

# 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

### ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL – CIVIL RIGHTS BUREAU

10/2020 – Present

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.
- 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 allegations of such unlawful behavior.
- Review proposed legislative bills, providing recommendations to the Attorney General from civil rights-focused lens.
- Engage with Attorneys General nationwide and Congressional members in multistate legislative and investigative efforts and providing the Attorney General with thoroughly researched recommendations for proposed legislations and investigations.

### 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.
- 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 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 – 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 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.

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**RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**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 prevention, uplift and empowerment programming for students in grades 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> alongside school administrators, teachers, and paraprofessional staff members.
- Implemented *Girls, Inc.* curriculum for at-risk female youth.

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**EDUCATION**

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**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

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**PUBLICATIONS**

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**“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

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## CERTIFICATIONS

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**Geoffrey Fieger Trial Practice Institute Litigation Certification** | 2016

Michigan State University College of Law

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## HONORS & AWARDS

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**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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**Founder** | 2019 - Present

Perfect Professionalism/iSucceed Popup Shop | Chicago, IL

- Founded program to provide professional attire, resume drafting workshops, and mentoring connections to young women from underserved communities in the Chicagoland area.

**Small Group Leaders** | 2019 - Present

Renewal Church of Chicago | Chicago, IL

- Serve as weekly bible study group leader and support for church members on the North and Southside of Chicago.

**Volunteer** | 2019 - 2020

Breakthrough Ministries Fresh Market | Chicago, IL

- Volunteered on a weekly basis to assist Westside community members in the process of engaging in a dignified shopping experience at a free, community based, and health-conscious fresh market.