

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, Houston, Texas**
Professor of Law

Areas of Expertise: Domestic Violence, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Forensic Evidence, Legal Research & Writing, Employment Law & Civil Litigation

Teach and develop curriculum for Legal Research & Writing, Forensic Evidence Seminar, Texas Criminal Procedure and Criminal Litigation Drafting. Serve as a resource to students for several issues including but not limited to employment, public service vs private practice, writing, and diversity. Participate in faculty governance.

2009-Present **City of Houston Municipal Court – Judicial Division, Houston, Texas**
Associate Municipal Court Judge

Serve as an associate judge and magistrate presiding over arraignment, show cause, trial and jail dockets. Magistrate functions include reviewing search warrants, providing magistrate warnings, and issuing emergency protective orders.

2001-2004 Harris County District Attorney's Office, Houston, Texas
Trial Bureau – Divisions: Family Violence, Felony, Juvenile, Justice of the Peace, and Misdemeanor

Awards: Recognized for Outstanding Service to Crime Victims - 2004

Served as lead prosecutor in felony and misdemeanor criminal jury trials; supervised and trained prosecutors as Chief Prosecutor in two misdemeanor courts; served as prosecutor in specialized domestic violence 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

LAW REVIEW PUBLICATIONS

Employers Know Best? The Application of Workplace Restraining Orders to Domestic Violence Cases, (forthcoming) 48 LOYOLA LOS ANGELES LAW REVIEW 175 (2014).

Looking A Gift Horse in the Mouth: Crime Victim Compensation Funds and the Underutilization by Domestic Violence Victims, 19 DUKE J. GENDER L. & POL'Y 223 (2011).

Turning A Blind Eye: Perjury in Domestic Violence Cases, 39 NEW MEXICO LAW REVIEW 149 (Winter 2009) (available at SSRN: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1162926)

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>)

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS INVOLVING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESEARCH

Panelist, Eighth Public Meeting of the Judicial Proceedings Panel on Victim Compensation and Restitution in Washington, D.C., March 2015.

Paper Presentation, *Employers Know Best? The Application of Workplace Restraining Orders to Domestic Violence Cases* at the Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, February 2014.

Paper Presentation, *Looking A Gift Horse in the Mouth – Victim Compensation Funds and the Underutilization by Domestic Violence Victims* at the Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, June 2011.

Paper Presentation, *Looking A Gift Horse in the Mouth – Victim Compensation Funds and the Underutilization by Domestic Violence Victims* at the Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, at University of Seattle College of Law, June 2009.

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

OTHER SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, *Puzzles—A Teaching Tool for Reinforcing Organization*, at the Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Institute Conference, March 2015.

Panelist, *Law School Success 101: How to Best Prepare for and Make the Most of the Entire Law School Experience*, at the Tenth Annual National Black Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair, October 2014.

Panelist, *Overview of Roles: The Structure of the Legal Academy: Responsibilities and Skills*, The Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference sponsored by SALT and Thurgood Marshall School of Law (February 2014).

Presenter, *Students Gone Wild: Tips for Handling Negative Student Interactions*, Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference sponsored by Savannah Law School (April 2013)

Presenter, *Students Gone Wild: Tips for Handling Negative Student Interactions*, at the Biennial Legal Writing Institute Conference (May 2012)

Panelist, *The Challenges and Rewards of Law School, and How to Best Prepare for a Successful Law School Experience*, at the Eighth Annual National Black Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair, November 2012.

Panelist, *Racial Disparities in Law School*, for Thurgood Marshall School of Law Diversity Day program in April, 2011.

Panelist, *Endless Possibilities: The JD Examined*, at the Rocky Mountain Regional Black Law Students Association Convention, February 2011.

Panelist, *Family and Career Trajectories of the Female Attorney*, at the Rocky Mountain Regional Black Law Students Association Convention, February 2011.

Panelist, *Addressing the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) Achievement Gap: Keys to Excellent Preparation for Earning the Scores that Law Schools Expect from Competitive Applicants* at the Sixth Annual National Black Pre-Law Admissions and Preparation Conference and Law Fair, November 2010.

Panelist, *The Challenges and Rewards of Law School, and How to Best Prepare for A Successful Law School Experience*, at the Fifth Annual National Black Pre-Law Admissions and Preparation Conference and Law Fair, October 2009.

Panelist, *Demystifying American Legal Education: How Law School is Radically Different from Your Undergraduate Education*, at the Third Annual National Black Pre-Law Admissions and Preparation Conference and Law Fair, October 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.

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

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

Member: American Bar Association (Criminal Law Division), Association of Legal Writing Directors;
Houston Bar Association; Houston Young Lawyers Association; The Downtown Group; Texas

Municipal Courts Association; Association of Women Attorney's, and Houston Lawyer's Association.

LAW SCHOOL COMMITTEE SERVICE

Admissions Committee (2016-present); Diversity Committee (2014-present Chair; 2015-2016, 2014-2015, 2013-2014, 2013-2012, Spr. 2011 Chair; 2010-2011, 2008-2009, 2008-2007); Environmental Stewardship Committee (2016-present, 2015, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 Co-Chair); Orientation Committee (2011 Co-chair; 2010 Co-chair; 2009 Co-chair); Appeals Committee (2009, 2008, 2007, 2006); Scholarship Placement Incentive Committee (2009); Retention Committee (2008, 2007); Financial Aid Committee (2016-present, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007); Faculty Advisor Christian Legal Society (2005-present); co-Faculty Advisor Black Law Students Association (2004-present).

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Volunteer Magistrate Judge for Harris County's "No Refusal Operation" which involves reviewing DWI Blood Search Warrants
Bellaire Young Mothers
Volunteer Room Parent for Kindergarten Class, Presbyterian School
Volunteer Parent – early childhood desk coverage; chaperone and other activities
Ivy Educational & Charitable Foundation Scholarship Luncheon & Fashion Show Steering Committee, Logistics chairman & scholarship essay committee
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter (various committees)
Attorney Election Poll Watcher
Election Volunteer