

ROBIN WALKER STERLING

rwalkersterling@law.northwestern.edu

EDUCATION

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER, LL.M. in Clinical Advocacy, October 2008

Honors: E. Barrett Prettyman/Stuart Stiller Fellowship

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, J.D., May 1999

Honors: Root-Tilden-Kern Public Interest Scholarship

Journal: Annual Survey of American Law, Staff Member

Clinics: Juvenile Rights Clinic

New York Capital Defender Clinic

YALE UNIVERSITY, B.A., History, June 1993

Honors: President's Award for Community Service

New York Governor's Committee Scholarship

National Achievement Scholarship

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

NORTHWESTERN PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW, Chicago, IL

July 2020-present

Associate Dean for Clinical Education

Director, Bluhm Legal Clinic

Mayer Brown/Robert A. Helman Professor of Law

Direct the Bluhm Legal Clinic, one of the largest and best-ranked clinical programs in the United States.

Develop and will teach a semester-long in-house movement lawyering clinic consisting of an intensive one-week orientation and twice-weekly seminar sessions.

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER, STURM COLLEGE OF LAW, Denver, CO

August 2010-present

Associate Professor

Ronald V. Yegge Clinical Director, Student Law Office

May 2016-present

Co-Director, Immigration Law and Policy Clinic

July 2018-present

Co-Director, Criminal Defense Clinic

Develop and co-teach a semester-long in-house criminal defense clinic and an immigration law and policy clinic consisting of an intensive three-week orientation and twice-weekly seminar sessions. Supervise students representing adults and juveniles in municipal and county courts throughout the Denver area.

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SCHOOL OF LAW, Accra, Ghana, West Africa

August 2017-July 2018

Fulbright Scholar and Visiting Associate Professor

As a recipient of a year-long Fulbright Scholar award, researched and taught juvenile justice courses to law and Ph.D. students. Worked with a cadre of stakeholders, including UNICEF, Parliament, and the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Welfare, to revise and pass as legislation an amended national Children's Act and Juvenile Justice Act by 2019. Facilitated empirical research sessions with stakeholders around the country, including in Takoradi, Sunyani, the Volta Region, and the Ashanti Region (Kumasi), to gain information on how juvenile justice operates in those areas. Stakeholder meetings included judges, probation officers, teachers, social workers. Co-wrote two position papers making recommendations on the proposed legislation's stance on corporal punishment in the home and the age of sexual consent.

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER, Washington, DC
JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLINICS

August 2000-August 2002

E. Barrett Prettyman/Stuart Stiller Fellow
Supervising Attorney

Supervised 14 third-year law students in Juvenile Justice Clinic throughout all aspects of client representation. Co-taught accompanying juvenile justice course covering both substantive criminal law issues and trial advocacy skills. Completed year-long clinical fellows training course that included the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) method for providing feedback on courtroom performance. Represented indigent juveniles and adults charged with misdemeanors and felonies at all stages of the criminal process.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER, Washington, DC

September 2006-July 2010

Special Counsel

Provided technical and policy assistance to juvenile justice system professionals, judges, and legislators. Researched, developed, and wrote articles, reports, and other agency publications on improving access to and quality of representation in juvenile delinquency court. Wrote *amicus* briefs, in state Supreme Courts and the United States Supreme Court, on juvenile defense issues, including the right to counsel at interrogation, the constitutionality of presumptive transfer, and the right to a jury trial in juvenile delinquency proceedings. Coordinated and participated in moots of oral arguments. Conducted and organized juvenile defender trainings on topics such as ethics, opening statements, direct and cross examination, closing arguments, adolescent development, and cultural competency.

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER, Washington, DC

September 2005- September 2006

Supervising Attorney, Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Project

Supervised staff attorneys handling dependency, adoption, and guardianship cases, accompanying supervisees to court, providing feedback on courtroom performance, reviewing written trial preparation, and mooted arguments. Co-instituted, co-devised the curriculum for, and co-taught semimonthly trial practice skills sessions on, *inter alia*, opening statements, closing arguments, cross examination, hearsay, objections, and investigation to all attorneys. Handled caseload of dependency matters. Hired, trained, and supervised summer class of legal interns.

D.C. PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE, Washington, DC

October 2002-July 2005

Staff Attorney, Trial Division

Forensic Practice Group

Represented indigent juveniles and adults charged with misdemeanors and felonies at all stages of the criminal process, including investigation, trial, and sentencing. Litigated bench and jury trials. Supervised law clerks and investigative interns. As member of Forensic Practice Group, received specialized training in issues surrounding DNA evidence, including methods of analysis, discovery issues, and admissibility/reliability challenges.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, Washington, DC *August 1999-August 2000*

The Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan

Law Clerk

Researched and drafted bench memoranda prior to hearings and conferences.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, New York, NY

August 1998-May 1999

Professor Kim Taylor-Thompson

Research Assistant

Provided research assistance for various law review articles and publications, including article arguing for affirmative action for petit juries.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Robin Walker Sterling, *Through A Glass Darkly: Systemic Racism, Affirmative Action, and Disproportionate Minority Contact*, ___ *Michigan Law Review* (2021).

Robin Walker Sterling, *Invisible Injustice: A Review of Punishment Without Crime: How Our Massive Misdemeanor System Traps the Innocent and Makes American More Unequal by Alexandra Natapoff*, *Journal of Community Psychology* (January 2020)

Robin Walker Sterling, *Narrative and Justice Reinvestment*, 94 *DENVER LAW REVIEW* 537 (2017).

Robin Walker Sterling, *Juvenile Sex Offender Registration: An Impermissible Life Sentence*, 82 *UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW REVIEW* 295 (2015).

Robin Walker Sterling, *Defense Attorney Resistance*, 99 *IOWA LAW REVIEW* 2246 (July 2014).

Robin Walker Sterling, *On Surviving Legal De-Education: An Allegory for a Renaissance in Legal Education*, 91 *DENVER LAW REVIEW* 211 (2013).

Robin Walker Sterling, *A Broken Shield: A Plea for Formality in the Juvenile System*, 13 *UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND JOURNAL OF RACE, RELIGION, GENDER AND CLASS* 237 (Fall 2013).

Robin Walker Sterling, “*Children Are Different: Implicit Bias, Rehabilitation, and the “New” Juvenile Jurisprudence*,” 46 *LOYOLA LOS ANGELES LAW REVIEW* 1019 (Spring 2013).

Robin Walker Sterling, *Fundamental Unfairness: In re Gault and the Road Not Taken*, 72 *MARYLAND LAW REVIEW* 607 (2013).

Anthony Amsterdam, Randy Hertz, Robin Walker Sterling, et al., *Stories Told and Untold: Lawyering Theory Analyses of the First Rodney King Assault Trial*, 12 *CLINICAL LAW REVIEW* 1 (2005).

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

2019

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT TRAINING, FEDERAL DEFENDER FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, *Raising Race*, Presenter, December 11, 2019, Denver, CO.

FEDERAL DEFENDER SERVICES OFFICE, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS TRAINING DIVISION. MULTI-TRACK FEDERAL CRIMINAL DEFENSE SEMINAR, *Raising Race*, Presenter, August 16, 2019, Denver, CO.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS, 2019 CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION, *Learning about the Forest by Examining the Trees: Discussing Systemic Concerns in the Context of Direct Client Representation*, Co-Presenter (with Profs. Brad Colbert, Perry Moriearty, Rachel Moran, and Carl Warren), May, 5, 2019, San Francisco, CA.

OFFICE OF THE COLORADO PUBLIC DEFENDER, Training, Presenter, *Implicit Bias and Talking about Race Issues in Voir Dire*, April 23, 2019, Denver, CO.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF LAW, Constitutional Law Workshop, Presenter, *A New System of Juvenile Justice*, March 8, 2019, Baltimore, MD.

2018

CARDOZO LAW SCHOOL, Presenter, *Adolescent Brain Development and the Fourth Amendment*, September 17, 2018, New York, NY.

UNITED STATES EMBASSY, Presenter, *Fulbright Lecture Series: Revising Ghana's Children's Act and Juvenile Justice Act*, June 2018, Accra, Ghana, West Africa.

GHANA MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN, AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND UNICEF, Review and Amendment of the Children's Act, Juvenile Justice Act, and Related Laws, *Comprehensive Desk Review and Discussion*, Presenter and Co-facilitator, October 2017 (frontline system stakeholders), March 2018 (children from around the country), and June 2018 (judges and prosecutors), Kumasi, Ashanti Region, Ghana, West Africa.

UNITED STATES EMBASSY, Presenter, *Children in the Movement: From the Civil Rights Movement to Black Lives Matter*, February 13, 2018, Accra, Ghana, West Africa.

2017

COLORADO OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, COLORADO JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER, ALTERNATE DEFENSE COUNSEL, AND THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD REPRESENTATIVE, Keynote Speaker, *The Ethics of Juvenile Defense as a Specialized Practice*, April 20, 2017, Denver, CO.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY SCHOOL OF LAW FACULTY WORKSHOP, Presenter, *Two Minutes in August: In Defense of Michael Brown*, March 7, 2017, Lexington, KY.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY SCHOOL OF LAW SYMPOSIUM: IN RE GAULT, 50 YEARS LATER, Keynote, *The World that Gault Made: In re Gault and Race in the Juvenile Justice System*, March 6, 2017, Lexington, KY.

WASHINGTON AND LEE SCHOOL OF LAW, SYDNEY AND FRANCES LEWIS LAW CENTER FACULTY WORKSHOP SERIES, Presenter, *Two Minutes in August: In Defense of Michael Brown*, February 20, 2017, Lexington, VA.

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT: THE SOLUTION TO MASS INCARCERATION?, Presenter, *The Future of Justice Reinvestment*, February 2, 2017, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, CO.

2016

LUTIE LYTLE BLACK WOMEN LAW FACULTY WRITING WORKSHOP, Presenter, *Two Minutes in August: In Defense of Michael Brown*, Presenter, July 7, 2016, Iowa School of Law, Iowa City, IA.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS, 2016 CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION, #BlackLivesMatter and Clinical Education, Co-Presenter, May, 1, 2016, Baltimore, MD.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS, 2016 CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION, Out of the Ivory Tower and into the Community! Academic Writing for Social Justice, Co-Presenter (with Profs. Christopher Lasch, Katie Tinto, and Erica Zunkel), May, 1, 2016, Baltimore, MD.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS, 2016 CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION, Carpetbaggers or Collaborative Colleagues, Co-Presenter, May, 1, 2016, Baltimore, MD.

2015

DUKE LAW, THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENTS: RACE AND REFORM IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICA, *In Defense of Michael Brown*, November 20, 2015, Durham, NC.

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN LAW TEACHERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Faculty Development Workshop, Co-Organizer and Panelist, *Teaching Critical Values*, October 2, 2015, Anaheim, CA.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS, 2015 CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION, #BlackLivesMatter: Law Clinic, Field Placements and Clinician Responses in Sanford, Ferguson, Staten Island, Cleveland and Our Communities, Co-Organizer and Co-Presenter, Palm Springs, CA (May 5, 2015).

COLORADO BLACK STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, FROM EMMETT TILL TO MIKE BROWN: EMPOWERING A NEW GENERATION OF BLACK LEADERS, *Historical Colorblind Mechanisms*, Denver, CO (April 3, 2015).

BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION AND DENVER LAW AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION, ANALYZING THE LAW THROUGH A RACIAL JUSTICE LENS, *A Discussion of Race and Justice*, and, Denver, CO (February 2, 2015).