

**CHERYL BROWN WATTLEY**  
Professor of Law and Director of Experiential Education  
UNT Dallas College of Law  
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## **LAW TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **UNT Dallas College of Law: 2014 - present Professor and Director of Experiential Education**

#### ***Teaching obligations:***

- Criminal Law: traditional survey course for first year law students.
- The Trial Process: an overview of the trial process; trial related assignments were derived from the 1930s case, the *Scottsboro* trial.
- Courtroom Advocacy: simulation trial skills performance based course that introduces students to the components of a jury trial through weekly performances that culminating in a mock trial.
- Joyce Ann Brown Innocence Clinic: supervision of students engaged in review and evaluation of claims of actual innocence by Texas inmates
- Community Lawyering Center: supervision of students participating in representation of clients in federal cases or special situations

#### ***Experiential Education Administrative responsibilities:***

- Responsible for the development of experiential programming that will prepare students for the practice of law.
- Instituted the externship program which places students with non-profit organizations, governmental agencies and judicial chambers under the guidance of faculty to assure quality education.
- Conceived and established the Community Lawyering Centers, neighborhood based legal clinics that use an innovative collaboration with Legal Aid of Northwest Texas and the Dallas County Public Defender's Office to provide students' exposure to broad range of legal issues through the dynamic of client representation.
- Founded the Joyce Ann Brown Innocence Clinic which represents Texas inmates with claims of actual innocence; innovative inter-disciplinary approach that includes undergraduate, graduate students working with law students to review and evaluate claims.
- Conceived and created the Judge Louis A. Bedford, Jr. Mentorship Program which sponsors weekly group mentor sessions for COL students.
- Conceived and implemented the Community Engagement Program which assigns COL students with non-profit organizations and governmental entities for volunteer activities; program is designed to support development of a culture of service by using a goal of established monthly hours of service during the academic year.

#### ***Service activities:***

- Member, Dean's Leadership Team.
- Chair (former), Retention, Promotion and Tenure Committee.
- Chair, Strategic Planning Committee.
- Chair (former), Faculty Admissions Committee.
- Chair (former), Accreditation Working Group.
- Member, Faculty Appointments Committee.
- Member (former), Curriculum Committee.
- Member (former), College of Law Honor Council.
- Member (former), Academic Standards Committee.
- Member (former), University Tenure Committee.

**University of Oklahoma College of Law, 2007 - 2013**  
**Professor and Director of Clinical Education**

***Teaching obligations:***

- Criminal Law: traditional survey course for first year law students.
- Criminal Procedure II: survey course for second- and third-year law students.
- Trial Techniques: simulation performance-based class in which each student's weekly performance was recorded; course culminated in a final trial exercise; introduced the use of trial presentation software as requirement for final trial exercises.
- Litigation Skills: simulated performance course revolving around the representation of a client from initial interview to final hearing; each performance was recorded; students performed number of skills encountered in law practice.
- Issues in Professionalism (required course for extern placements; taught each semester): a hybrid course, included discussion of assigned readings and the performance of simulation exercises which focus upon issues and ethical problems that may be confronted by young attorneys. Developed course to be taught as a "webinar" allowing students with extern placements outside of Oklahoma, such as Washington D.C. and Johannesburg, South Africa, to participate in the class.
- Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation: simulated performance course focusing on the dynamics of the attorney-client relationship and effective communication techniques.

***Clinical Administrative responsibilities***

- Responsible for the direction of live client clinics and advocacy clinics.
- Instituted an Externship Program which enrolled second- and third-year students

for external placements.

- Instituted an International Human Rights Clinic which involved students in the preparation and writing of a report on human rights issues of indigenous populations in selected countries.

### ***Service Activities***

- Member, Faculty Committee on Curriculum.
- Member, College of Law Self-Study Committee, for ABA Site Visit.
- Member, Council of Academic Responsibility.
- Member, Dean's Leadership Council.
- Faculty Advisor, Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Chapter of the Black Law Students; Assoc (BLSA) Chapter named "Regional Chapter of the Year" three times and twice received national recognition for special projects during advisory period.
- Coach, BLSA Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Team; students have been awarded "Best Advocate" and advanced to national competition.
- Coach, BLSA Moot Court Team; students have received "Best Oralist" awards and brief writing awards.
- Coach, White Collar Crime Mock Trial.

### **LEGAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

- 2006 to present: represent clients on a *pro bono* basis, primarily involving post-conviction cases.

**Sole Practitioner, Dallas, Texas, 1989 - 2006:** Litigation practice specializing in federal criminal defense; civil rights litigation; state criminal defense; and post-conviction proceedings. Criminal practice covered a range of offenses including murder cases, child abuse, federal drug conspiracies, securities fraud, mail fraud, and Medicare fraud. Civil rights litigation included employment discrimination; excessive use of force by police officers; and election disputes. Nominated for United States District Judge, Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division 1995.

#### Notable criminal cases:

- *State of Texas v. Kerry Max Cook*: represented Mr. Cook for the fourth trial of his case; assisted in the continued representation that has established that he had been wrongly convicted.
- *United States v. Charnelle Setser*: a six month long federal fraud trial resulting in an acquittal.
- *United States v. Danny Faulkner*: a six month long federal real estate fraud trial resulting in a hung jury.
- *State of Texas v. Victor Buchanan*: represented a Lancaster, Texas city councilman on assault and resisting arrest charges for which he was acquitted by a jury.
- *State of Texas v. John Wiley Price*: served as co-counsel in the successful defense of

the highest ranking African American elected official through two jury trials on felony charges of assault.

- obtained “no bill” from state grand jury on charges that an elected Justice of the Peace had committed perjury.
- obtained “no bill” from state grand jury on allegations that an Assistant Chief of Police had improperly altered government documents.
- represented a former Dallas, Texas city councilman in federal corruption investigation.

Civil Rights representations:

- *Ex Parte Richard Ray Miles, Jr.* 359 S.W.3<sup>rd</sup> 647 (2012): habeas proceeding attacking his wrongful conviction for murder; the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals found Miles to be actually innocent in this non-DNA, non-recantation case. Worked with the non-profit organization Centurion Ministries on Mr. Miles’ behalf.
- *Ex Parte Benjamin Spencer*: habeas proceeding attacking wrongful conviction for murder; after more twenty years of representation, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals vacated Spencer’s thirty-seven year old conviction for constitutional errors in his trial. Worked with the non-profit organization Centurion Ministries on Mr. Spencer’s behalf.
- a group of African American railroad dispatchers in promotion, training, and discipline claims against the Burlington Northern railroad resulting in a settlement.
- a group of African American engineers complaining of discrimination against Motorola, Inc. resulting in a settlement.
- several women subjected to sexual assault by Dallas police officers that led to a multi-million dollar award against one officer.
- a woman who had been pepper-sprayed while handcuffed by Lancaster, Texas police resulting in a negotiated settlement.
- defended the Mayor of The Colony, Texas, an African American woman, against efforts to disqualify her as a candidate for re-election.
- mediated settlements for African American school administrators against the Plano Independent School District.
- Advisor to MASS, Inc. Wrongful Conviction project; obtained exoneration for a Texas woman wrongfully convicted of child abuse.

**Ravkind, Rolfe, and Baccus-Lobel**, 1985 - 1989: Staff attorney for boutique white-collar criminal defense firm.

**United States Attorney’s Office, Northern District of Texas**, 1980 - 1985: Chief, Economic Crime Unit, Assistant United States Attorney representing the United States in white collar/fraud related prosecutions. Received Chief Postal Inspector national recognition award; Department of Justice Outstanding Achievement Award; commendations from the Department of Labor Inspector General; Department of Justice; Immigration and Naturalization Service; and Inspector General, Department of Customs.

**United States Attorney's Office, State of Connecticut**, 1978 - 1980: Assistant United States Attorney representing the United States in civil matters. Instituted affirmative civil rights litigation program. Developed justification memorandum which led to the participation of the United States as litigating amicus curiae in a nationally recognized lawsuit challenging the institutionalization of mentally retarded citizens, *Connecticut Association for Retarded Citizens v. Thorne, Commissioner of Department of Mental Retardation*. Received Department of Justice Outstanding Achievement Award.

#### **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

- National Institute for Trial Advocacy: Program Director, Team Leader and/or Instructor at regional and national programs; public service program; and private firm training programs.
- Member, Texas Bar Foundation
- Member (former) Oklahoma Bar Association Legal Intern's Committee.
- Member (former) Oklahoma Bar Association, Professional Rules Committee.
- Founding Member, Dallas Bar Foundation.
- Member, Dallas Bar Association.
- Editor (former), State Bar of Texas Criminal Law Section Newsletter.
- Member (former) State of Texas Board of Disciplinary Appeals.
- Member (former) Texas District 6 Grievance Committee.
- Member (former) Patrick E. Higginbotham Inn of Court.

#### **SELECTED CIVIC ACTIVITIES**

- Chair, Miles of Freedom Board of Directors, non-profit organization focused on re-entry issues for formerly incarcerated persons.
- Chair, Dallas County Sheriff's Department Citizen Committee.
- Member (former) City of Norman, Oklahoma Human Rights Commission.
- Member, (former) Special Task Force to Address Bullying, Norman.
- Member, (former) Cleveland County (Oklahoma) disABILITY Coalition.
- Vice-Chairman (former) City of Dallas Redistricting Commission, 1990 and 2000.
- Member (former) Board of Regents, Texas Woman's University (1992)
- Member, Dallas Together (1990)

## PUBLICATIONS

- UNT Dallas College of Law: Daring to Be Different: The First 10 Years 2014-2024
- Desire to Serve: Autobiography of Eddie Bernice Johnson as told to Cheryl B. Wattley, University of North Texas Press (2024)
- A Step Forward: Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher's Fight to Enter OU Law School, University of Oklahoma Press (2014) Awarded Oklahoma Book Award for best non-fiction, 2015.
- "9 years, 5 months 24 days: *The Wrongful Conviction of Joyce Ann Brown*," Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
- "As Soon As:" *Three Simple Words That Crumbled Graduate School Segregation: Ada Lois Sipuel vs. Board of Regents*" Oklahoma Bar Journal, May 2021
- "Making History: Being a NAACP Plaintiff-Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher", Book Chapter THIS LAND IS HERLAND: GENDERED ACTIVISM IN OKLAHOMA FROM THE 1870S TO THE 2010S, edited by Sarah Janda and Patricia Loughlin, University of Oklahoma Press, Fall 2021 publication
- "Project TRAIL: A Blended Class Designed to Address Stereotype Threat for Underrepresented Students Seeking to Attend Law School," co-author; Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education, March 2021
- "Ada Lois Sipuel's Reflection" September 2019
- "I'll Do It" a theatrical presentation of the struggle of Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher to obtain admission to the University of Oklahoma College of Law using original source documents from the University of Oklahoma, the NAACP, court files and newspaper articles performed for the public at Sooner Theatre; Langston University; Oklahoma Judicial Center and before the Oklahoma Judicial Conference.
- "The Tough Minded, Tender Hearted Lawyer," an essay awarded Honorable Mention in the Clinical Legal Education Association Creative Writing Contest; published in the CLEA newsletter (2013)
- "Marine Rescue Specialists (MRS) vs. Riverboat Queen (RBQ)" a trial case published by the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (2013).
- "Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher: How A 'Skinny Little Girl' Took on the University of Oklahoma and Helped Pave the Road to Brown v. Board of Education." University of Oklahoma Law Review, 62 OULR 449 (2010).
- "Humanizing Legal Education: Bringing Clients Into the Classroom," posted to BePress.

## SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

- Recipient, Smith College Medal awarded to alums who exemplify in their lives and work the true purpose of a liberal arts education (2024)
- Recipient, National Institute for Trial Advocacy Robert E. Oliphant Award for outstanding contribution to advocacy teaching (2023)

- Recipient, Dallas Bar Association Trial Lawyer of the Year (2021)
- Recipient, Juanita Craft Humanitarian Legacy Award (2021)
- Recipient, Dallas NAACP Presidential Award for Legal Advocacy (2019)
- Named in Who's Who in Black Dallas (2019)
- Recipient, Charlye O. Ferris Award (2015)
- Recipient, DaVinci Institute Fellow Award for Innovative Teaching (2013)
- Recipient, Oklahoma Bar Association Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Diversity Award (2012)
- Recipient, Association of Black Lawyers Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Award (2012)
- Recipient, University of Oklahoma Regents' Award for Superior Professional and University Service and Public Outreach (2011)
- Dallas Bar Association's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award (1994)
- Commendations from Department of Treasury, Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Customs Department (1984)
- Department of Justice Special Achievement Award, (1984)
- Chief Postal Inspector's Award, (1984)
- Department of Justice Special Achievement Award, (1980)

## **EDUCATION**

- J.D., Boston University School of Law, Boston, Mass. 1978: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellow; Recipient-Faculty Award for Community Service
- A.B., *cum laude*, Smith College, Northampton, Mass. 1975: High Honors in Sociology; Dean's List, 1972-1975

**BAR ADMISSIONS:** State of Texas; Northern, Eastern, Western Districts of Texas