

DEBORAH L. JOHNSON

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ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SCHOOL OF LAW, Portland, ME 2023 to present
Associate Professor

Course: Business Associations. Teach students the basic legal framework for the governance and operation of various business entities, as well as principles of agency and the essential attributes of partnerships, limited liability companies, and corporations.

Course: Insurance Law. Teach students basic principles of insurance and insurance law, including contract interpretation, first-party and third-party insurance coverage, liability insurance relationships, and insurance regulation. (Spring 2024)

Course: Cyber Insurance Law Seminar (new) (Spring 2024)

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Durham, NC 2021 to 2023
Visiting Assistant Professor

Taught Contracts I, Legal Letters (upper-level, practice-oriented writing course focused cyber liability issues), and Insurance Law.

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Boston, MA 2019 to 2021
Assistant Teaching Professor

Taught legal research, analysis, written and oral communication, and other lawyering skills in the context of the complex interplay between the law and societal inequities, values, and power. Supervise two sections of students in a year-long team legal advocacy project on behalf of a social justice partner organization. Taught Business Associations to international students in LL.M. Program to prepare students for U.S. bar exams. (Summer 2020)

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Bristol, RI 2011 to 2019
Director of Diversity and Outreach

Oversaw and directed law school's strategy to recruit, retain and support the development of a diverse and inclusive student body. Effectively worked with students, faculty and staff from diverse racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Provided individual and group support and advice to various law students, including students of color, LGBTQ students, first-generation students, older students and student parents, and to student organizations such as the Multicultural Law Students Association, the LGBTQ Alliance and the Muslim Law Students Association. Served on committee to plan faculty development workshops focused on diversity and inclusion. Served as a member of the Dean's senior staff.

Adjunct Professor of Law 2015 to 2019

Taught Insurance Law, and Contract Drafting and Transactional Lawyering. Supervised

student directed research and writing projects involving legal issues related to social justice, cyber insurance, health insurance, and data privacy.

THE INSURANCE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON, Boston, MA 2015 to present
Instructor

Course: Intro to Cyber Insurance. Developed and teach a three-hour class on the basics of cyberattacks and data breaches, first-party and third-party cyber coverage, and insurance law to various insurance professionals.

RESOLUTE MANAGEMENT, INC., Boston, MA 2009 to 2011
Account Manager

Analyzed and interpreted insurance contract provisions. Evaluated liability and damages for large exposure bodily injury and property damage claims. Drafted significant claims reports to upper management to assess company exposure. Collaborated with in house and outside counsel to develop and manage litigation strategy. Negotiated and settled claims.

BOSTON CENTER FOR COMMUNITY & JUSTICE, Boston, MA
Director of Youth Programs 2008 to 2009
Youth Programs Manager 2007 to 2008

Created, developed, implemented and evaluated organization's youth leadership programming. Designed and facilitated leadership workshops focused on cross-cultural issues including race, ethnicity, gender, religion and faith, socioeconomic class, sexual orientation and disabilities. Supervised program participants in implementing social justice projects at their schools and community organizations.

MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY & POPEO, P.C., Boston, MA 2001 to 2007
Litigation Associate

Represented clients in various stages of commercial litigation. Drafted memoranda, complaints, discovery requests and responses, pretrial motions, briefs, and settlement agreements. Authored numerous strategy memoranda and advised clients on broad, complex insurance coverage issues. Litigated summary process (eviction) proceedings and negotiated settlements in commercial landlord-tenant disputes. Represented pro bono clients in hearings for domestic abuse restraining orders and in legal guardianship proceedings.

Special Assistant District Attorney 2006 to 2007

Participated in six-month rotation with the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office. Prosecuted misdemeanor and felony crimes, handling arraignments and bail arguments, opposed motions to dismiss and motions to suppress evidence, represented the Commonwealth in dangerousness hearings and probation hearings, and prepared victims, witnesses and evidence for trial. Tried more than two dozen jury and bench trials in Framingham District Court.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT (S.D. Cal.), San Diego, CA
Law Clerk to the Honorable Napoleon A. Jones, Jr.

2000 to 2001

Conducted research, drafted bench memoranda and judicial opinions on criminal and civil matters and provided judge with oral analysis and recommendations as needed. Supervised judicial externs.

TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY, Hartford, CT
Associate Account Executive
Assistant Account Executive

1994 to 1997

1993 to 1994

Handled high-exposure toxic tort and environmental claims. Analyzed policy coverage issues, recommended company coverage positions, coordinated litigation strategy, and settled claims.

ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

Deborah L. Johnson, *Demystifying the Elusive Quest for Cyber Insurance Protection: The Need for New Contract Language*, 44 CARDOZO L. REV. 2361 (2023).

Deborah L. Johnson, *Identifying Bias, Inequity, and Discrimination in Insurance Law (with Some Thoughts on Doing the Same in a Business Associations Course)*, INTEGRATING DOCTRINE AND DIVERSITY: BEYOND THE FIRST YEAR (Nicole P. Dyszlewski, Raquel J. Gabriel, Suzanne Harrington-Steppen, Anna Russell, & Genevieve B. Tung eds.), (forthcoming 2024).

Deborah L. Johnson, *Defense Issues* in EXCESS AND UMBRELLA INSURANCE HANDBOOK, American Bar Association (Elizabeth C. Sackett and Timothy M. Thornton, Jr. eds.) (forthcoming 2024).

EDUCATION

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Boston, MA
Juris Doctor

May 2000

Teaching Assistant: Taught small sections of first-year legal practice course. Conducted weekly classes, held individual meetings with students, and provided extensive, individualized feedback on writing assignments and oral argument presentations.

Honors: Merit-Based Tuition Scholarship

Activities: Black Law Students Association, Member, and elected Treasurer (1998-99)

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, South Bend, IN
Bachelor of Arts, Government

May 1993

Honors: Holy Cross Award (1989-91); Dr. Scholl Foundation Scholarship (1991-93)

Activities: Student Union Board; Voices of Faith Gospel Ensemble; Black Cultural Arts Council

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Insurance Law, Business Associations, Contracts, Cybersecurity and Insurance, Commercial Law, Contract Drafting, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Legal Education

PRESENTATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- How Does Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Pedagogy Fit in Business Issues and Financial Affairs Classes? Leading with DEIB in Wills, Trusts, Estates, Insurance, Contracts, and Taxation Law Classes, *Panelist*, Integrating Doctrine and Diversity Speaker Series (Virtual), October 4, 2023
- Developments in Cyber Insurance Coverage Litigation, *Presenter*, Social Law Library and Insurance Library of Boston Webinar, December 14, 2022
- Lost Stories: The Amazing Dorothy Crockett, *Speaker*, Rhode Island Judiciary Committee on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in Courts and the Supreme Court Diversity Office Lunch-and-Learn Series (Virtual), February 16, 2022
- Addressing Structural Racism: Teaching Exercises for the Legal Skills Classroom, *Presenter*, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, Northeastern University School of Law (with Elizabeth Bloom and Stephanie Hartung), December 3, 2020
- Discussion with Boston Legal Community Leaders, *Panelist*, Boston University School of Law, August 29, 2017
- Judicial Application Process: An Evening with the Experts, *Moderator*, jointly presented by the Massachusetts Affinity Bar Associations, February 8, 2017
- Implementing Black Lives Matter in Law Schools: Faculty and Administrative Response to Promoting Inclusion and Justice, *Panelist*, New England Clinical Conference, October 21, 2016
- Discussion with Boston Legal Community Leaders, *Panelist*, Boston University School of Law, August 29, 2016
- Erase the Hate | Our Country of Laws: Using the Legal System to Fight Bias and Discrimination, *Speaker*, Gallaudet University, April 26, 2016
- CNNE Academic Retreat, National Black Law Students Association, Northeast Chapter, *Keynote Speaker*, October 17, 2015
- Cybersecurity and Law Enforcement: The Cutting Edge Symposium, *Panelist*, Roger Williams University School of Law, October 16, 2015
- Pipeline: From Classrooms to Prisons, *Moderator*, Roger Williams University School of Law, October 7, 2015
- Let's Get Real 2015: Surviving and Succeeding as a Diverse Attorney in Boston, *Panelist*, Boston Bar Association, June 18, 2015
- Dispelling the Myth of the Angry Black Woman: Supporting Black Women Attorneys' Success in the Workplace, *Moderator*, Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys, November 20, 2014

BAR ADMISSIONS

Admitted in Massachusetts, New York, California (inactive), United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts and United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Northeastern University School of Law Alumni/ae Association, Board Member, 2017 to 2019
Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys, Board Member, 2013 to 2019 (President, 2015 to 2018)
Women's Resource Center (RI), Board of Directors, 2014 to 2016
Women's Bar Foundation (MA), Elder Law Project, Volunteer Attorney, 2014 to 2015
Center for Collaborative Education, Board of Directors, 2009 to 2011
Elizabeth Stone House, Board of Directors, 2007 to 2011
Roxbury Preparatory Charter School, Development Committee, 2005 to 2007
Boston Center for Community & Justice, Lead Boston Participant, 2005 to 2006

LANGUAGES

Spanish (proficient), American Sign Language (conversational), French (conversational)