

MS. UDOKA NWANNA

EDUCATION

California Western School of Law, San Diego, CA

Juris Doctor (Area of Concentration in Criminal Prosecution and Defense Practice), April 2003; *Admitted*, December 2003

Rank at Graduation: Top 22%

Dean's Merit Scholarship Recipient (2000-2003)

Dean's Honor List (Fall 2001)

American Jurisprudence Award (Fall 2001)

Student Bar Association (President, 2002-2003)

Advocacy Honors Board (Moot Court)

Pro Bono Honor Society, 2003

Honors Instructor (Legal Skills I)

Tutor (Academic Success Program)

Black Law Students Association

(Vice President, 2001-2002)

Who's Who Among American Law Students (2002-2003)

Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, May 1999

Study Abroad, London and Scotland, 1998

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Professor, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, St. Paul, MI

July 2024 - Present

Legal Analysis, Research and Communication (LARC)

In this two-part course taught over two semesters, 1Ls learn the skills needed to understand the law and represent clients effectively and responsibly. Course load of 37 students with diverse backgrounds and various geographical locations. Professor must engage in frequent oral and written direct feedback, hold weekly office hours and check-ins, and schedule individual and/or group conferences.

Adjunct Professor, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, St. Paul, MI

August 2020 - June 2022

Legal Analysis, Research and Communication (LARC)

In this two-part course taught over two semesters, 1Ls learn skills needed in understanding the law and representing clients effectively and responsibly. Over the course of two semesters, provided frequent oral and written feedback separate from the Professor, and multiple opportunities for individual and team conferences.

Assistant Dean of Students, Alliant International University, San Diego, CA *August 2018 - February 2019*

Director of Academic Success and Professor of Law

Leader and coordinator for intervention, resources, and support for all law students on a broad range of issues and served as an impartial facilitator in supporting, and resolving student academic, conduct, crisis, personal welfare, and financial matters. Responsible for assisting students in developing the skills needed for success in law school and on the bar exam through supervision of integrated academic success and bar support programs. Professor of Law teaching legal writing that focused on research, analysis, grammar and writing styles ranging from objective interoffice memorandums and client communications to persuasively written pretrial and trial litigation documents.

JD Program Chair, Abraham Lincoln University School of Law, Los Angeles, CA

Dec 2017 - Nov 2018

Professor of Law

Responsible for redesign of the online JD curriculum, online academic support and oversight of remote online faculty. Taught doctrinal subjects of Torts and Advanced Business Associations online. Created and implemented best practices for academic success for students as well as bar exam support for graduates.

Visiting Professor, Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles, CA

July 2016 - June 2017

Legal Analysis, Writing & Skills (LAWS)

A six-unit, year-long course that introduces students to key lawyering skills and helps prepare them for the rigors of practice. During the fall semester, the course covers issues of professionalism, develops broad-based analytical, research and writing skills, and provides concentrated instruction in the basics of legal methods, legal reasoning and legal processes. In the spring semester, the course enables students to apply their new skills in a hands-on advocacy experience in trial practice, appellate practice or negotiation.

Legal Writing for International LLM Students

July 2016 - June 2017

A course designed for entering international LL.M. students that has four major components: (1) an introduction to the format and style of legal writing appropriate in American law practice; (2) an introduction to the documents frequently encountered in American law practice, focusing primarily on office memorandums and client communications; (3) a brief introduction to U.S. legal citation; and (4) a brief introduction to legal research skills.

Adjunct Professor, Alliant International University, San Diego, CA

August 2016 - August 2018

Legal Writing

Adjunct Professor of legal writing for part-time and working law students. This is a two-semester course focusing on research, analysis, grammar and writing styles ranging from objective interoffice memorandums and client communications to persuasively written pretrial and trial litigation documents. Students also learn the foundations of oral advocacy.

Adjunct Professor, University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, CA

January 2016 - May 2016

Fundamentals of Bar Writing

Course covers the fundamentals of bar exam essay and performance test writing, and builds on analytical, writing, and organizational skills with the goal of enhancing a student's ability to prepare for the bar exam.

Adjunct Professor, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, San Diego, CA

January 2010 - May 2016

Legal Writing

Adjunct Professor of legal writing for first, second and third year law students. Course focuses on research, the art of persuasive writing for trial courts as well as oral advocacy.

Introduction to Civil Practice and Professional Development

June 2011 - May 2016

Creator and Adjunct Professor of a course geared toward narrowing the gap between the law school experience and real-world legal practice by aiding students to better understand law firm/legal practice expectations. Course is set up as mock law firm where students are newly hired associates and are given tasks and assignments that are likely to be encountered during a typical legal internship or at their first legal position upon graduation

Intensive Written Advocacy

June 2015 - May 2016

Creator and Adjunct Professor of a course designed to build upon the research and writing fundamentals learned in previous Legal Writing courses. Course objective is to further reinforce persuasive writing skills through brief or motion writing assignments at the trial or appellate level as well as through related research and writing tasks likely to be encountered during a typical legal job.

Assistant Professor, Western State College of Law, Fullerton, CA

February 2013 - July 2014

Introduction to Legal Methods

Course designed to assist first year law students in developing the skills necessary to succeed in law school, in practice and on the bar exam. Course includes: 1) multiple opportunities for practice and feedback with respect to the knowledge and skills that are the objectives of the course; 2) exercises designed to help students learn, understand and remember the course materials; 3) team-based learning activities; and 4) substantial emphasis on teaching students the learning, reading and thinking skills they need to succeed in law school and beyond.

Basic Bar Studies

Course designed to introduce third year law students to the essay writing and organization skills necessary to succeed on the essay portion of the California Bar Examination and to make those students more effective and successful as law students and lawyers. Students develop the legal-analytical skills necessary for success on the bar examination (identifying legal issues, drafting clear, concise and complete rule statements and using and analyzing facts) as well as learn to master a basic organizational structure for each of the subjects tested by developing the ability to use issues checklists, outlines and pre-written material to write well-organized and thorough answers.

Adjunct Professor, California Western School of Law, San Diego, CA

August 2009 - May 2013

STEPPS Program

Adjunct Professor for the STEPPS Program, which is currently geared toward second year law students and focuses on five main areas: professional responsibility, prevention and problem solving, legal research and writing, lawyering skills and career satisfaction.

Pre-Bar Review

January 2011 - May 2013

Adjunct Professor for pre-bar review course that introduces third year law students to the California bar examination. Course focuses on substantive review of courses tested on the bar exam, refines students' essay and multiple-choice exam-taking skills, and introduces students to the performance exam portion of the exam.

Advanced Legal Analysis

August 2011 - May 2013

Adjunct professor for the Advanced Legal Analysis course which is designed to improve 2L students' test-taking skills, help students improve their grades in law school and to improve their ability to pass a bar examination.

McMillan Academy of Law, San Diego, CA

October 2012 - December 2012

Criminal Law Professor

Created syllabus and taught first year criminal law course. Course focused on first year criminal law concepts and preparation for the First Year Law Students' Exam (per State Bar guidelines), as well as the California Bar exam.

Legal Writing Professor, San Diego, CA

June 2011 - July 2011

Council on Legal Education Opportunities

CLEO, a nonprofit entity of the American Bar Association, aims to diversify the legal profession through its yearly six-week Summer Institute designed to demystify the law school experience. As the Legal Writing Professor for the 2011 Institute in San Diego, I designed the course syllabus, selected course materials, and taught the foundations of first year legal writing and research to all participants (approximately 40 students).

WORK EXPERIENCE

Andrews Lagasse Branch & Bell, LLP, San Diego, CA

Associate

February 2009 - February 2010

Civil litigation defense practice with a primary focus in the areas of employment law, construction defect, and professional liability.

San Diego County District Attorney's Office, San Diego, CA

Deputy District Attorney

January 2007 - January 2009

Prepare and prosecute felony and misdemeanor cases in San Diego county courts. Draft and argue legal and evidentiary motions related to criminal cases. Assess and evaluate cases for issuance by the District Attorney's Office.

Lerach Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins, LLP*, San Diego, CA

Associate

October 2004 - September 2006

Drafted amended complaints, oppositions to motions to dismiss and corresponding reply briefs, as well as discovery motions. Conducted document review for privilege and relevance. Attended hearings and status conferences regarding pending motions. Litigation experience focused on securities fraud class actions.

*Now known as Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd, LLP

The Honorable John A. Houston, United States District Court, Southern District of California, San Diego, CA

Judicial Law Clerk

July 2004 - September 2004

Drafted orders and opinions on civil and criminal motions pending before the Court, including civil motions to dismiss and federal writs of habeas corpus. Observed trials, appellate arguments, and pre-trial hearings.

Lerach Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins, LLP*, San Diego, CA

Post Bar Law Clerk

May 2004 - July 2004

Drafted discovery motions and conducted document review for privilege and relevance. Prepared documents for depositions and drafted motions and responses to dispositive motions. *Formerly associated with Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach, LLP

Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach, LLP*, San Diego, CA

Law Clerk and Post Bar Law Clerk

January 2003 - May 2004

Researched legal issues for senior associates and partners, as well as drafted legal memoranda to aid in crafting responses to motions. Prepared documents for depositions; drafted motions and responses to dispositive pleadings. Aided in the drafting of discovery motions and conducted document review for privilege and relevance. Clerking experience focused on consumer fraud class actions.

*Now known as Milberg, LLP

U.S. Department of the Navy, Office of General Counsel at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Summer Law Clerk

June 2002 - August 2002

One of only 8 law students selected to participate in this yearly program. Researched law, drafted legal memoranda and discussed finding with attorneys regarding various areas of government law: contracts, bid protests, EEOC and labor law matters, as well as military policy and regulation. Attended roundtable discussions of relevant legal issues with senior governmental attorneys.

Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek, San Diego, CA

Law Clerk

December 2001 - February 2002

Researched and analyzed case law for a white-collar criminal defense matter. Evaluated evidence in support of defense case-in-chief.

**The Honorable Napoleon A. Jones, Jr., United States District Court (Deceased)
Southern District of California, San Diego, CA**

Summer Law Clerk

June 2001 - August 2001

Researched and analyzed law and motions pending before the Court. Drafted bench memoranda with recommendations regarding the Court's actions on issues such as Order to Show Cause, Chapter 13 bankruptcy, collective bargaining agreements and federal writ of habeas corpus. Consulted with Court staff regarding disposition of pending actions. Observed court trials, appellate arguments, and pre-trial hearings.

California Innocence Project, San Diego, CA

Clinical Intern

May 2001 - May 2003

Evaluated inmate correspondence to determine strong evidence of innocence. Investigated assigned cases for new evidence including DNA, ineffective assistance of counsel, and witness recantations in order to help free those who were wrongfully incarcerated. Managed a caseload of 30 files, including responsibility for planning theories and conducting factual investigations.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties, Board Member (2012-2022)
Board Member California Ballet, Board of Trustee (2016-2017)
California Western School of Law, Alumni Board Director (2008-2014)
California Western School of Law, Graduate Trustee (2008-2009)
Commissioner for the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture (2017- present)
Culture Shock San Diego, Board Member (2011-2013)
Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, Board Member (2008-2017) -Twyman Scholarship Recipient, 2003
-Member-At-Large, 2004, 2005, 2011, 2017-2020 -Secretary, 2006
-Social Committee Director, 2008-2010 -President, 2012-2013
Emory University Alumni Association, San Diego Chapter
Lawyers Club of San Diego, Board Member (2010-2013), Committee Member (2010-2016)
New Leaders Council/San Diego Leadership Alliance, San Diego Chapter Member
Pro Kids Golf/First Tee of San Diego, Board Member and Volunteer (2017-2020)
Rady Children's Hospital Volunteer - NICU (2008-2020)

LANGUAGES and HOBBIES

Igbo and Spanish; golf, softball, yoga, metaphysical studies and international travel