

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor, Robert J. David Distinguished Professor, and Director of the Health Law

Program: Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, New Orleans, LA

August 2022-present

Honors: Winner of the 2025 Loyola University New Orleans Faculty Senate Award for Excellence in Research; Winner of award from the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association for distinguished service to Asian American and Pacific Islander students;

Teach Torts I and II, Introduction to Health Law I and Health Law II, Healthcare Compliance, Disability and the Law, Children and the Law;

Reviewed and expanded the course and externship offerings of the Health Law Program's health law certificate for J.D. students, Masters in Health Law and Administration, and LL.M. in Health Law; revised the program's mission and website; petitioned for curricular changes to the program; recruited and retained adjunct professors to teach health law courses; performed admissions, marketing, policy development, and student advising roles for the program; created a mentorship program for Health Law students; supervised multiple independent studies in health law;

Co-planned Works in Progress conferences with the AALS Sections on Education Law and Children and the Law on September 20-21, 2024 at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law and October 10-11, 2025 at University of California San Francisco; co-planned a symposium entitled, "The Role of the Law in Childhood Trauma," with the Loyola Journal of Public Interest Law in spring 2023; advise a law student group that advocates for disability rights called Law Students for Access and advised the Asian Pacific Law Students Association in 2024-2025; developed an orientation program for new faculty members (Summer 2023-present); served as a panelist at Constitution Day discussions about U.S. Supreme Court decisions twice; co-organize faculty skills and writing workshops; co-organize multiple events, including film screenings, panels, and presentations by visiting professors regarding children's rights, health law, and social justice topics;

Chair the Committee on Faculty Development, Library, and Colloquia (May 2023-present); served on the Faculty Appointments Committee (May 2023-2025); served on the Curriculum Committee and Petitions Committee (August 2022-May 2023); and

Received summer research grants in 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Visiting Assistant Professor: Univ. of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, Memphis, TN

August 2021-May 2022

Taught Torts I and II, Health Law Survey, and Health Law Seminar (a public health law class).

Received an offer to continue as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Law.

Visiting Assistant Professor and Director of the Juvenile and Special Education Law Clinic:

University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, Washington, DC

August 2019-August 2020

Taught Contracts II (spring 2020); directed a clinic that advocated for systemic change to end the school-to-prison pipeline, make special education trauma-responsive, end the digital divide, and support racial justice at D.C. schools; taught substantive and procedural law and foundational lawyering skills to enable student attorneys to represent low-income parents and youth in special education, school discipline, public benefits, and juvenile law cases; and collaborated with mental health providers to promote trauma-responsive education in D.C.

Received an offer to continue as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Law

Clinical Teaching Fellow: Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC July 2017-July 2019

Co-founded a law school-based medical-legal partnership called the Health Justice Alliance, which partnered with health professionals at three D.C. free health clinics, including a school-based health center and a mobile medical clinic; co-created and taught a curriculum that teaches foundational lawyering skills and several areas of substantive law; and supervised law students in representing low-income parents and youth in special education, family law, public benefits, utilities, and consumer law cases.

Clinical Instructor: Univ. of D.C. David A. Clarke School of Law, Washington, DC

Sept. 2015-June 2017

Co-taught substantive law and practical advocacy skills and supervised law students in representing low-income parents and students in special education, school discipline, and juvenile cases at the Juvenile and Special Education Law Clinic.

Organized and spoke at a conference entitled “How Schools Can Help Traumatized Students Succeed” in April 2016, which was attended by approximately 100 people and featured a screening of the *Paper Tigers* film and panel speaker discussion.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC

LL.M. in Advocacy with Distinction, October 2019

University of District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, Washington, DC

LL.M. in Clinical Education, Social Justice, and Systems Change, May 2017

The George Washington University Law School, Washington, DC

J.D., *With Honors*, May 2006. GPA: 3.656, top 15% of class (George Washington Scholar).

International Law Review; Second Place Winner in the Southeastern Region Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition; Mock Trial Board; Alternative Dispute Resolution Board and Semi-Finalist of local competition; Mineta Anheuser-Busch Public Interest Fellowship; Snyder Public Interest Fellowship.

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD

M.D., May 2007. *Coursework*: Child Advocacy and Maltreatment.

Yale University, New Haven, CT

B.A., *Cum Laude*, Psychology, May 1999. GPA: 3.68, top 15% of class.

Thesis: The Intergenerational Transmission of Family Violence
Schwerner National Activist Award (1 of 5 in the nation)
Cahoon Award for Service to Yale-New Haven community

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Teaching Interests: Health Law (including a survey course, Bioethics and the Law, Disability and the Law, Public Health Law, Healthcare Compliance, and Food and Drug Law), Children and the Law, Clinical Education (medical-legal partnership clinic), Education Law, Family Law, Race and the Law, Tort Law, Professional Responsibility, and Poverty Law.

Research Interests: Applying scientific research and medical concepts to the law so that law and policy become more evidence-based; elevating child health, rights, and well-being; making law responsive to and less promoting of childhood trauma; advancing racial and health justice; reforming school discipline and ending the school-to-prison pipeline; addressing the needs of children who have experienced poverty, discrimination, abandonment, or other trauma; and providing trauma-responsive education, including trauma-responsive legal education.

PUBLICATIONS

Law Review Articles

Nicole Tuchinda, *The Childhood Trauma of Law* (forthcoming) (presented at the 2024 WIP Session co-hosted by the AALS Sections on Education Law and Children and the Law in New Orleans in September 2024 and at the 2025 WIP Session hosted by the AALS Section on Law, Medicine, and Health Care in San Francisco at the AALS annual meeting).

American society and law have a blind spot. Federal and state child abuse and neglect law aim to end childhood trauma, but, as the academic literature increasingly shows, much law actually causes childhood trauma. Law regularly traumatizes children by overwhelming children with adversity, separating them from primary attachment figures, and/or depriving them of adequate adult support. Law traumatizes in these ways, for instance, when it leads to mass incarceration of parents; incarceration and solitary confinement of children; multiple placements of foster children; sudden deportation of parents; discrimination against transgender children; and school expulsion, suspensions, and school brutality. The younger the child, the worse the negative impact. Sadly, law's traumatization of children is worse than law's traumatization of adults because children's developing brains and bodies are uniquely vulnerable to trauma. Research shows that childhood trauma reorganizes the architecture of children's brains, causes multi-organ system inflammation, and leads to lasting developmental, behavioral, and other health harms. The effects are intergenerational, structural, and disproportionately harmful to marginalized children.

Proof of the childhood trauma of law abounds, including the voices of children with lived experience and data indicating that certain laws cause toxic stress, significantly increasing the likelihood that children will suffer from loss of trust in others, themselves, and the world; poor short-term and long-term physical, behavioral, and mental health; disability; impaired educational functioning; unemployment; poverty; and shortened lifespan. Such harm is unacceptable because, in every context in which traumatic law exists, our society is capable of establishing alternative, non-traumatic approaches that better serve policy goals.

The harmfulness and moral reprehensibility of childhood trauma are no less severe when they are caused by the law than when they are caused by an abusive or neglectful parent. This article summarizes data showing that the harms of traumatic law are the same as those of child abuse and neglect in the home. Accordingly, efforts to eliminate the childhood trauma caused by law should be no less zealous than the child welfare system's efforts to stop childhood trauma from occurring in homes. Societal blindness to and complacency toward the childhood trauma of law is as problematic as an individual's lack of awareness of the harm of their abusive or neglectful actions towards a child.

This is the first article to observe laws across multiple contexts that cause childhood trauma and define "traumatic law," introduce the "trauma lens" and place it within the health justice framework, explain how traumatic law causes childhood trauma, and theorize why

dismantling traumatic law will not occur easily. This article asks legislators, judges, other government officials, policymakers, researchers, and scholars to regularly and systematically identify and eliminate or reform law that causes childhood trauma. Sometimes, this process will require major reform or even abolition of a broken system. Such a process is a necessary next step in promoting health justice for children and ensuring that the law more effectively serves children, families, and communities.

Nicole Tuchinda, *Disproportionate School Brutality Upon Black Children*, 112 Kentucky L. J. 113 (2023-2024),

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4581314#:~:text=They%20were%20also%20the%20main,a%20quality%20education%20to%20them.

Black children experience multiple times the level of school brutality that White children experience. School brutality is the excessive and unwarranted use of physical force by governmental employees upon K-12 public school students, and it includes assaults, solitary confinement, and inappropriate handcuffing. Such brutality regularly injures, traumatizes, and kills children. It is a form of systemic discrimination because Black children are not violating school rules more than White children. Such state violence has the additional significance of perpetuating state-sanctioned traumatization and subjugation of Black children, which arose during slavery. Specifically, legalized violence and fear of such violence were the principal tools by which White people subordinated and controlled Black people during slavery and the Jim Crow era. They were also the main tools for delaying desegregation of public schools. Disproportionate school brutality upon Black children thus maintains state-sanctioned, legalized physical maltreatment and threats of such maltreatment upon Black children and the continued denial of a quality education to them. Such state violence continues to harm and oppress the health and educational functioning of Black children today, denying them a fair and just opportunity to be healthy and successful. It is also a barrier to social change. Unfortunately, few legal structures exist to stop this racialized trauma, as most states authorize at least some form of school brutality in public schools. Statutes of only a few states prohibit discriminatory school discipline, and federal law does not sufficiently support claims of discriminatory school brutality by children and parents. Only when school brutality is abolished for all children will this racialized, systemic trauma inflicted by the government end.

Nicole Tuchinda, *Ending School Brutality*, 28 William & Mary J. of Race, Gender, & Soc. Just. 617 (May 2022), <https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/wmjowl/vol28/iss3/#:~:text=Linh%20K.%20Dai,-,PDF,-Ending%20School%20Brutality.>

Children, especially Black children, are killed, traumatized, injured, and terrorized through assaults, solitary confinement, inappropriate handcuffing, and other excessive applications of physical force upon children in public schools. The state employees enacting such maltreatment are not just police. They are mainly teachers, principals, and security guards, and they are given authorization by law for purposes of “educating,” “disciplining,” and “maintaining order” in public schools. Scientific research does not support the use of physical force to improve behavior, however. This article describes the problem of school brutality, the excessive, unwarranted, and traumatizing use of physical force by state employees upon students. By traumatizing children, school brutality can cause lasting and disabling developmental and educational harm. School brutality is facilitated by multiple legal structures, including a tort law privilege rooted in colonial times; an inconsistent patchwork of state laws permitting seclusion, restraint, and corporal punishment; qualified immunity; lack of regulation of police officers’ actions in schools; federal funding for

regular police presence in public schools; and lack of enforcement and review of reporting on school brutality. Substantive due process rights under the Fourteenth Amendment, originally framed to protect adult criminal suspects, are inadequate for children. Unless state employees become less shielded from civil and criminal actions that seek to hold them accountable for school brutality, new private rights of action are needed. State and federal legislators can save lives and support educational achievement by ending the legalization of school brutality.

Nicole Tuchinda, *The Imperative for Trauma-Responsive Special Education*, 95 N.Y.U. L. Rev. 766 (June 2020), <https://www.nyulawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/NYULawReview-Volume-95-Issue-3-Tuchinda.pdf>.

Recent, robust research makes clear that childhood trauma, such as abuse or neglect in the home or community violence, is common and can cause and exacerbate disabilities in learning and behavior. These disabilities prevent many children from making educational progress, but evidence-based strategies exist now to give these children access to their education. To appropriately implement these strategies to improve outcomes, the nation's educational disability rights laws—the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (together, “Section 504”)—must become “trauma-responsive.” The imperative to make education for children with trauma-induced disabilities trauma-responsive isn’t just moral, however, it is also legal. IDEA’s “Child Find” and Section 504’s “locate and notify” mandates require public school systems to identify and provide an evaluation and individualized education to all children with disabilities who need access to their education. This is the first article in the legal literature to describe the need to make IDEA and Section 504 and their implementation trauma-responsive. This article is also the first to propose three ways to meet this need: 1) requiring assessment of trauma’s impact when trauma is suspected to be a cause of disability; 2) amending IDEA to add a stand-alone, trauma-specific disability category through which children can become eligible for special education and recognizing that trauma causes disability under Section 504; and 3) putting trauma-responsive interventions onto individualized educational programs developed under IDEA (“IEPs”) and Section 504 (“504 plans”).

Yael Cannon and Nicole Tuchinda, *Critical Perspectives to Advance Educational Equity and Health Justice*, 50 J. of L., Medicine, & Ethics 776 (2022), <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-law-medicine-and-ethics/article/critical-perspectives-to-advance-educational-equity-and-health-justice/14B7FB62B90EA7D46B25767D65ABF23E> (peer-reviewed and published in early 2023).

A robust body of research supports the centrality of education to health and well-being. This research shows that those with more years of schooling are more likely to have higher income, better physical and mental health, and a longer lifespan. Research also shows that systemic problems that facilitate discrimination, exclusion, fear, or violence in schools increase the risk of health problems during childhood and adulthood. Scholars and advocates of health justice, a framework exploring the role of law and policy in health equity, have recently called attention to such research to prioritize education as an issue of health justice and analyze the health implications of discriminatory school policies and practices, such as exclusionary school discipline and policing. This article argues that critical perspectives, particularly Critical Race Theory (CRT) and Dis/ability Critical Race Studies (DisCrit), can deepen and widen health justice’s exploration of how and why a range of educational inequities drive health disparities. The CRT approaches of counternarrative storytelling, race consciousness, intersectionality, and praxis can help scholars, researchers, policymakers, and advocates understand the disparate negative health impacts of education law and policy on students of color, students with disabilities, and

those with intersecting identities. This article demonstrates the value of critical perspectives by applying CRT and DisCrit to the problems of disproportionate academic attainment and disproportionate discipline experienced by students of color and students with disabilities, lack of trauma awareness, and under-investment in schools that serve lower-income families. Critical perspectives focus upon and strengthen the necessary exploration of how structural racism, ableism, and other systemic barriers manifest in education and drive health disparities so that these barriers can be removed. These approaches also facilitate a vision for health justice driven by affected community members, including students themselves, which leverages enforcement of extant laws and reforms law to ensure that all students have a fair and just opportunity to thrive in school and lead healthy lives.

Book Chapters

Nicole Tuchinda, *Children with Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities Lack Sufficient Access to Education*, in CRITICAL SPECIAL EDUCATION (Amy L. Ferrell & Eric B. Claravell eds., Routledge *forthcoming*) (peer-reviewed).

Nicole Tuchinda, *Navigating Trauma and Emotions While Teaching Torts*, in HOW TO ACCOUNT FOR TRAUMA AND EMOTIONS IN LAW TEACHING (Mallika Kaur & Lindsay M. Harris eds., Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd. June 2024) (peer-reviewed).

Yael Cannon & Nicole Tuchinda, *Schools and Educational Programs*, in AIDS AND THE LAW §§ 5.01-5.04 (Scott Skinner-Thompson ed., New York: Wolters Kluwer 7th ed. 2022 and 2023 edition, 2024 edition *forthcoming*).

Other Writings

Nicole Tuchinda, *AI and Healthcare: Opportunities and Risks*, published by the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Louisiana Justice Coalition at its 2024 Joint Summer School on June 3, 2024, in Sandestin, FL.

Lisa Kessler, Yael Cannon, Nicole Tuchinda, Ana Caskin, Christina Balz Ndjatou, Vicki W. Girard & Deborah Perry, *Co-Creating a Legal Check-up in a School-Based Health Center Serving Low-Income Adolescents*, 15 Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action 203 (Summer 2021), <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/797367/pdf>.

Nicole Tuchinda, *Individual rights matter, but so does the community's right to protect its health*, Com. Appeal (Sept. 1, 2021, 4:00 PM), <https://www.commercialappeal.com/story/opinion/2021/09/01/why-government-input-important-communitys-response-covid-19/5677928001/>.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Panelist regarding “How Education Law and Policy Drive Health Disparities for Immigrant Children, LGBTQIA+ Children, and Children with Disabilities” at the 2025 Health Law Professors Conference in Boston at Boston University Law School.

Invited panelist for an American Society of Law Teachers (SALT) webinar on “Defending the Rule of Law: The Role of Legal Education” and Disability Rights on April 18, 2025.

Invited panelist for a conversation on “Health Law and Advancing Equitable Access to Care for Youth” at American University Washington College of Law in Washington, DC on April 11, 2025.

Panelist for an online discussion entitled, “Conversations with Clinicians” that addresses self-care, hosted by University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law on March 21, 2025.

Moderator of panel discussion on “Strategic Conversation: Dismantling the U.S. Department of Education” at the Disability Rights Bar Association meeting on March 21, 2025, in Baltimore, MD.

Co-presenter with Professor Joseph Tulman at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital to forensic psychiatry fellows in New York city and Washington, D.C. through an online presentation entitled, “Delinquency, The School-to-Prison Pipeline, and Effective Interventions” on March 6, 2025.

Panel presenter at the AALS Annual Conference on “The Role of Law and Policy in Supporting Student Mental Health” and “‘Professional Identity’ as Teachers Accounting for Trauma and Emotions in Law Teaching” on January 8 and 10, 2025, respectively in San Francisco, CA.

Presented on “Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare: An Overview of Opportunities and Risks” at the Summer School Revisited program organized by the Louisiana State Bar Association in New Orleans, LA on December 19, 2024.

Moderated a panel organized by the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA) on “The Power of Perspective: AAPI Contributions to Justice” on October 21, 2024 at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law.

Facilitated a community conversation with University of California San Francisco Law Professor Thalia González on “Who Gets a Childhood?” and commented on Amy Saji’s article on “Manifesting Reform in Manifestation Determination Reviews” at the Works in Progress Session Co-Hosted by the AALS Sections on Education Law and Children and the Law at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law on September 20, 2024.

Presented on “The Need to Center Children Harmed by Traumatizing Laws” at the 2024 Health Law Professors Conference in Philadelphia, PA on June 6, 2024.

Moderated a discussion at the Health Law Professors Conference in Philadelphia, PA on June 5, 2024, on “Constructive Conflict in the Health Law Classroom.”

Presented on “Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare: An Overview of Opportunities and Risks” at the Louisiana State Bar Association Annual Conference in Sandestin, FL on June 3, 2024.

Discussed the disproportionate school brutality upon black children with the Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint’s (AASR) Executive Director, Guy Stephens, on April 18, 2024, on ASSR’s Youtube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fHdtXRRBOM>) and presented virtually about studies showing racial bias in schools for AASR on April 19, 2024 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRAo-H_HsY4).

Co-presenter with Professor Joseph Tulman at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Washington, D.C. in an online presentation entitled, “Delinquency, The School-to-Prison Pipeline, and Effective Interventions” on March 7, 2024.

Facilitated a virtual discussion about “Do schools traumatize or retraumatize students?” with educators at
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the 2024 Attachment and Trauma Network conference in Dallas, TX on February 23, 2024.

Presented at the AALS Annual Conference Children and the Law Section Session on “Children’s Rights and Voices in the Era of Parents’ Rights” as well as the Disability Law Section Session on “Surveillance and Policing in Racialized Spaces” on January 6, 2024, in Washington, DC.

Presented virtually about how advocacy for individual clients can lead to systemic change to George University Law Center’s Health Justice Alliance Clinic students on November 7, 2023.

Presented about a work-in-progress entitled “School Brutality Upon Children with Disabilities as a Denial of a Free and Appropriate Public Education” at the AALS Children and the Law Work In Progress Session in Chicago on September 23, 2023.

Commented on a forthcoming article of Anibal Rosario Lebron regarding “Minors’ Right to Control Their Bodies and Future” at the AALS Children and the Law Work In Progress Session in Chicago on September 22, 2023.

Presented on U.S. Supreme Court 2022 case *Haaland v. Brackeen* at a Constitution Day panel event at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law on September 19, 2023.

Presented on “Health Care Systems and the Law” to undergraduate students at Loyola University New Orleans on September 19, 2023.

Presented on Disproportionate School Brutality at the American Bar Association Annual Meeting on August 3, 2023 in Denver, Colorado.

Co-presented on “The Trauma-Informed Advocate's Role in Ending Disproportionate School Brutality” with Stacey Eunnae at the 2023 Gault Center South Regional Summit in Knoxville, Tennessee on June 23, 2023.

Co-panelist on “Health Emergencies and Health Justice” with Professors Medha Makloun and Yael Cannon at the Health Law Professors Conference in Baltimore, Maryland on June 8, 2023.

Co-panelist on “Access to Civil Justice III: Studying the Civil Rights Ecosystem” at the international Law and Society Association Conference on June 2, 2023 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Invited Speaker about “Systems Change Advocacy Regarding the School-to-Prison Pipeline” to the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic course taught by Professor Yael Cannon at the Georgetown University Law Center on April 13, 2023.

Invited Speaker about the “Health of Incarcerated People” to undergraduate students involved in a week-long immersion experience regarding social justice in New Orleans administered by Loyola University New Orleans Minister for Social Justice and Immersions, Jacob DeRusha, on April 6, 2023.

Opening Speaker at and Co-Organizer of the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law Journal of Public Interest Law 2023 Symposium on “The Role of the Law in Childhood Trauma” on March 31, 2023, which included multiple speakers on topics including the neuroscience of trauma; trauma and child welfare law; trauma and the law of public schools; trauma and the law of the juvenile system; and “Trauma is not Color-Blind: The History of Racialized Trauma.”

Speaker and Co-Organizer of Meet and Greet Health Law Program Mentorship Event entitled, “The NICOLE TUCHINDA

Importance of Relationships,” on March 28, 2023.

Invited Co-panelist about “Strategies and Ethical Implications for Supporting Disabled Clients Facing Institutionalization, Aversive Discipline, and Incarceration” at the Disability Rights Bar Association Annual Meeting on March 24, 2023, at the National Federation of the Blind – Jernigan Institute in Baltimore, MD.

Co-panelist on “Women in the Law: Tips for Success” event sponsored by the Women’s Law Students Association and LAMBDA Law Alliance at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law on March 14, 2023.

Co-panelist and organizer of “How to be Your Own Advocate,” a Health Law Mentorship Program launch event at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law on March 8, 2023.

Co-presented on “The Trauma-Informed Advocate's Role in Ending Disproportionate School Brutality” at the 2023 Annual COPAA (Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates) Conference in San Francisco, California on March 5, 2023.

Presenter on “Disproportionate School Brutality Upon Black Children” at the 2023 national, Annual Attachment and Trauma Network (ATN) Creating Trauma-Sensitive Schools Conference on February 24, 2023.

Invited Speaker on “Know Your Special Education Rights” and “School Discipline” for Erase the Board Coalition, a New Orleans parents advocacy coalition, on January 19 and February 28, 2023 respectively.

November 3, 2022, November 9, 2022, and December 1, 2022, Panelist for Trauma Research Foundation Book Club Discussions, which was posted on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSfE0PGOWzI>), (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-Daj7GhC9Y>), (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBOYsIkZYU0>), on The Politics of Trauma by Staci Haines.

October 21, 2022, Presenter on “Disproportionate School Brutality Upon Black Children” at the ClassCrits XIII: Unlocking Race & Class for Just Transitions Conference at Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas.

October 6, 2022, Invited Co-Author and Co-Presenter of an article entitled “K-12 Education as Health Justice” with Georgetown Professor Yael Cannon at the Health Justice: Engaging Critical Perspectives in Health Law and Policy Workshop at the University of California Los Angeles.

June 2, 2022, Presenter at the 45th Annual Health Law Professors Conference in Phoenix, AZ, on “Disproportionate School Brutality Upon Black Children.”

April 7, 2022, Co-presenter on “Supporting Families and Solving Entrenched Problems Through Medical-Legal Partnership” at the University of Memphis Institute for Interdisciplinary Memphis Partnerships to Advance Community Transformation (iIMPACT) Summit, entitled, “Building Personal and Community Resilience.”

April 2, 2022, Panelist on the Education Law Panel at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law virtual 2022 Law Review Symposium, entitled, “Activism & the Law: A UDC Law Review Symposium on Critical Race Theory.”

April 1, 2022, Presenter on “Supporting Families and Solving Entrenched Problems Through Medical-Legal Partnership” at the University of Memphis School of Social Work Symposium, entitled, “Social Work: Be Part of the Solution: Be an Advocate.”

March 29, 2022, testified before Memphis Shelby County School Board of Education to request better implementation of the universal dyslexia screening requirement of Tennessee’s Say Dyslexia Law, as well as comprehensive evaluation and dyslexia-specific interventions for children with dyslexia.

March 22, 2022, Co-panelist with Dean Katherine Schaffzin, Associate Dean Demetria Frank, and Assistant District Attorney Ashley Finch at a Women’s History Month celebration event entitled “Sisters-in-Law” at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

March 11, 2022, Co-panelist with Professors Jack Hammer and Vinay Harpalani at a virtual panel entitled, “Race, Education, and Beyond” as part of a Symposium entitled “Race and Education,” hosted by Wayne State University Law School Journal of Law in Society.

March 10, 2022, Co-presenter with Professor Joseph Tulman at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Washington, D.C. in an online presentation entitled, “Delinquency, The School-to-Prison Pipeline, and Effective Interventions.”

February 23, 2022, Organizer and Panel Facilitator of a movie screening and panel discussion at The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law entitled, “The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia.”

February 22, 2022, Presenter at the national Creating Trauma-Sensitive Schools 2022 Conference in Houston, TX, hosted by the Attachment and Trauma Network on “Trauma-Responsive Special Ed Promotes Racial Justice.”

February 16, 2022, Invited Speaker on disability education law in a Disability Law course taught by Professor Marcy Karin at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law.

November 3, 2021, Presenter to Memphis parents with Memphis LIFT on “Fundamentals of The Special Education Process.”

October 5, 2021, Presenter at the 2021 National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary (NAALJ) Annual Conference in Washington, DC on “Making Special Education Trauma-Responsive.”

April 28, 2021, Co-presenter at Association of American Law Schools (AALS) 2021 Conference on Clinical Legal Education in an online presentation entitled, “Building Student Capacities During Reflective Supervision.”

April 16, 2021, Presenter to Memphis LIFT staff on “Fundamentals of The Special Education Process.”

March 25, 2021, Co-presenter with Derrick Johnson on “How Trauma-Responsive Special Education Would Reduce Disproportionalities and Inequities” in an online presentation for Virginia Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

March 11, 2021, Co-presenter with Professor Joseph Tulman at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Washington, D.C. in an online presentation entitled, “Delinquency, The School-to-Prison Pipeline, and Effective

Interventions.”

February 12, 2021, Co-presenter with Memphis Law Professors Daniel Kiel and Kathryn Ramsey in an online presentation about special education for a local chapter of the International Dyslexia Association entitled, “Advocacy Nuts and Bolts.”

September 14, 2020, Co-presenter at an online lunch presentation for clinicians at American University Law School entitled, “Vicarious Trauma and Self-Care in Clinical Legal Education.”

August 6, 2020, Guest on the Kojo Nnamdi show, a live magazine program produced by WAMU 88.5, the public radio station for National Public Radio (NPR) news in the greater Washington, DC region, discussing, “Education in a Pandemic: Remote Learning and the Digital Divide,” available at <https://thekojonnamdishow.org/shows/2020-08-06/education-in-a-pandemic-remote-learning-and-the-digital-divide>.

August, 4, 11, & 25, 2020, Organizer and Co-presenter at a three-session online conversation about race, trauma, and disability labels and misconceptions hosted by Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc. in Washington, DC. The last session was entitled, “How Trauma-Responsive Special Education Would Reduce Disproportionalities and Inequities.”

August 5, 2020, Panelist at discussion on developing a medical-legal partnership at the Juvenile Division of the Harris County (Metro Houston) Public Defender’s Office.

July 21-23, 2020, Presenter in three sessions on “Trauma-Informed Clinical Legal Education” and co-facilitated the Education Law Working Group at the American Academy of Law Schools (AALS)/Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) Virtual Clinical Conference.

July 15, 2020, testified before Washington, D.C. State Board of Education in support of SR20-10, a resolution supporting police-free schools.

June 19, 2020, Presenter on “The Imperative for Trauma-Responsive Special Education” at an online meeting of the District of Columbia Special Education Advocates Coalition (SEAC).

May 28, 2020, Panelist at discussion on Covid-19’s effects on special education with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) in Washington, DC.

March 13, 2020, Presenter on “School to Prison Pipeline and the Importance of Evaluators” at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, Washington, DC Department of Behavioral Health.

February 15, 2020, Panelist at discussion following “Pipeline” play at Studio Theatre in Washington, DC.

October 23, 2019, Presenter on “Education Law 101, Intro to IEPs and 504 Plans,” at Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) office in Washington, DC.

September 23, 2019, Presenter on “School Discipline in D.C.” at the Neglect & Delinquency Practice Institute (NDPI) 2019 at the District of Columbia Bar Association.

March 24, 2019, invited to comment on a Works in Progress paper at the National People of Color Conference at American University Washington College of Law.

January 4, 2019, Co-presenter on “School to Prison Pipeline and the Importance of Evaluators” at St.

Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, DC Department of Behavioral Health.

October 25, 2018, Panelist at Housing Forum on Mold and Lead at University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, Washington, DC.

October 15, 2018, In-Service Presenter on "How to Make Special Education Trauma-Responsive" at Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc., Washington, DC.

June 24, 2018, Co-Presenter on "Medical-Legal Partnerships in Schools: A Powerful Way to Address the Needs of Vulnerable Youth and Their Families" at the National School-Based Health Care Conference in Indianapolis, IN.

January 30, 2018, testified before Washington, DC City Council on "Public Schools in D.C. Secretly Suspend Children in Violation of the Law and Fairness" in support of the Student Fair Access to School Act of 2017.

January 12, 2018, Co-presenter on "School to Prison Pipeline and the Importance of Evaluators" at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, DC Department of Behavioral Health.

February 20, 2018, Co-presenter on "Trauma-Informed Special Education Advocacy" at First National Conference on Creating Trauma-Sensitive Schools 2018 in Washington, DC.

January 2017 Co-presenter on "The School to Prison Pipeline: Mass Incarceration and School Segregation" at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Department of Behavioral Health, Washington, DC.

May 2017 Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA) Co-Presenter on "Working for Systems Change in the Juvenile Delinquency and Special Education Contexts" in Philadelphia, PA.

April 11, 2016, Opening Speaker and Organizer of "How Schools Can Help Traumatized Students Succeed" Panel Discussion and Film Screening in Washington, DC.

Keynote Speaker at Mid-Atlantic Network for Youth and Family Services (MANY) 2006 Annual Conference.

APPEARANCES IN THE PRESS

Quoted in Alex Zimmerman, *NYC schools fail to protect students with disabilities from lengthy suspensions*, CHALKBEAT NEW YORK (May 21, 2025), <https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2025/05/21/nyc-public-schools-suspend-students-with-disabilities-in-unlawful-manner/>.

Quoted in Desadra Tezeno, *From Life Sentences to Second Chances: Loyola Hosts Screening of 'Commuted,'* THE MAROON (Mar. 30, 2025), <https://loyolamaroon.com/10044853/news/campus/from-life-sentence-to-second-chances-loyola-hosts-screening-of-commute/>.

Quoted in Lily Altavena, *Calls to cops show specialized schools in Michigan are failing students, critics say*, DETROIT FREE PRESS (Sept. 25, 2024, 6:29 AM ET), <https://www.freep.com/story/news/education/2024/09/25/students-warehoused-in-specialized-schools-in-michigan-critics-say/74802295007/>.

Quoted in Marta Aldrich, *Tennessee Governor Signs Law Rolling Back School Mandates*, CHALKBEAT (Nov. 14, 2021, 5:00 PM), <https://patch.com/tennessee/across-tn/tennessee-governor-signs-law-rolling-back-school-mask-mandates>.

Quoted in Ian Round, *Many Current GOP Lawmakers voted for a vaccine mandate in 2013*, DAILY MEMPHIAN (Oct. 31, 2001, 4:00 AM CT), <https://dailymemphian.com/article/25025/meningitis-vaccine-gop-lawmakers-covid-tennessee-general-assembly>.

Quoted in Marta Aldrich, *School mask mandates compel Tennessee Gov. Lee to walk a tightrope as election year approaches*, CHALKBEAT (Oct. 14, 2021), <https://tn.chalkbeat.org/2021/10/14/22727097/tennessee-governor-lee-school-mask-mandates-covid>.

Quoted in Ian Round, *Biden order prompts debate about liberty*, DAILY MEMPHIAN (Sept. 19, 2021, 4:00 AM CT), <https://dailymemphian.com/subscriber/section/metro/article/24184/joe-biden-covid-vaccine-overreach>.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Principal Attorney: Law Firm of Nicole Tuchinda, J.D., M.D., LLC, Washington, DC

Aug. 2013-Aug. 2015

Served vulnerable children and youth by representing children, parents, and caregivers pro bono in special education, custody, guardianship, adoption, child support, and domestic violence cases. Supervised George Washington University law students at the D.C. Family Court Self-Help Center.

Associate Chief Counsel for Enforcement: U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Silver Spring, MD

Aug. 2012-Aug. 2013

Represented FDA in defensive and enforcement cases; drafted and filed a variety of pleadings; negotiated consent decrees and other settlements; advised the agency on options for enforcing the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

Volunteer Clerk: Federal District Court Judge Thomas Zilly, Seattle, WA

Aug. 2011-May 2012

Assisted in drafting opinions and orders for a variety of civil and criminal cases.

Associate: Ropes & Gray, LLP, Boston, MA and Washington, DC

Sept. 2007-May 2011

Summer Associate: Ropes & Gray, LLP, Boston, MA

May-July 2006

Assisted a pro bono client in adopting a foster child in a contested adoption and opposing an appeal of the adoption decree; represented a pro bono client in landlord/tenant court hearings; assisted a pro bono client in obtaining asylum. Conducted direct examinations and delivered a closing argument at trial; prepared clients to testify at trial; deposed and interviewed witnesses; negotiated a settlement agreement.

Represented medical device and drug companies investigated by the FDA and SEC for potential violations of health care laws; counseled hospitals and drug companies on compliance with privacy and health care laws.

Legal Intern: Children's Law Center, Washington, DC

Summer-Fall 2004

Assisted in providing holistic representation to parents and children in special education law cases.

Health Policy Fellow: Office of United States Senator Orrin Hatch, Washington, D.C.

Summer 2001

Briefed Senator Hatch on the political and scientific implications of stem cell research.

Crafted talking points for the Senator's speeches on stem cell research.

Education Associate: Medicare Rights Center, New York, N.Y

Sept. 1999-Aug. 2000

Designed curriculum for and delivered training presentations on Medicare health options, costs, appeals process, and advocacy tips to social service providers in New York City and around nation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE

Board of Directors Member, The American Society of Law, Medicine, and Ethics (ASLME) (June 2025-present).

Secretary (January 2025-present); Treasurer (March 2024-January 2025), AALS Section on Children and the Law.

Secretary (January 2025-present); Executive Committee Member (January 2024-January 2025), AALS Section on Education Law.

Member, Texas Medical-Legal Partnership Coalition (TxMLP Coalition) Board of Directors (April 2023-present).

Co-plan the TxMLP Coalition annual meeting that will take place in June 2026.

Co-planned the TxMLP Coalition annual meeting that took place May 8-9, 2025.

2023 Peer Reviewer for a Grant Competition for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In September 2023 developed letters for parents indicating lack of consent to school corporal punishment, seclusion, and restraint in collaboration with the Alliance to End Seclusion and Restraint, and these letters were posted on their website.

Disability Rights Bar Association (DRBA) Board Member (April 2023-present).

Co-planned the DRBA annual meeting that took place March 21, 2025.

Committee Chair on the Board of Directors of ATN (Attachment and Trauma Network) (May 2022-July 2023); Member of the Board of Directors of ATN (May 2022-present).

Member of the Disability Rights Committee of the Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice of the American Bar Association (April 2023-present).

Pro bono special education attorney at Memphis CHiLD, a medical-legal partnership between LeBonheur Children's Hospital, University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, and Memphis Area Legal Services (January 2021- August 2022).

Vice President (2016) and Member (2014-2016) of the Board of Directors of Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Inc. (LARS) (2016), which serves homeless and low-income individuals and families in Laurel, Maryland.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for a foster child in Howard County with Voices for Children (2014-2016). Mentor for the child (2014-present).

Chair of the Mid-Atlantic Network for Youth and Family Services (MANY) Board of Directors (2004-2006).

Outstanding Achievement in Youthwork Award (2001, 2002)

Keynote Speaker at annual conference (2006)

BAR ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia, 2010

Maryland, 2015

Massachusetts, 2007

Texas, 2025