

Jessica V. Den Houter

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY SCHOOL OF LAW

651 East Jefferson Ave., Detroit, MI 48226

Email: denhoujv@udmercy.edu

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C.

Juris Doctor, May 2017

LLM, Civil Justice, December 2018

University of Michigan School of Social Work, Ann Arbor, MI

Master of Social Work, December 2008

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Bachelor of Science, School of Education and Social Policy, with honors, June 2005

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law | Detroit, MI

Assistant Professor

June 2025-present

Lewis & Clark Law School | Portland, OR

Assistant Professor

July 2024-June 2025

- Courses taught: Lawyering I & Lawyering II
- Member, Curriculum Committee and Lawyering Committee

University of Baltimore School of Law | Baltimore, MD

Visiting Assistant Professor, Acting Director of the Bronfein Family Law Clinic, August 2023-May 2024

Clinical Teaching Fellow, Bronfein Family Law Clinic, June 2020-July 2023

- Provided non-directive supervision to students practicing as lead attorneys on family law cases, including custody, divorce, adoption, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, name change, and school discipline cases.
- Co-taught doctrinal juvenile justice course (Spring 2024).
- Faculty Comment Advisor for the University of Baltimore Law Forum (2020-2021, 2022-2023, 2023-2024).
- Member, New Faculty Orientation Planning Committee (Summer 2022), Clinical Teaching Fellow Hiring Committee (Fall 2022), and Clinic Social Work Hiring Committee (Fall 2023).
- Chair, Clinic Virtual Court Technology Committee (Spring 2023).

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Disability Rights D.C. | Washington D.C.

Staff Attorney

October 2018-May 2020

- Represented students and families throughout the special education process.
- Monitored and conducted outreach and intakes at psychiatric hospitals, youth detention facilities, and community based residential treatment facilities.
- Litigated cases of reductions in personal care aide services provided through the Home and Community-Based Services Waiver Program.
- Co-founded a coalition advocating for the regulation of the use of seclusion and restraint in D.C. schools.
- Drafted and delivered testimony to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education and the D.C. Council.

D.C. Affordable Law Firm | Washington D.C.

Fellow, Associate

August 2017-October 2018

- Provided representation to individuals making between 200 and 400 percent of the federal poverty line through a unique partnership among Georgetown University Law Center, Arent Fox, and DLA Piper.
- Litigated custody and divorce cases in all stages of representation, including drafting initial complaints and motions for contempt, serving and responding to discovery, negotiation and formal mediation, depositions of opposing parties and expert witnesses, and trials.
- Represented asylum seekers in both affirmative and defensive applications, including completing initial application for asylum and attending asylum interviews.

Juvenile Justice Clinic, Georgetown University Law Center | Washington D.C.

Student Attorney

August 2016-May 2017

- Represented juvenile clients in all stages of delinquency proceedings in D.C. Superior Court.
- Prepared for an evidentiary hearing with an expert witness challenging the results of the government's violence risk assessment.
- Completed year-long intensive clinical seminar with focus on litigation skills and holistic lawyering.

KIPP DC College Preparatory High School | Washington, D.C.

Transition Coordinator and Clinical Social Work Supervisor (July 2012-June 2016)

- Established transition department for students with disabilities ensuring compliance with special education transition law.
- Advocated on behalf of more than 75 students to ensure receipt of services from the D.C. Rehabilitation Services Administration, including collaborating with the GW Public Justice Advocacy Clinic to submit FOIA requests, and testifying before the D.C. Council's Committee on Health and Human Services.
- Provided clinical supervision to social workers with limited license.

Founding School Social Worker (July 2009-June 2012)

- Created social work program at founding high school including peer mediation program, HIV awareness education and testing, and implementation of curriculum fostering social and emotional health.
- Counseled over 200 ninth through eleventh grade students individually and in groups and created and executed students' Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

SELECTED PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Invited Speaker, *Mental Health and the Juvenile Legal System*, Indiana Health Law Review Symposium, October 2024
- Paper Presentation, *Are Children Inmates? Dehumanizing and Denying Care to Our Most Vulnerable*, N.Y.U. Clinical Law Review Workshop, October 2023
- Paper Presentation, *Are Children Inmates? Dehumanizing and Denying Care to Our Most Vulnerable*, Mid-Atlantic Clinical Writing Workshop, June 2023
- Paper Presentation, *Are Children Inmates? Dehumanizing and Denying Care to Our Most Vulnerable*, Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, June 2023
- Moderator, "The Dobbs Decision: What Does it Mean and What Might be Next?," University of Baltimore School of Law, forthcoming, September 28, 2022
- Presenter, "Constructing a Helpful (Not Harmful) Juvenile Legal System," University of Baltimore RED (Research Engagement Day) Talks, March 17, 2022
- Moderator, "Big Ideas in Human Rights," 13th Annual Feminist Legal Theory Conference, University of Baltimore School of Law, April 8, 2022
- Panelist, *Our Children in Crisis: A Focus on D.C.'s Crossover Youth*, Council for Court Excellence, Washington, D.C. July 29, 2021
- Paper Presentation, *Continuity of Mental Health Care for Medicaid-Eligible Youth Involved with the Juvenile Legal System*, Mid-Atlantic Clinicians' Writing Workshop, Washington, D.C., June 10, 2021
- Presenter, "Restraint and Seclusion in DC: What is the state of the law, and what does it mean for students and their families?," Advocates for Justice and Education Policy Forum, December

3, 2019

- Presenter, “Introduction to Asylum Law,” DC Affordable Law Firm New Fellow Training, Washington, D.C., October 11, 2018
- Presenter, “Accessing Vocational Rehabilitation Services for System Involved Youth, D.C. Criminal Justice Act Attorneys,” Georgetown Juvenile Justice Initiative, January 26, 2017

PUBLICATIONS

Children Are Not Inmates, 86 OHIO ST. L.J. ____ (2025) (forthcoming).

Making State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies Work for Transition-Age Youth with Disabilities, 40 T. JEFFERSON L. REV. 23 (2017) (published as part of Crane Disability and the Law Writing Competition, where it was selected as the winner).

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Volunteer Judge, Lewis & Clark Law Advocacy Center, 2024
- Volunteer Judge, University of Baltimore School of Law Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and The Courts Truancy Court, August 2022-April 2024
- Member by Mayoral Appointment, State Advisory Panel on Special Education for the District of Columbia, January 2019-July 2024

BAR ADMISSIONS

- District of Columbia (2017)
- Maryland (2020) (Inactive Status)