

MIRANDA BLAKE JOHNSON

Loyola University Chicago School of Law
25 East Pearson Street, Room 1126 ▪ Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 915.7952 (work) ▪ (312) 375.4064 (cell) ▪ mjohnson11@luc.edu

EDUCATION

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, New York, New York

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

Honors: Order of the Coif – *for graduating in the top 10% of the class*
Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar – *for demonstrated commitment to public interest law*
Butler Memorial Award – *for unusual distinction in scholarship, character and professional activities*
Butler Scholar – *for the ten students with the highest GPA after four semesters*
Notes Editor, *NYU Journal of International Law and Politics*
Teaching Assistant, Property Law

Activities: Co-Founder and Advocacy Chair, Law Students for Human Rights

PRINCETON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Master in Public Affairs, June 2006

Activities: Precept, International Law

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, Hanover, New Hampshire

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

Honors: *Phi Beta Kappa*
Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Alumni Award (2002) – *as an emerging social justice leader*
Truman Scholarship – *national scholarship for academic achievement and public service leadership*
Colby Prize – *for excellence in the study of government and commitment to public service*

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY INSTITUTE, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO SCHOOL OF LAW, Chicago, Illinois

Clinical Professor of Law and Director, April 2017 – Present

Associate Director, July 2012 – April 2017

Teach experiential learning courses in education law. Supervise law students in the representation of parents and students in school discipline and special education cases. Oversee a law student-run hotline providing information and advocacy to parents and students regarding school suspensions. Develop and organize training and outreach events on education law-related issues for law students, attorneys, educators, and members of the public. Present at national and local conferences and trainings on prevention-oriented approaches to school discipline. Co-coordinate the School Discipline Reform Certificate program.

CIVITAS CHILDLAW CLINIC, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO SCHOOL OF LAW, Chicago, Illinois ***Salisbury Clinical Teaching Fellow in Child and Family Law***, July 2010 – June 2012

Supervised law students in representation of children in child protection and child custody cases and the representation of parents and students in 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. Contributed to an amicus brief to the Supreme Court of the United States in a case regarding child abuse investigations in schools. Taught litigation skills in law school trial practice course focused on the representation of children.

COURSES TAUGHT

Education Law Practicum (Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Summer 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Summer 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Summer 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Summer 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020 – in-person/online, Summer 2020 - online, Fall 2020 - online)

Professional Identity Formation (Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020)

School Discipline Reform: Linking Law, Policy, and Practice (online course) (Spring 2018)

Legal Issues in Student Discipline (Fall 2013 – in-person, Spring 2020 – online)

Special Education Dispute Resolution (Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2020 - online)

Student Disciplinary Hearing Workshop (Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Spring 2020)

Civitas ChildLaw Clinic (SY 2010-2011, SY 2011-2012)

STUDENT ADVISING

Supervising Attorney and Faculty Advisor, Stand Up for Each Other! (SUFEO) Chicago (August 2014 - present). SUFEO is an initiative led by law students to address school suspensions of pre-K through high school students in the Chicago area

Faculty Advisor, Education Law and Policy Society (January 2013 – present). The Education Law and Policy Society is a student-run 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.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK, INC. (AFC), New York, New York

Staff Attorney, October 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 motion papers, 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. ALLYNE R. ROSS, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE, EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, Brooklyn, New York

Law Clerk, September 2006 – September 2007

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN’S FUND (UNICEF), New York, New York

Consultant, Gender and Human Rights, Global Policy Section, August 2005 – February 2006

Intern, Gender and Human Rights, Global Policy Section, May – July 2005

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.

PROJECT ON RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN KENYA, Princeton, New Jersey & Garissa, Kenya

Team Leader, September – December 2005

Co-organized team of nine graduate students to support Kenyan Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and UNICEF-Kenya Country Office to apply a human rights-based framework to primary education. Conducted field research in rural district with particularly low educational enrollment rates and drafted section of report on educational access barriers.

TANZANIA GENDER NETWORKING PROGRAMME (TGNP), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Programme Officer, Activism, Lobbying and Advocacy, March 2000 – March 2002

Coordinated advocacy, capacity building, and networking of NGO 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, February 1999 – February 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.

EAGLE ROCK SCHOOL, Estes Park, Colorado

Social Studies Instructional Intern, August 1997 – November 1998

Co-taught classes in civics, service learning, and history at innovative high school for students who had not succeeded in conventional schools. Facilitated training and professional development for incoming interns.

PUBLICATIONS

EXPLORING AND ADDRESSING DISCIPLINE DISPARITIES AMONG STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

Under contract with Teachers College Press (Co-editor, with Pamela Fenning).

Promoting statewide discipline reform through professional development with administrators, Preventing School Failure: Alternative Education for Children and Youth, 64:2, 172-182 (2020) (with Kelsie N. Reed, Pamela Fenning, & Ashley Mayworm).

Just Another School?: Strengthening Legal Protections for Students Facing Disciplinary Transfers, Notre Dame 33 Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy 1 (2019) (with James Naughton).

Making a Systemic Difference: Working with the Changing System, in *IMPLICIT BIAS IN SCHOOLS: A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE* (Gina L. Gullo, Kelly Capatosto, and Cheryl Staats), Routledge (December 2018) (with Pamela Fenning).

Developing Prevention-Oriented Discipline Codes of Conduct, 36 Children's Legal Rights Journal 107-36 (2016) (with Pamela Fenning). [available [here](#)]

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

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

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

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

A Place for Bullying Protections in School Lawyering, American Bar Association Children's Rights Litigation Committee (Winter 2020) (with Jackie Ross, B. Alvarez, and Theodore Gelderman). [available [here](#)].

Editor and Contributor, Model Student Code of Conduct, Transforming School Discipline Collaborative (March 2017) [available on the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) website [here](#)].

Contributor and reviewer, Manual for Representing Children at Chicago Public Schools Expulsion Hearings (Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, January 2012).

Free To Learn: A Rights Based Approach to Universal Primary Education in Kenya, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs (February 2006) (with Andrew Egan, *et. al*),

Book Review, *European Conquest and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Paul Keal, 26 New York University Journal of International Law and Politics 653 (2004).

MEDIA

Opinion Contributor, [Commentary: Remove Chicago police from CPS schools](#), *Chicago Tribune* (June 8, 2020).

Opinion Contributor, [Commentary: Limiting use of school 'quiet rooms' is not enough. Teachers need training and support.](#), *Chicago Tribune* (Dec. 11, 2019).

Quoted in: [A Small Loophole Could Let Betsy DeVos Funnel Money to Schools for Guns](#), *Vice News* (Aug. 23, 2018).

Work mentioned in: [How Illinois Obscures Racial Disparities in School Discipline Data](#), *Chicago Reporter* (July 18, 2018)

Opinion Contributor, [Why Are We Criminalizing the Behavior of Students with Disabilities?](#), *Washington Post*, Answer Sheet (April 25, 2017).

Interview, [No Post-Graduation Plan? No Graduation, Proposes Mayor Emanuel](#), WBEZ 91.5 Chicago, Morning Shift (April 11, 2017).

Interview, [Chicago Has a Controversial Plan to Prepare Students for Life After High School](#), *Pacific Standard* (April 10, 2017).

Quoted in: [Emanuel Wants to Add a CPS Graduation Requirement: Get Acceptance Letter](#), *Chicago Tribune* (April 5, 2017).

Quoted in: [Chicago Mayor Touts New Requirement to Graduate: Proof of a Plan](#), *The Wall Street Journal* (April 5, 2017).

Interview, Subject: Youth Violence and School Discipline, Perrie Small Show, WVON 1690 AM (March 7, 2017).

Opinion Contributor, [Education Investment Critical in Ending Chicago's Violence](#), *The Hill* (Feb. 17, 2017).

GRANTS

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 total 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: Linking Law, Research and Practice

\$49,938 total grant

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

August 2016 – August 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 total grant

TRAININGS, CONFERENCES, AND PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, “School Discipline Reform: Strategies for Systemic Change,” Administrators’ Academy #1717, approved by the Illinois State Board of Education (May 2016 – present). Presented at: Loyola University Chicago School of Law (March 11, 2020 and December 1, 2017); Oak Park Elementary School District 97 (January 20, 2020); Oak Park River Forest High School District 200 (August 3, 2018); Oswego Community Unit District 308 (May 31, 2018); Homewood District 153 (December 14, 2017); Lake Park High School District 108 (November 1, 2016); DuPage Regional Office of Education (September 7, 2016 and June 15, 2016), Berkeley District 87 (August 11, 2016); Naperville District 203 (August 8, 2016); Bloomington District 87 (August 1, 2016); SPEED Special Education Cooperative (July 26, 2016); North Cook Intermediate Service Center (May 17, 2016) West 40 Intermediate Service Center (May 5, 2016).

Panelist, “Seclusion and Restraint Conference: Implementing ISBE’s Emergency Rules,” Franzek P.C. and Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Chicago, Illinois (February 24, 2020)

Presenter, “The Connection Between Trauma and Learning: Implications for Schools,” Education Law Association, 65th Annual Conference: Norfolk, Virginia (November 14, 2019) (with Tiffany Puckett and Rhiannon Stringer).

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

Presenter, “Discipline and Students with Disabilities: Application of “Building Bridges” Alternative to Suspension Program,” ASCD Empower, Chicago, Illinois (March 16, 2019) (with Pamela Fenning and Michelle Rappaport).

Presenter, “Disciplinary Placements in Alternative Schools: Linking Research, Law and Practice,” Chicago Bar Association (February 27, 2019) and DuPage County Bar Association (December 13, 2018) (with James Naughton).

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

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

Discussant, “The Role of Law in Education In(Equality),” Association of American Law Schools 2019 Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana (January 5, 2019).

Presenter, “Implicit Bias in Research and Education,” Chicago Equity Forum on Implicit Bias in Schools, Chicago, Illinois. Organized by Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights (December 14, 2018) (with Pamela Fenning).

Presenter, “A Case Study Application of Building Restorative Practices in an Urban Charter School,” Illinois Network of Charter Schools Conference, Chicago, Illinois (November 15, 2018) (with Pamela Fenning and Cory Cain).

Presenter, “A Conversation on the School to Prison Pipeline,” Lawyers Club of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (November 14, 2018) (with Pamela Fenning).

Presenter, “Kick Her Out! Lock Him Up! Efforts to Combat Excessive Disciplinary and Law Enforcement Actions Involving Schoolchildren,” Education Law Association, 64th Annual Conference: Cleveland, Ohio (November 9, 2018) (with Janet Decker and Elizabeth Shaver).

Presenter, “Teaching Students to Receive Feedback,” Association of American Law Schools 41st Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education, Poster Session, Chicago, Illinois (April 29, 2018).

Presenter, “Kids These Days: Teaching Millennials From a Strength-Based Perspective,” Faculty Presentation at Baylor Law School, Waco, Texas (April 5, 2018).

Presenter, “Receiving Feedback,” Baylor Law School, Waco, Texas (April 5, 2018).

Moderator, Panel Discussion, “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, Chicago, Illinois (February 28, 2018).

Presenter, “Reducing Suspensions and Expulsions of Students with Disabilities: Linking Law, Research and Practice,” Illinois Association of Administrators of Special Education, 2018 Spring Conference: “Reaching Higher, Going Further,” Springfield, Illinois (February 22, 2018) (with Pamela Fenning and Cassie Black).

Poster Session Presenter, “A Cross-Disciplinary Online Certificate in School Discipline Reform,” Trainers of School Psychologists Conference, Loyola University Chicago School of Education, Chicago, Illinois (February 12, 2018) (with Pamela Fenning).

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

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

Presenter, “Reforming Policies and Practices to Reduce Disciplinary Transfers to Alternative Schools,” Education Law Association, 63rd Annual Conference: “Preserving and Protecting Legal Rights in Education,” San Diego, California (November 10, 2017).

Moderator, Panel discussion following screening of the film *Resilience* by the Ogle County Juvenile Justice Council. Rochelle Township High School, Rochelle, Illinois (November 1, 2017).

Presenter, “Reducing Suspensions and Expulsions of Students with Disabilities: Linking Law, Research and Practice,” Illinois Association of School Social Workers, 47th Annual Conference, Lisle, Illinois (October 19, 2017).

Presenter, “Reducing Suspensions and Expulsions of Students with Disabilities: Linking Law, Research and Practice,” Illinois Association of Administrators of Special Education, 2017 Fall Conference: “Reaching Higher, Going Further,” Tinley Park, Illinois (September 28, 2017) (with Pamela Fenning and Rachel Shapiro).

Presenter, “Teaching Students to Receive Feedback,” Institute for Law Teaching and Learning Conference on “Teaching Cultural Competency and Other Professional Skills,” Little Rock, Arkansas (July 8, 2017).

Moderator, Panel discussion following screening of the film *Paper Tigers* by the Ogle County Juvenile Justice Council. Rochelle Township High School, Rochelle, Illinois (April 4, 2017).

Presenter, “SB 100 and Recent Federal Guidance on Positive Behavioral Interventions,” Half-Day Training for New Leaders (with Pamela Fenning and Candace Moore), Chicago, Illinois (January 12, 2017).

Presenter, “Illinois Discipline Legislation and the Role of School Social Workers: The ‘Building Bridges’ Program and an Illinois Model Code of Conduct as Effective Tools,” Illinois Association of School Social Workers 2016 Annual Conference, entitled “Champions of Positive Change: The Adventures of School Social Workers,” Lisle, Illinois (October 28, 2016) (with Pamela Fenning and Michelle Rappaport).

Presenter, Training on School Discipline Reform, Communities Aligning for Social Transformation (CAST) Fall Convening, Hillside, Illinois (October 27, 2016).

Moderator, “The Color of Education Roundtable,” The Cradle, Chicago, Illinois (October 6, 2016).

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

Presenter, “School Discipline and SB 100,” Training for Intensive Probation Services of the Juvenile Court of Cook County, organized by the Loyola University Chicago School of Education, Chicago, Illinois (September 16, 2016).

Facilitator, Education and Juvenile Law Working Group, 39th Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education, “Clinics and Communities: Exploring Community Engagement Through Clinical Education,” Baltimore, Maryland (April 30-May 3, 2016).

Presenter, “School Discipline From A-Z,” Chicago Bar Association/Young Lawyers Section Education Law Committee Seminar (March 2, 2016).

Presenter, “Illinois’ New Discipline Reform Laws: What School Psychologists MUST Know,” Illinois School Psychologists Association Spring Convention, Springfield, IL (January 28, 2016) (with Pamela Fenning and Don Sibley).

Presenter, "Illinois' New Discipline Reform Law," Prevent School Violence Illinois, "Beyond the Personnel Handbook: A Workshop on Key School Policies for School Climate Transformation," Chicago, Illinois (January 13, 2016).

Presenter, "Changing the Landscape of Discipline: Illinois' New Discipline Reform Law and Prevention-Oriented Approaches to Student Misbehavior," Continuing Legal Education seminar sponsored by the DuPage County Bar Association, Wheaton, Illinois (January 7, 2016).

Moderator, "School-based Responses to Adverse Childhood Experiences," Panel discussion following screening of the film *Paper Tigers* by the Illinois ACE Response Collaborative, Chicago, Illinois (November 10, 2015).

Presenter, "Developing Prevention-Oriented Discipline Codes of Conduct," Education Law Association conference, Cleveland, Ohio (November 5, 2015).

Presenter, "Implementing Disciplinary Reforms: Suggested Next Steps," Presentation for staff of middle schools involved in the Communities Aligning for School Transformation (CAST) Project, Cicero, Illinois (September 14, 2015).

Facilitator, "Education: Fostering Supportive and Encouraging Academic Environments," Working group in 2015 Midwest Regional Summit on Adverse Childhood Experiences: Building Partnerships Across Generations for Healthy Futures, Chicago, Illinois (March 13, 2015).

Presenter, "Developing Prevention-Oriented Written Discipline Policies," Practitioner Conversation Session at the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Annual Conference 2015, Orlando, Florida (February 19, 2015) (with Pamela Fenning).

Presenter, "Applied Psychology and Educational Disparities," Event organized by the Loyola University Chicago School of Education, Chicago, Illinois (January 21, 2015).

Moderator, "Policy Reform and Charter Schools," Conference: "Discipline in Schools: Moving Beyond Zero Tolerance," Loyola University Chicago School of Law Children's Legal Rights Journal (October 17, 2014).

Presenter, "School Discipline: Moving Beyond Zero Tolerance," Webinar, ChildLaw Center's Master in Jurisprudence program (June 24, 2014) (with Kathleen Hirsman).

Moderator, "Navigating a Charter School's Legal Obligations When Disciplining Special Education Students," Panel Presentation for the Illinois Network of Charter Schools (INCS) Statewide Conference (December 2, 2013).

Presenter, "School Discipline and School-Related Issues in Sentencing," Training for the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender, Juvenile Justice Division (March 21, 2012).

Moderator, "Breaking Barriers: Education," Norman Amaker Public Interest Law and Social Justice Retreat (February 24, 2012).

Presenter, "Representing Students at Chicago Public Schools Expulsion Hearings," Training for pro bono attorneys organized by the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (January 11, 2012).

Moderator, “Special Education and Discipline,” Conference: “Special Education in Charter Schools: Challenges and Opportunities,” Loyola University Chicago School of Law ChildLaw and Education Institute (November 2, 2011).

Moderator, “Moving Forward: Illinois Approaches to Legislation, Education and Prevention, Conference: “Cyberbullying and Sexting,” Loyola University Chicago School of Law Children’s Legal Rights Journal (October 29, 2010).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Online Teaching Course, Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy, Loyola University Chicago (completed February 2018).

Public Voices Fellow, The OpEd Project (January – April 2017).

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Founding Member and Steering Committee Member, Transforming School Discipline Collaborative (March 2015-present)

Member, Attorney General’s Advisory Committee on Special Education (January 2015 – present) and Co-Chair, Sub-Committee on School to Prison Pipeline (April 2016 – present)

Member, School Discipline Working Group (February 2012 – present)

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

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

Admitted to practice in Illinois state courts, the Northern District of Illinois, and the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. Voluntarily resigned from practice in New York state courts effective February 2016.