Law Schools Sections on Education Law & Children and the Law, Loyola University Chicago School of Law (Sept. 22–23, 2023).

Presenter, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: The Links to Mission, Rooftops Conference, Loyola University Chicago School of Law (Feb. 25, 2022).

Presenter, Re-Imagining Legal Education: Magic Happens When Students and Faculty Collaborate, Webinar, American Bar Association (Mar. 26, 2021).

Co-Facilitator, Education Law Working Group, Virtual Clinical Conference, Association of American Law Schools & Clinical Legal Education Association (July 21–23, 2020).

Presenter, Use of Restorative Circles to Foster Classroom, Community, and Cross-Cultural Conversations, Focus on Teaching and Learning, Loyola University Chicago (Jan. 9, 2019).

Presenter, Kids These Days: Teaching Millennials from a Strength-Based Perspective, Faculty Presentation, Baylor Law School (Apr. 5, 2018).

Presenter, Receiving Feedback, Student Presentation, Baylor Law School (Apr. 5, 2018).

Presenter, Teaching Students to Receive Feedback, Teaching Cultural Competency and Other Professional Skills, Institute for Law Teaching and Learning (July 8, 2017).

Presenter, Bridging the Divide: Building Collaborations Between Doctrinal and Clinical Faculty to Expand Experiential Learning Opportunities, Annual Conference, Society of American Law Teachers (Oct. 1, 2016).

Facilitator, Education and Juvenile Law Working Group, 39th Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Association of American Law Schools (Apr. 30–May 3, 2016).

### **Conferences and Presentations Related to Education Law**

Organizer, Education Law: A Year in Review, Loyola University Chicago (held annually in June since 2014).

Presenter, Examining School Discipline: Legal Updates and Equity Issues in PreK-12 Schools, 69th Annual Conference, Education Law Association (Oct. 26, 2023).

Presenter, The Toll of School: Fines and Fees for School-Related Conduct, 68th Annual Conference, Education Law Association (Nov. 3, 2022).

Presenter, Alternative Schools and Students with Disabilities, Works-in-Progress Session, Association of American Law Schools Section on Education Law, University of Illinois Chicago School of Law (Sep. 17, 2022).

Presenter, School Discipline Hearings: Perspectives on Best Practices, 2022 Professional Development Conference, National Association of Hearing Officials (Aug. 8, 2022).

Presenter, Working with School Police: Alternatives and Improved Approaches, 67th Annual Conference, Education Law Association (Oct. 20, 2021).

Presenter, Seclusion and Restraint: The Evolving Legal Landscape in Illinois, Special Education Professional Learning Community Workshop, Loyola University Chicago School of Education (Apr. 12, 2021).

Presenter, Inequality—Solving Disparity and Unequal Access to Opportunity, Together in Loyola Webinar Series, Loyola University Chicago (Nov. 18, 2020).

Commentator, Beyond the School to Prison Pipeline: Is it Time for School Abolition?, Conversation with David Stovall, Loyola Chicago School of Law National Lawyers' Guild Chapter (Nov. 9, 2020).

Co-Creator and Presenter, School Discipline Reform: Strategies for Systemic Change, Administrators' Academy #1717, approved by the Illinois State Board of Education (May 2016–Mar. 2020). Presented in 14 locations, including Loyola University Chicago, various school districts, and a special education cooperative.

Presenter, The Connection Between Trauma and Learning: Implications for Schools, 65th Annual Conference, Education Law Association (Nov. 14, 2019).

Presenter, Partners or Co-Defendants?: Legislating the Relationship between School Districts and Law Enforcement,” Scholarly Works in Progress Session, 41st Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Association of American Law Schools (May 7, 2019).

Co-Presenter, Discipline and Students with Disabilities: Application of "Building Bridges" Alternative to Suspension Program, Conference on Educational Leadership, ASCD (Mar. 16, 2019).

Co-Presenter, Disciplinary Placements in Alternative Schools: Linking Research, Law and Practice, Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyer Section Education Law Committee (Feb. 27, 2019) & DuPage County Bar Association (Dec. 13, 2018).

Presenter, The Requirements of the Law: SB100 and PA 100-0014, Changing the Narrative: Creating Healthy Relationships in Schools and Communities, College of Lake County (Feb. 1, 2019).

Discussant, The Role of Law in Education In(Equality), Annual Meeting, Association of American Law Schools (Jan. 5, 2019).

Presenter, Implicit Bias in Research and Education, Chicago Equity Forum on Implicit Bias in Schools, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (Dec. 14, 2018).

Presenter, A Case Study Application of Building Restorative Practices in an Urban Charter School, Illinois Network of Charter Schools Conference (Nov. 15, 2018).

Presenter, A Conversation on the School to Prison Pipeline, Lawyers Club of Chicago (Nov. 14, 2018).

Presenter, Kick Her Out! Lock Him Up! Efforts to Combat Excessive Disciplinary and Law Enforcement Actions Involving Schoolchildren, 64th Annual Conference, Education Law Association (Nov. 9, 2018).

Moderator, No Child Left Behind: The Intersection between Race and Education in Chicago, Race and the Law Symposium, Loyola University Chicago School of Law Black Law Student Association (Feb. 28, 2018).

Presenter, Reducing Suspensions and Expulsions of Students with Disabilities: Linking Law, Research and Practice, Spring Conference, Illinois Association of Administrators of Special Education, (Feb. 22, 2018).

Presenter, Senate Bill 100 and Its Implementation, Changing the Narrative: Creating Healthy Relationships in Schools and Communities, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center (Feb. 1, 2018).

Presenter, Civil Rights and K-12 Students, Education Policy in the Trump Presidency, One Year In, Education Policy Forum, Loyola University Chicago Cultural and Education Policy Studies Program (Jan. 26, 2018).

## **LAW SCHOOL GUEST LECTURES**

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Women and Children's Human Rights Advocacy Clinic & International Human Rights Advocacy Clinic (Mar. 9, 2020; Feb. 7, 2022; Jan. 23, 2023; Jan. 29, 2024)

University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, Education and Civil Rights Class (Nov. 14, 2023)

Northern Illinois University College of Law, Education Law Class (Nov. 16, 2021)

## **PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS**

Executive Committee Member, Education Law Section, Association of American Law Schools, January 2020 – present (Chair, January 2023–January 2024)

Member, School Discipline Working Group, February 2012–present

Founding Member and Steering Committee Member, Transforming School Discipline Collaborative, Mar. 2015–Dec. 2020

Member, Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Special Education, Jan. 2015–present

- Co-Chair, Sub-Committee on School to Prison Pipeline, Apr. 2016–Dec. 2020

Member, Education Equity Project Advisory Committee, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc., 2013–2015

## **LAW SCHOOL SERVICE**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Fall 2018–present

Advisor, Curt and Linda Rodin Center for Social Justice, 2018–2021, 2023–present

Curriculum Committee, Fall 2020–Spring 2023

Member, Mission Statement Revision Task Force, June–July 2020

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The OpEd Project: Book Publishing for Thought Leaders (Mar. 30, 2021), How to Use Your Story to Tell a Bigger Story (Feb. 2, 2021), Advanced Workshop: Connection: Accelerating Ideas (Advanced Workshop) (Dec. 17, 2020); Public Voices Fellowship (Jan.–Apr. 2017)

Faculty Book Discussion Group, Loyola Center for Experiential Learning, RACE TALK AND THE CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE, by Derald Wing Su (Fall 2020)

Faculty Book Discussion Group, Loyola Center for Experiential Learning, WHITE FRAGILITY, by Robin DiAngelo (Summer 2020)

Online Teaching Course, Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy, Loyola University Chicago (Jan.–Feb. 2018)

**BAR MEMBERSHIPS**

Admitted to practice in Illinois state courts and the Northern District of Illinois.