

Njeri Mathis Rutledge

nmathis@stcl.edu

1303 San Jacinto Street, Suite 635

Houston, TX 77025

713.646.1842 or Admin. Assistant at 713.646.1839

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 Texas.

EXPERIENCE

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; review search warrants, provide magistrate warnings, issue emergency protective orders; interact with a variety of citizens, defense attorneys, prosecutors, and police officers; swear recent successful bar takers as members of the Texas bar.

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

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

Develop curriculum and teach a variety of legal subjects; research and publish legal scholarship focusing on domestic violence, criminal justice, race and constitutional law; coordinate and teach summer bootcamp program for Black Law Students Association; serve as faculty advisor for various student organizations; mentor students regarding employment, public service vs private practice, writing, and diversity; participate in faculty governance by serving on a variety of committees

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 sole lead prosecutor in over twenty-five 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, 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 court hearings, federal administrative proceedings, 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; represented clients in pro-bono divorce cases through the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program; served second-chair in federal trial involving Title VII.

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

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

SCHOLARSHIP

LAW REVIEW PUBLICATIONS

Walking the Tightrope: Reflections of a Black Female Law Professor, (forthcoming) Campbell Law Review (Spr. 2021).

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>)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

A Call for More Black Prosecutors essay published in Meeting at the Table: African American Women Write on Race, Culture & Community (DownSouth Press November 2020).

'Kamala-mala-mala: ' If her first name is supposedly so difficult to say, try 'Sen. Harris', USA Today, October 21, 2020, available online at: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/voices/2020/10/21/kamala-harris-name-pronunciation-david-perdue-trump-race-column/5992734002/>

'The end of the beginning' in the search for justice for Breonna Taylor, co-authored with Geoff Corn, The Hill, September 30, 2020, available online at: <https://thehill.com/opinion/criminal-justice/518709-the-end-of-the-beginning-in-the-search-for-justice-for-breonna>

'Grand jury made the right call in Breonna Taylor case, co-authored with Geoff Corn, USA Today, September 24, 2020, available at: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/09/24/breonna-taylor-grand-jury-indicted-one-officer-wanton-endangerment-column/3515532001/>.

Black in America: I Normalized Racism, USA Today Weekend Edition September 18-20, 2020 at 7A; also available online as *I thought I never experienced racism. Then I realized I just normalized it*, September 15, 2020, available online at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/voices/2020/09/15/racism-every-day-black-women-column/5793258002/>.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Panelist, *Visible Invisibility*, sponsored by the South Texas College of Law Houston Women's Law Society, webinar, October 29, 2020

Panelist, *Say Her Name: Breonna Taylor A Day Long Symposium: Panel Two - Procedural Problems*, sponsored by the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, webinar, October 23, 2020. The recording is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAZItZvQQms&list=PLYvr9skdvgVNbr20TeLqieppGEG3jgi4v>.

Panelist, *Allyship & Racial Justice*, sponsored by the Houston Young Lawyers Association, webinar, September 29, 2020. The recording is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLB1feYEhHs&list=PLyvr9skdvgVNbr20TeLqieppGEG3jgi4v&index=2&t=1749s>.

Panelist, *Black Lives Matter & Racial Justice*, sponsored by the South Texas College of Law ACLU, webinar, September 23, 2020.

Panelist & Moderator, *Teaching with Technology*, at the Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop and Writing Retreat, July 2018.

Panelist, *Creating Your Academic Business Plan*, at the Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop and Writing Retreat, July 2017.

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

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).

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.

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.

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.

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.

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, *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.

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, *“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 Mid-Atlantic People of Color Scholarship Conference: Watching Privacy Disappear, University of Richmond School of Law, January 2007.

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

Member: American Bar Association (Criminal Law Division), Association of Legal Writing Directors; Association of Women Attorneys; The Downtown Group; Hispanic Bar Association; Houston Bar Association; Houston Bar Association Auxiliary; Houston Lawyer's Association; Legal Writing Institute; and the National Association of Women Judges.

Houston Bar Association, Hay Center Committee (2019-present); Speaker's Bureau former *co-chair*, (2003-2004)
National Black Prosecutor's Association former *State Representative* (2003-2004)
Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association – Law School Committee (2019-present)

LAW SCHOOL COMMITTEE SERVICE

Student Appeals & Discipline Committee (2020-present – Chair), 2006-2009; Admissions Committee (2016-2018); Diversity Committee (2007-present; Chair: 2015-2016; 2017-2018; Spr. 2011); Environmental Stewardship Committee (2016-2018; Co-chair 2013-2015; Orientation Committee (2011-2009 Co-chair); Scholarship Placement Incentive Committee (2009); Retention Committee (2008, 2007); Financial Aid Committee (2016-2018, 2007-2011); Faculty Advisor Christian Legal Society (2005-2015); co-Faculty Advisor Black Law Students Association (2004-present); Faculty Advisor Womxn of Color Collective (2020-present); Faculty Advisor First Gen Law Students (2020-present)

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter – various committees
Election Protection Attorney Volunteer through the Lawyers for Civil Rights Committee and the Texas Civil Rights Project – worked in command center to help escalate issues involving voter suppression and intimidation; answered hotline calls from public regarding voting questions; assisted with amicus brief regarding petition to discard over 120,000 ballots in Texas casts through drive-thru voting procedure
Ivy Educational & Charitable Foundation – various committees
Jack & Jill of America, Houston Chapter- Membership Co-Chair; and various other committees
USA Today Opinion Columnist and member of Board of Contributors
Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church - AWANA & Children's Ministry Volunteer