

Cynthia E. Jones

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American University Washington College of Law (2002-present)
Professor of Law

Courses: Evidence; Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure I; Race, Crime and Politics

Appointments: Director, Stephen S. Weinstein Advocacy Program (2019-present)
Co-Director, Criminal Justice Practice and Policy Institute (2104-present)

Honors: The American University Faculty Award for Outstanding Teaching (2011)
The *Teaching with Technology Award*, AU Center for Teaching Excellence (2010); establishment of the “*Professor Cynthia E. Jones Award*” for aspiring public defenders

Initiatives: Alternative Spring Break Trial Skills Program (forthcoming)
Developed an intensive one-week trial skills curriculum for WCL students

Brazil Summer Legal Studies Initiative (forthcoming)
Instituted collaboration between the Washington College of Law and Faculdade Direito de Vitoria (FDV) to facilitate faculty exchange program and annual summer seminar for Brazilian law students to come to WCL for a week-long seminar on the US legal system and contemporary legal issues

Legal Experience

Pretrial Racial Justice Initiative

Founder and Executive Director (2014-2015)

Awarded \$75,000 grant from the Public Welfare Foundation to launch an initiative to address racial and ethnic disparities in bail outcomes and facilitate greater collaboration between civil rights organizations and bail reform advocates. Managed administrative functions of the project, including hiring and supervising consultants; preparing grant reports; collecting research, reports and materials on racial disparities in bail; and designing and developing website. Organized [Roundtable Discussion of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Bail and Pretrial Detention](#) and presented lectures on the disparate racial impact of money bail practices; served as the Executive Producer of “[Bail in America: The Color of Pretrial Justice](#),” a mini-documentary on racial disparities in bail.

American Bar Association Racial Justice Improvement Project (RJIP)

Project Director (2010-2012)

Successfully spearheaded the work of a \$350,000 federal grant awarded to the American Bar Association to address racial disparities in the criminal justice system through policy reform, including the coordination and development of racial justice reform initiatives with key criminal justice stakeholders in Wilmington, Delaware; New Orleans, Louisiana; Saint Louis County, Minnesota; and King's County, New York. Managed the administrative operations of the (RJIP), including supervising staff; hiring consultants; coordinating training programs; overseeing data collection and empirical research; and designing and developing the RJIP website. Presented lectures and presentations at numerous conferences.

Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia

Executive Director (2000-2002)

Managed all administrative and fiscal operations for a federally-funded agency with 200 employees (including over 100 lawyers); developed initiatives to ensure quality legal representation and support services for indigent people facing a loss of liberty in the District of Columbia

District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency

Deputy Director (1997-2000)

Collaborated with agency director to create, expand and oversee effective community-based supervision programs and services for pretrial defendants; worked with District of Columbia criminal justice stakeholders to develop alternatives to pretrial detention

Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia

Staff Attorney (1992-1997)

Represented juveniles and adults facing a loss of liberty in delinquency, misdemeanor, felony, and appellate cases in the District of Columbia Superior Court and in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals

Dickstein, Shapiro & Morin, Associate (1990-1992)

Hon. Frank E. Schwelb, District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Law Clerk (1989-1990)

Education

American University Washington College of Law

J.D., 1989 (*magna cum laude*)

University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware

B.A., Criminal Justice, 1986 (*cum laude*)

Professional Appointments/Awards

Member and President, The Sentencing Project Board of Directors (2012-2017; 2019-present)
Member and Chair, Civil Rights Corps Board of Trustees (2017-present)
Member, Ad Hoc Criminal Discovery Committee, U.S. District Court D.C. (2013-2017)
Member, Pretrial Justice Institute Board of Trustees (2011-2017)
Member, NIJ National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Technical Working Group on Biological Evidence Preservation (2010-2014)
Member & Chair, Board of Trustees, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (2008-2014)
Member and Vice-Chair, Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project Board of Directors (2007-2012)

University of Delaware College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Award (2018)
Co-recipient, [American Bar Association Meritorious Service Award](#) (2011)
African Americans and the Law North Star Award (2001)

Textbooks & Treatises

Taslitz, Herbert and Jones, *Constitutional Criminal Procedure* (6th edition) Foundation Press (forthcoming 2021)

Podgor, Jones, Henning and Cohen, *Mastering Criminal Law* (3rd Edition), Carolina Academic Press (forthcoming Fall 2022)

Henning, Jones, Podgor, Henning and Chhablani, *Mastering Criminal Procedure I—The Investigative Stage*, Carolina Academic Press (3rd edition 2020)

Henning, Jones, Podgor, Henning and Chhablani, *Mastering Criminal Procedure II—The Adjudicatory Stage*, Carolina Academic Press (3rd edition 2020)

Podgor, Henning, Garcia and Jones, “*Criminal Law, Concepts and Practice*” (4th Edition) Carolina Academic Press (2017)

Additional Publications & Select Presentations

(by subject matter)

Bail Reform

Summary: a critical analysis of the constitutionality of cash bail practices in state courts and the impact of bail determinations on racial and ethnic disparities in pretrial detention.

Publications

Accused and Unconvicted: Fleeing from Wealth-Based Pretrial Detention, 82 Alb. L. Rev. 1063 (2019)

Disproportionate Pretrial Detention of Blacks and Latinos Drives Mass Incarceration (co-authored with Nancy Gist), [Huffington Post](#) (2015)

“Give Us Free”: Addressing Racial Disparities in Bail Determinations, [16 N.Y.U. J. Legis. & Pub. Pol’y 919](#) (2013)

Confronting Race in the Criminal Justice System: The ABA Racial Justice Improvement Project, [27 Criminal Justice 12](#) (2012)

Legislative Testimony

Philadelphia City Council, Special Committee on Criminal Justice, Philadelphia, PA (2016)

Cook County Board of Commissioners, Criminal Justice Committee, [Public Hearing on Monetary Bond](#), Chicago, Illinois (2016)

New Jersey General Assembly Appropriations Committee, Trenton, New Jersey (2014)

Presentations

Panelist, *Innocent Until Proven Poor: Fighting the Criminalization of Poverty*, Journal of Race and Law, University of Michigan (2016)

Keynote Speaker, [Pretrial Justice in America](#), The Washington State Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission Symposium (2016)

Speaker, [The White House presents: A Cycle of Incarceration: Prison, Debt, and Bail Practices](#), Washington, D.C. (2015)

Panelist, *Divorcing Jail and Money: Bail Reform, Debtors' Prisons, and Private Probation*, NAACP Legal Defense Fund Annual Civil Rights Training Institute (2015)

Presenter, [Race and Bail](#), Data and Civil Rights: A New Era of Policing and Justice, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (2015)

Presenter, [The Disparate Racial & Ethnic Implications of Money Bail, the Pretrial Process and the Need for Reform](#), Criminal Justice in the 21st Century: Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System, NACDL, Washington, DC (2013)

Quoted/Cited in: [Activists say Jay Z and Beyonce quietly bailed out Baltimore and Ferguson protesters](#), Quartz.com (2015); [Southern Civil Rights Leader Stumbles into NJ Bail Reform Debate](#), Star-Ledger, June 21, 2014

Criminal Justice Reform

Summary: reducing wrongful convictions through greater judicial regulation of constitutionally-mandated criminal discovery and employing remedies and sanctions to prevent the premature destruction of biological evidence needed for post-conviction DNA testing

Publications

Here Comes the Judge: A Model for Judicial Oversight and Regulation of the Brady Disclosure Duty, [46 Hofstra L. Rev 87](#) (2017)

Contributor, [The Biological Evidence Preservation Handbook: Best Practices for Evidence Handlers](#), National Institute of Standards and Technology, Technical Working Group (April 2013)

“I AM Ronald Cotton”: Teaching Wrongful Convictions in a Criminal Law Class, [10 Ohio State J. Crim. L. 607](#) (2013)

A Reason to Doubt: The Suppression of Evidence and the Inference of Innocence, [100 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 415](#) (2010)

The Right Remedy for the Wrongly Convicted: Judicial Sanctions for the Destruction of DNA Evidence, [77 Fordham L. Rev. 2893](#) (2009)

Evidence Destroyed, Innocence Lost: The Duty to Preserve Evidence Under Innocence Protection Statutes, [42 Am. Crim. L. Rev. 1292](#) (2005)

Recent Presentations

Panelist, “Defund the Police? Mapping a Reform Agenda,” AUWCL Program on Law and Government, webinar (2020)

Lecture, “Racial Justice Reform in America,” Faculdade Direito de Vitoria (FDV) webinar (2020)

Lecture, *Constitutional Rights of the Accused in the United States*, Faculdade Direito de Vitoria, Espirito Santo, Brazil (2019)

Panelist, Conversations with the Innocence Project, Brooklyn, NY (2018)

Lecture, U.S. Criminal Procedure; Racial Justice Reform, Faculdade Direito de Vitoria (2017)

Panelist, [Preservation and Retention of Biological Evidence for Post-Conviction DNA Testing](#), National Commission on Forensic Science Meeting (2015)

Testimony, Maine Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights [Hearing on Racial Disparities in Sentencing](#), Lewiston, Maine (2014)

Quoted/Cited in: [A 30-Year March Towards Justice](#), (2016); “[Prosecutors Hid Evidence in Ted Stevens Case](#),” All Things Considered, National Public Radio, March 19, 2012; “[D.C. Judges Weigh Rule to Curb Prosecutor Misconduct](#)” National Law Journal (2016) “[Making Prosecutors Share: Stevens Case Prompts Bill](#),” NPR, March 18, 2012; “[In the Wake of Stevens Trial Push to Reform Rules](#),” Roll Call, March 17, 2012; “[Prosecutions Gone Bad: How Should Congress React?](#),” May 5, 2012

The Law of Evidence

Summary: wrote and produced “[Fighting Evidence with Evidence](#),” an animated short film on the Federal Rules of Evidence; created an engaging, interactive, multi-media presentation for jurists and practitioners on the rules of evidence. Topics include: authentication of electronic evidence, the hearsay rule, social media evidence, the admissibility of expert forensic testimony, impeachment, character evidence, cross-examination, evidentiary foundations, the Confrontation Clause, recent United States Supreme Court cases and amendments to the Federal Rules of Evidence.

Federal Judicial Training

Eleventh Circuit Judicial Training Program (2019)
Fourth Circuit Judicial Training Program (2011 & 2019)
District Court of the Virgin Islands Annual Conference (2015-2020)
Phase I Orientation for Newly-Appointed United States District Court Judges (2011-2020)
National Workshop for United States District Court Judges (2014, 2016, 2018)
Tenth Circuit Judicial Training Program (2017)
U.S. District Court (W.D. Missouri) 16th Annual D. Brook Bartlett Lecture (2016)
National Workshop for United States Magistrate Judges (2016)
Eighth Circuit Judicial Training Program (2013)

National, State, and Regional Bar/Professional Associations

Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County, Pittsburg, PA (2019)
District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General (2016 & 2019)
Louisiana State Bar Association, Annual Summer School Conference (2010 & 2017)
Federal Public Defender Annual Training Conference (2017)
D.C. Superior Court Family Division Training (2006, 2009, 2017)
D.C. Superior Court Criminal Division Judicial Training (2015)
D.C. Superior Court Judicial Training Program (2013)
Old Dominion Bar Association Conference (2009)
Virginia State Bar, 39th Annual Criminal Law Seminar (2009)
National Bar Association Conference (2008)

Other Professional Presentations

Panelist, American Bar Association SCOTUS Preview, webinar, (2020)
Panelist, “How to Advance Your Career as a Black Public Defender,” NLADA Black Public Defender Association Conference, webinar (2020)
Speaker, “Women-Centric Criminal Justice—Arrest to Sentencing,” webinar (2020)
Featured Commentator, *Our Mockingbird*, a documentary film by Sandra Jaffe (2015)
Organizer & Moderator, “[Moving From Rage to Reform: A Discussion of the Legal Reforms Needed to Prevent the “Lawful” Killing of African American Men by Police Officers](#)” (2015)
Presenter, [2014-2015 Supreme Court Review](#), American Constitution Society (2015)
Lecture, *Criminal Procedure Reform*, Global Mediation Conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2014)
Panelist, [Annual U.S. Supreme Court Preview](#), American Constitution Society (2010)
Moderator, [Plea Bargains and the Role of Judges](#), American Constitution Society (2008)
Moderator, [Prosecutorial Misconduct](#) Panel, “The American Prosecutor: Power, Discretion and Accountability” conference (2007)
Instructor, Harvard University Law School Trial Advocacy Workshop (2006-2011)