

LESLIE E. SCOTT

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EDUCATION

American University, Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C., J.D. *cum laude* 2009

Honors: Pro Bono Honors; American Civil Liberties Union Paine Award.

Activities: Criminal Law Brief, Line Editor; Pro Bono Honors Pledge Program; Lambda Law Society, Finance Chair; Criminal Law Society; Black Law Student Association; Women's Law Association; Alternative Winter Break.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, B.A. (Biopsychology) *with distinction* 2004

Honors: James B. Angell scholarship awarded for receiving all As for two consecutive semesters.

Activities: National Society of Collegiate Scholars; Psi Chi, honors society for psychology majors; Golden Key Honors Society; Project Outreach, mentoring at-risk youth; Family Learning Institute reading tutor.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary interests: Criminal Law and Procedure; Evidence; Fourth, Fifth, and First Amendment; Prison Reform; Federal Criminal Defense Theory and Practice; Federal Courts and Sentencing; Legal Research and Writing.

Additional interests: Civil Rights; Special Education Law; Gender; Sexuality and the Law.

PUBLICATIONS

Federal Prosecutorial Overreach in the Age of Opioids: The Statutory and Constitutional Case Against Duplicious Drug Indictments, 51 U. TOL. L. REV. 491 (2020).

"It Never, Ever Ends": The Psychological Impact of Wrongful Conviction, American University, Washington College of Law Criminal Law Brief, Vol. V Issue II (Spring 2010).

PRESENTATIONS

Michigan Center for Civic Education Project Citizen, Lansing, MI (virtually), July 23, 2020: Featured scholar on Public Policy, Safety, and Justice.

University of Toledo Law Review Symposium, Toledo, OH, October 11, 2019: Federal Prosecutorial Overreach in the Age of Opioids: The Statutory and Constitutional Case Against Duplicious Drug Indictments.

Western District of New York Biannual Criminal Defense Seminar, Batavia, NY, October 13, 2017: *Burrage* and Beyond – Defending Death Results Cases (co-presenter).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, Detroit, MI

Assistant Professor of Law, August 2019- present

Teach courses in Evidence, Criminal Law, and Criminal Procedure. Serve on various law school committees including diversity and moot court committees. Served as a 2019-2020 faculty advisor for a student drafting his law review note. Mentored students preparing for the Summer 2020 bar exam. Draft letters of recommendation for students seeking employment, transfer, and scholarships.

Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Program, Washington, D.C.

Constitutional Law Deans Fellow, August 2007- May 2008

Developed and implemented lesson plans for high school students covering the Bill of Rights. Prepared students for Moot Court and Mock Trial competitions and graded performance in these competitions. Wrote and graded tests and journal assignments.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

The Federal Public Defender Office for the Western District of New York, Buffalo, NY

Assistant Federal Public Defender, August 2012- January 2019

Represent indigent criminal defendants throughout all stages of the criminal process. Prepare for and participate in bail, motion, and supervised release violation hearings; trials; and plea and sentencing proceedings. Research and draft legal motions and memoranda at the trial level, and appellate briefs at the appeals level. Prepare for and participate in oral arguments before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Regularly attend defender trainings. Co-presented at a training on defending clients charged with distributing drugs leading to overdose death. Supervise and review work of law student interns.

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit, MI

Law Clerk to the Honorable Victoria A. Roberts, September 2010- August 2012

Drafted proposed judicial orders and opinions. Researched civil and criminal legal issues in preparation for motion hearings, trials, and sentencing hearings, and to assist the judge in ruling on motions on the briefs. Wrote bench memoranda on a variety of legal issues such as sentencing, evidence, patent law, social security law, due process, the First Amendment, habeas corpus, and criminal and civil procedure. Attended settlement conferences, jury voir dire, and civil and criminal trials and hearings.

District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Washington, D.C.

Law Clerk to the Honorable Senior Judges, September 2009- August 2010

Drafted proposed judicial orders and opinions. Researched civil and criminal legal issues raised on appeal from the trial court or the administrative tribunal. Prepared judges for oral argument by organizing facts, drafting bench memoranda, and participating in discussions on legal issues. Attended oral argument.

Prof. Brenda V. Smith, American University, Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.

Deans Fellow, Advanced Criminal Law Seminar: Women, Crime and the Law, January- May 2009

Assisted in the preparation and assembly of class materials. Answered students' paper and administrative questions. Proofread and edited drafts of students' papers. Interviewed women incarcerated in Alabama about their convictions and conditions of confinement as part of a decarceration project.

Disability Rights Law Clinic, Washington, D.C.

Student Attorney, August 2008- May 2009

Researched and drafted a hearing request petitioning the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for a thematic hearing regarding conditions in United States detention centers for mentally ill immigrant detainees. Presented this research to IACHR commissioners at a private working meeting. Planned for and advocated at an Individualized Education Program meeting, and obtained compensatory education for a special education student in the District of Columbia. Served as *guardian ad litem* to an individual with severe cognitive disabilities, wrote a petition to the court recommending commitment for him in that capacity, and presented the report and attendant findings at a commitment hearing.

American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, San Francisco, CA

Legal Intern, June- August 2008

Researched and wrote memoranda on civil liberty and constitutional issues such as the availability of damages for special education students in California, and the scope of police authority to conduct “special needs” searches at the homes of African-American recipients of housing benefits.

Public Defender Service, Washington, D.C.

Law Clerk, Trial Division, January- May 2008; Law Clerk, Civil Division, May- August 2007

Outlined and organized facts of cases in preparation for trial. Researched and wrote memoranda on evidentiary matters such as competency to stand trial and exclusion of evidence of other crimes, wrongs or acts. Wrote a motion for a judgment of acquittal on an Assault on a Police Officer charge. Also conducted research and wrote memoranda on issues related to special education law. Interviewed clients concerning their academic ability. Prepared a written argument on behalf of a client who was entitled to but was not receiving special education services. Wrote a brief in support of compensatory education for an incarcerated special education client.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Admitted to practice in New York.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan Lawyers Committee, Detroit, MI

Committee Member, April 2019- Present

Assist the ACLU’s legal department to identify cases and issues to pursue in court, and with litigation strategy.

American Constitution Society, Detroit, MI

Judicial Pipeline Working Group Member, January 2020- Present

Assist the ACS Pipeline Program to identify and interview candidates for potential judicial nominations.

Reach Academy Charter School, Buffalo, NY

Board Member, April 2015- December 2018

Helped conceptualize, form, and open a diverse charter school boasting innovative themed classrooms and scholarly excellence in a low-income neighborhood. Attend monthly board meetings. Provide input and vote on topics raised at board meetings.

Ruth Ellis Center, Highland Park, MI

Drop-in Center Volunteer, June 2011- August 2012

Through weekly volunteer work, served as a positive role model and mentor to low-income, often homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth. Interacted with, and provided support to, youth. Assisted with job searches, resume writing, and job application completion. Connected youth with other service agencies within the community, participated in outreach initiatives, and assisted with youth-run activities and events.

REFERENCES

Honorable Victoria A. Roberts
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University at Buffalo School of Law
(716) 479-3592
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American University, Washington College of Law
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