

Njeri Mathis Rutledge

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EDUCATION

- June 1996* **Harvard Law School**, J.D. Cambridge, Massachusetts
Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review – technical editor
- June 1993* **Spelman College**, B.A., Atlanta, Georgia
Magna cum laude; English

BAR ADMISSION

- Nov. 1997* Admitted to practice in Texas' state courts and federal courts in the Southern, Eastern, and Northern Districts of Texas.

EXPERIENCE

2004-Present **South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas**

Associate Professor of Law

Areas of Expertise: Domestic Violence; Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure; Legal Analysis, Research & Writing; Employment Law and Civil Litigation.

Teaching first-year law students practical skills ranging from understanding the American common law system, briefing cases, analyzing and synthesizing cases, writing legal memoranda, editing and revising their work, performing legal research and proper citation form. Designed curriculum, course materials and exercises based on department guidelines that take various adult learning styles into account; conducted conferences with students to assist in writing skills and matriculation through law school

2009-Present **City of Houston, Houston, Texas**

Associate Municipal Court Judge

Serve as a substitute part-time Municipal Court Judge when needed including docket management, reviewing search warrants and presiding over various dockets including arraignment, show cause, jail, and trial dockets.

2001-2004 **Harris County District Attorney's Office, Houston, Texas**

Trial Bureau – Divisions: Felony, Family Criminal Law, Juvenile, Justice of the Peace, and Misdemeanor

Served as lead prosecutor in over twenty felony and misdemeanor criminal jury trials; supervised and trained prosecutors as Chief Prosecutor in two misdemeanor courts; served as prosecutor in specialized domestic violence, justice of the peace, and juvenile divisions; performed research and drafted trial briefs and legal memoranda on various evidentiary and procedural issues; represented the state in plea negotiations, court trials and hearings; advised crime victims and law enforcement personnel of pertinent legal issues and prepared them for trial; reviewed and approved criminal charges at police intake; presented cases to the Grand Jury; and handled extensive caseload.

1997-2001 **Baker Botts, L.L.P., Houston, Texas**

Associate Attorney

Practice Emphasis: General Civil and Labor & Employment Litigation

Represented clients in federal administrative proceedings, court hearings, mediations, and arbitrations, negotiated settlements; defended and took depositions, researched, drafted and filed successful summary judgment motions; assisted clients in conducting internal investigations and responding to investigations by state and federal agencies; drafted various opinion letters, motions and trial briefs and assisted with a U.S. Supreme Court brief; conducted discovery and assisted in organizing and responding to discovery in complex civil litigation involving substantial document production; advised clients on various legal issues including non-competition disputes, affirmative action plans, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Title VII, and union disputes; defended employers against claims of discrimination, sexual harassment, and unfair labor practice charges.

1996-1997 Judicial Clerkship for The Hon. John T. Nixon, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee
Judicial Law Clerk

Conducted extensive legal research on a variety of issues and drafted bench memoranda, first draft opinions and court orders; conducted charge conferences with attorneys and drafted jury charges.

SCHOLARSHIP PUBLICATIONS

A Time to Mourn: Balancing the Right of Free Speech Against the Right of Privacy in Funeral Picketing, 67 *Maryland Law Review* 295 (2008) (available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=984055>)

Turning A Blind Eye: Perjury in Domestic Violence Cases, forthcoming *New Mexico Law Review* (Winter 2009) (available at SSRN: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1162926)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Panelist, “*Dealing with False Allegations and Recanting in Custody Evaluations and Testimony*,” at the Association of Family & Conciliation Courts Domestic Violence Conference, October 2008.

Paper Presentation, “*Turning A Blind Eye: Perjury in Domestic Violence Cases*,” at the South Eastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) New Scholar’s Conference, July 2008.

Paper Presentation, “*Turning A Blind Eye: Perjury in Domestic Violence Cases*,” at the Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, University of Denver, Strum College of Law, June 2008.

Panelist and Presenter, “*Do the Courts & Police Protect?: Mandatory Arrest: A Necessary Evil*” at the Second Annual Domestic Violence Conference: Battered Mothers & Witnessing Children: Failure to Protect & Conceptions of State Accountability, University of Denver Strum College of Law, March 2007.

Paper Presentation, “*Liar, Liar: Perjury & the Battered Woman*,” at the Mid-Atlantic People of Color Scholarship Conference: Watching Privacy Disappear, University of Richmond School of Law, January 2007.

Paper Presentation, “*A Time to Mourn: Balancing the Rights of Privacy Against the Right of Free Speech in Funeral Picketing*” at the Mid-Atlantic People of Color Scholarship Conference: Watching Privacy Disappear, University of Richmond School of Law, January 2007.

Paper Presentation, “*Liar, Liar: Perjury & the Battered Woman*,” at the South Eastern People of Color Scholarship Conference, Metairie, Louisiana 2006.

Presenter, “*A Life Worth Living: Making a Difference in the Law*” for the Inns of Court, Houston, Texas March 2006.

Presenter, “*How to Pick a Lawyer*,” The People’s Law School: Center for Consumer Law, University of Houston Law Center, April 2004.

INTERNSHIPS

- Sum. 1996** **Baker Botts L.L.P., Houston, Texas**
Performed general legal research and writing in Trial and Labor and Employment departments.
- Fall 1995** **Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office, Child Abuse Unit, Boston, Massachusetts**
Performed legal research for Assistant District Attorneys; observed child-witness interviews, hearings and trials; assisted with trial preparation.
- Fall 1995** **United States Attorney’s Office-Major Crimes Division, Boston, Massachusetts**
Performed legal research for Assistant United States Attorneys and drafted memoranda.
- Sum. 1995** **Bass Berry & Sims, Nashville, Tennessee**
Performed general legal research and writing.
- Sum. 1995** **Jenkins & Gilchrist, Dallas, Texas**
Performed general legal research and writing.
- Fall 1994** **Hale & Dorr Legal Services Center for Harvard Law School, Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts**
Represented clients in uncontested divorce proceedings; drafted court documents, conducted discovery in contested proceedings.
- Sum. 1994** **U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, The Hon. Martha Craig Daughtrey, Tennessee**
Performed legal research and drafted bench memoranda; assisted with reviewing *en banc* petitions.
- Sum. 1994** **Tuke Yopp & Sweeney, Nashville, Tennessee**
Performed general legal research and writing in Trial Department.
- Sum. 1993** **Davidson County Public Defender’s Office, Juvenile Division, Tennessee**
Interviewed clients; attended settlement meetings and court hearings; took cross-examination notes for attorneys; and conducted research.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Houston Bar Association, Speaker’s Bureau former *co-chair*, (2003-2004)
National Black Prosecutor’s Association former *State Representative* (2003-2004)
Legal Writing Institute, *New Member’s Committee* (2008- present)

Member: American Bar Association, Association of Legal Writing Directors; Houston Bar Association; Houston Young Lawyers Association; The Downtown Group; and Houston Lawyer’s Association

LAW SCHOOL SERVICE

Appeals Committee (2006, 2007, 2008); Minorities Committee (2007); Retention Committee (2007); Financial Aid Committee (2007); Faculty Advisor Christian Legal Society (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008); co-Faculty Advisor Black Law Students Association (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008)

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Attorney Poll Watcher & Election Volunteer – Texas Primary Election
Houston Area Women’s Center – Children’s Enrichment Committee;
DePelchin Children’s Center – Bible Study Leader; Houston’s First Baptist Church – Homebound
team; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.