

CIJI DODDS

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EDUCATION

Howard University School of Law, Washington, DC

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, May 2009

Honors: Graduated in the top 10%.
Howard University Board of Trustees Merit Scholarship
Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, LLP Scholar
Human Rights and Globalization Law Review, Staff Editor

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism & Mass Communication and African American Studies, May 2006

Honors: Dean's List – several consecutive semesters
Pearl Cavin Scholar
Sigma Alpha Lambda Academic and Service Fraternity

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UDC David A. Clarke School of Law, Washington, DC

2014 – Present

Legal Writing Program – Lawyering Process II

Teach Lawyering Process II to first-year students. Lawyering Process II is a two-pronged course comprised of (1) client counseling and management; and (2) persuasive writing and oral advocacy. Course focuses on legal practice skills, social justice lawyering, and legal ethics. Grade and provide feedback on students' written assignments, including legal memoranda, client letters, negotiation plans, dispositive motions, and settlement agreements. Conduct supplemental sessions on legal syllogism.

Academic Success Program – 1L Lab

Teach 1L Lab, a weekly seminar course that helps first-year students develop the academic skills necessary for success in law school. Develop individualized academic performance solutions for day-program students. Coach students facing academic and personal challenges.

Legal Writing Program – Moot Court

Teach Moot Court, an upper-level legal writing course that focuses on appellate brief writing and oral advocacy. Develop a curriculum that examines the intersection of social justice lawyering and appellate strategy. Grade and provide feedback on students' written assignments. Conduct student conferences and moot sessions.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

From Girls to Bitches: Negligent Title IX Enforcement & The Epigenetic Consequences of Structural Sexual Violence.

By examining the intersection of Johan Galtung's violence typologies and epigenetics, this article argues that a disproportionate number of Black girls experience an acute form of structural sexual violence in school settings that can result in (1) epigenetic modifications that produce adverse intergenerational health consequences; and (2) disparities in cognitive performance due to negative neuroplasticity, which collectively, causes the actual somatic and mental realizations of the affected Black girls to fall below their potential realizations.

A reductionist view of sexual violence circumscribes it to direct personal violence. However, where administrators fail to invoke Title IX's protections and remedies in sexual harassment and/or assault cases, administrators become conduits for direct personal violence and instruments of structural violence. Further, I argue that weak or nonexistent Title IX enforcement is a consequence of implicit bias and can be best understood using Galtung's A-B-C Conflict Triangle. Research demonstrates that administrators routinely masculinize and defeminize Black girls, deeming them unworthy of protection. Left unprotected, Black girls are more likely than any other group to physically defend themselves against sexual harassment and ironically, more likely to be deemed the aggressor. This subjects them to disciplinary and sometimes criminal consequences, which can significantly diminish their life chances.

I posit that the combined trauma of sexual abuse, neglect, unduly harsh discipline, and the perceived loss of agency over one's future, causes quantitative biological changes at the genetic and synaptic levels. Therefore, in accordance with the principles of peace-building, Title IX compliance and enforcement mechanisms must be reformed to ensure that Black girls receive a fair shot at attaining their potential realizations.

The Child that Refused to be Broken – Discipline and Punishment as Reflected in the U.S.' Haitian Immigration Policies

The success of the Haitian Revolution was a direct affront to racist theories regarding the inherent inferiority of Africans, and it exposed American and French hypocrisy. In response, the U.S. amended its immigration laws and policies and enacted new foreign policy imperatives to ensure the future subjugation of Haiti. Utilizing Michele Foucault's theory of discipline and punishment, this article argues that the U.S.' current Haitian immigration policies are inherently structurally violent because they are a natural byproduct of the U.S.' 18th century pro-slavery foreign policy, which was enacted for the express purpose of turning Haiti and its citizens into a docile nation. This article further argues that Haitian immigration policies have domestic implications. Applying Kevin R. Johnson's Magic Mirror Theory, I posit that rather than acting as a magic mirror in which domestic minorities see how they would be treated but for legal constraints, Haitian immigration policies act as a magnifying glass that reveals how domestic minorities are treated when they exercise agency in the assertion of their fundamental rights. As a result, domestically, Haitian immigration policies act as a means of anticipatory discipline and punishment.

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Clinical Instruction, Legal Writing, Property, Critical Legal Studies, and Critical Race Theory

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

The Dodds Firm, Washington, DC

2015 – Present

Principal

- Represent start-ups, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses in corporate and real estate transactions. Engage in all aspects of civil litigation on behalf of marginalized communities.
- Draft and review entity formation documents, bylaws, operating agreements, authorizing resolutions, leases, nondisclosure agreements, employment agreements and severance agreements.
- **REPRESENTATIVE TRANSACTIONS:** Secured 501 (3)(c) status for several nonprofit organizations and Structured joint venture agreement between Australian and Angolan engineering companies.

Kelley Drye and Warren, LLP, Washington, DC

2013 – 2015

Associate

- Represented clients in a variety of corporate and real estate transactions, focusing on joint ventures, leasing, mixed-use development, and litigation prevention.
- Draft entity structuring documents, amendments, authorizing resolutions, bylaws, operating agreements, and purchase and sale agreements.
- Counsel LabCorp on IP issues related to vendor agreements.
- **REPRESENTATIVE TRANSACTIONS:** Hotel Esplanade Berlin, Germany; Resolved San Francisco Marriott Marquis ownership dispute; and Coordinated closings for multimillion dollar mixed-use developments in Baltimore, MD; Gaithersburg, MD; and Fairfax, VA.

DC Office of the Attorney General, Washington, DC

2012 – 2013

Assistant Attorney General

- Represented the Department of Housing and Community Development in affordable housing; mixed-use development; leasing; inclusive development; and mixed finance transactions.
- Issued advice and legal sufficiency opinions regarding Low Income Housing Tax Credits, HUD Affordable Housing Programs, and CDBG and HOME programs.
- **REPRESENTATIVE TRANSACTIONS:** Phase III Redevelopment of Ivy City; Redevelopment of Trinidad scattered sites; and Redevelopment of the Big K site in Anacostia.

Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, LLP, Washington, DC

2009 – 2012

Associate

- Represented clients in commercial real estate development transactions and litigation.
- Drafted entity formation documents, authorizing resolutions, and lease amendments.
- Conducted complex litigation e-discovery for several multimillion dollar real estate contract disputes: conducted quality control assessments, anticipated claims and defenses, prepared expert witnesses, and gave daily status briefings.

- **REPRESENTATIVE TRANSACTIONS:** Harris Teeter NOMA; Harris Teeter Jenkins Row; and Co-Star Purchase and Sale Leaseback – 2010 D.C. Real Estate Deal of the Year.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- Maryland Bar Association
- DC Bar Association
- DC Young Education Professionals