

# Cynthia Courses:

Evidence, Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure; Race, Crime and Politics

Appointments: Director, Stephen S. Weinstein Advocacy Program (2019-present)  
Co-Director, Criminal Justice Practice and Policy Institute (2014-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 (2016-2017)

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 equality of 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) C

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" NYU WCL 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-](#)

Federal Judicial Training

Eleventh Circuit Judicial Training Program (2019)

Fourth Circuit Judicial Training Program (2018 & 2019)

District Court of the Virgin Islands Annual Conference (2015-2020)

Phase I Orientation for Newly-Appointed United States District Court Judges (2014-2020)

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)

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