

AMY BETH CYPHERT

amy.cyphert@mail.wvu.edu

EDUCATION HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, J.D. June 2005

Honors: Graduated *Cum Laude*, recognized for completing over 1000 *pro bono* volunteer hours
Research: Research Assistant for Professors Sam Bagenstos and Christine Desan
Activities: Harvard Mediation Program, Student Public Interest Network (Co-President),
Advocates for Education (Treasurer), Harvard Defenders

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIV., BA in: English, Creative Writing, Professional Writing (triple major) May 2001

Honors: 2000 Truman Scholar (*\$30,000 scholarship given in recognition of commitment to public service*)
Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Mortar Board and National Society of Collegiate Scholars
2001 Alumni Association Student Service Award, 2001 Senior Leadership Award
2000 Student Employee of the Year Award (worked 40 hours per week to help finance education)
1999 Carnegie Mellon Press Prize for Poetry
Thesis: Grant Writing for Community Based 501 (c)(3) Non-profit Organizations

PUBLICATIONS

Prisoners of Fate: The Challenges of Creating Change for Children of Incarcerated Parents, forthcoming, Maryland Law Review.

Addressing Racial Disparities in Preschool Suspension and Expulsion Rates, 82 Tenn. L. Rev. 893 (2015).

The Balkanization of University Support Systems: FERPA's Chilling Effect of Campus and How Honors Administrators Can Break the Ice, Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council, Fall/Winter 2010 (co-authored with Dean Keith Garbutt).

EXPERIENCE WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY, Morgantown WV, *ASPIRE Director and Faculty Affiliate* March 2010-Present

Recruit and assist students applying for nationally competitive scholarships and graduate school. Manage two program coordinators and a graduate assistant. Develop and teach courses for undergraduates and law students, including "Appellate Advocacy," "Law and Leadership," "History of the Warren Court," and "Philosophy of Law."

WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND DORR LLP, New York, NY, *Sr. Associate* Nov. 2007- Feb. 2010

Drafted complaints, answers, and motions for matters ranging from First Amendment cases to shareholder derivative actions and complex commercial litigations. Supervised and managed the work of junior associates and paralegals. Prepared clients, partners and counsel for trials, depositions and oral argument.

HONORABLE LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN, Southern District of New York, *Law Clerk* Sept. 2005- Sept. 2007

Drafted opinions and orders in cases involving many legal issues, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title VII, and § 1983 claims. Researched and drafted bench opinions for pre-trial motions. Responsible for complete case management for approximately 150 cases.

BAZELON CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH LAW, Washington, D.C., *legal intern* July 2004 - Aug. 2004

Wrote legal memoranda for impact litigation seeking to improve foster care mental health services in California. Drafted expert declarations. Strategized with teenage clients and their families on how best to advocate for their legal and educational needs.

CENTER FOR PUBLIC REPRESENTATION, Newton, MA, *legal intern* Aug. 2003 - May 2005

Wrote motions for a case involving the use of pepper spray on patients with psychiatric disabilities. Researched and helped write papers on competence for mental health advance directives. Analyzed discovery materials for case arguing for community based care for children with special needs.

CHILD CARE LAW CENTER, San Francisco, CA, *legal intern* June 2003 - Aug. 2003

Wrote legal memorandum on the filing process for making disability claims under California's civil rights statute and the ADA. Updated publication on caring for children with HIV/AIDS and drafted significant new portions. Provided legal information on child care law to clients on national hotline.

Chaired three-person team that researched and developed a \$10,000,000 accountability system and led committee in strategic assessment of program finances. Wrote grants and proposals soliciting funding for 40 state councils. Provided support for team that developed authorizing language included in the Farm Bill.

Volunteer Work

Coach, Mock Trial Team, St. Ignatius Loyola School: coached classes of 7th grade students for the Thurgood Marshall Jr. mock trial competition held at the state courthouse in the Bronx, NY.

Teaching Experience

Since beginning to teach at West Virginia University in the spring of 2011, **I have taught 20 courses** (nine times for the College of Law, four times for the Department of Philosophy, twice for the Leadership Studies Department and five times for the Honors College). With the exception of the course I have taught for the College of Law, *Appellate Advocacy*, I have created the curriculum for my other courses entirely independently.

Appellate Advocacy (*Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017*)

This course examines and addresses some of the basic elements of Appellate Practice, including determining whether to appeal, determining the standard of review, becoming an effective oral advocate, and mastering good brief writing techniques.

Philosophy of Law (*Fall 2011, Spring 2012 (Spring course co-taught with Prof. Matt Talbert), Fall 2015, Spring 2017*)

This course, which I independently developed, has three main parts. Part I focuses on what law is, and where it comes from. Part II moves on to the important and related issue of adjudication, or how judges decide cases. Part III explores issues of justice and punishment (including negligence, sentencing, *mens rea* and constitutional law) through the lens of philosophy.

History of the Warren Court (*Spring 2013*)

This course, which I independently developed, examines the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren, who served from 1953 to 1969. During his tenure, the Court handed down some of its most sweeping and revolutionary decisions, including *Brown v. Board*, *Miranda v. Arizona* and decisions regarding prayer in schools. The course focuses both on the men who served on the Court under Warren and also on the decisions they produced.

Law and Leadership (*Spring 2011, Fall 2011*)

This course, which I independently developed, focuses on the intersection between law and leadership. We pay special attention to such issues as how prosecutorial discretion helps give prosecutors powerful potential to lead; who gets to “lead” when it comes to decision-making around civil rights impact litigation; and how lawyers have played a role in corporate scandals and what that says about leadership in the field.

Law and Leadership - Honors Add On (*Spring 2011, Fall 2011*)

This course was a one unit “add on” course to my regular Law and Leadership course, and allowed Honors College students to engage in deeper study by meeting with me once per week to work on independent presentations.

The Supreme Court Today (*Spring 2014*)

This course, which I independently developed, followed the Supreme Court’s October 2013 term. Students learned about the nine current members of the Court and studied 17 cases that are currently pending before the Court, reading the parties’ briefs and listening to and analyzing the oral argument before the Court, as well as any opinions issued during the course of the semester.

In the Balance: The Roberts Court (*Spring 2017*)

This course, which I independently developed, is a 1-unit book club for Honors College students that is exploring the Supreme Court under Chief Justice John Roberts and the potential impact of Judge Gorsuch as a Justice.

Professional Memberships

Member, New York State Bar Association

Member, American Bar Association