

ALISA R. BLAIR

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Executive Summary: Experienced trial attorney and policy advocate with nearly 20 years of litigation experience in juvenile delinquency and adult criminal matters. Accomplished writer and public speaker. Research and topics include the effect of racial trauma on adolescent brain development, race and ethnic relations, juvenile interrogations, and the impact of mass incarceration as a civil rights issue. Described as calming and insightful with exceptional written and verbal communication skills.

EDUCATION

B.A. SOCIOLOGY (GRADUATED WITH HONORS) 1995 - 1999

University of California at Berkeley Berkeley, California

Member of National Sociological Honors Society, Leader in PROJECT STOP.

JURIS DOCTORATE 1999 - 2002

University of Southern California Los Angeles, California

Received the USC Merit Scholarship, LACBA Scholarship, Langston Bar Association Scholarship and Black Woman Lawyers Scholarship.

EMPLOYMENT

UNIVERSITY LECTURER (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, FINDING FREEDOM: RACIAL JUSTICE IN THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM) FALL 2023 - PRESENT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE LAW SCHOOL

Duties include:

- Instructing 1st through 3rd year law students.
- Course Description reads: This course will cover the basic constitutional rights associated with the investigation and prosecution of individuals suspected of and accused of crimes. Particular emphasis will focus on the 4th Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable searches and seizures; the 5th Amendment's protection against self-incrimination and double jeopardy; and the 6th Amendment's right to a jury trial, right to confrontation, and right to have the assistance of counsel. To the extent possible, the class will use materials from real cases, including actual police reports and preliminary hearing transcripts. The course will ask broader policy questions about the regulation, democratic accountability, and scope of police behavior in the United States today, as well as the ethical duties of lawyers in criminal cases.
- Finding Freedom course description: The course will identify the chronological touch points of the criminal legal system from pre-crisis to reentry and the impact of race on policy decisions and legal framework. We will discuss the criminalization of BIPOC youth and the school to prison pipeline, the disparate incarceration rates, filings, convictions, and parole/ probation terms by race. We will review the impact of racial trauma on adolescent brain development and how the symptomology contributes to stereotypes and implicit bias. We will end the semester with the Racial Justice Act and strategies to challenge racism within criminal procedure across system stakeholders.

POLICY AND SPECIAL PROJECTS DIRECTOR 2022 - PRESENT
COMMUNITY BASED PUBLIC SAFETY COLLECTIVE

Duties include:

- Managing local government contracts and grants to facilitate community-based violence intervention programs in impacted neighborhoods.
- Develop slide deck presentations and responses to requests for proposals.
- Establish regional Los Angeles office
- Assist community-based organizations with training and technical assistance (TTA) to expand fiscal and programmatic infrastructure
- Develop Collective's TTA products for trainings and replication of programs

INTERIM POLICY DIRECTOR 2022 - 2023
PACIFIC JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER

Duties include:

- Partnering with and supporting the California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice (CAYCJ) through
 - i. Participation in weekly coordination team meetings and Youth Strategy Table meetings,
 - ii. Provision of research, legal authority and other information and materials for issues that arise in CAYCJ work, and
 - iii. Participation in additional CAYCJ spaces directed at specific issues.
- Convening working group focused on Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF) to capture and collect data with respect to SYTF across the state of California and develop a publication reflecting the state of implementation of SYTF statewide.
- Supporting PJDC Committees in advancing policy and amicus/legal priorities.
- Supporting the development of the Strategic Litigation Committee.
- Providing content and scaling reach of social media branding.
- Developing Fellowship and Internship opportunities.
- Overall supporting the Executive Director as needed.

SPECIAL ADVISOR 2021- 2022
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Act as a special advisor to the District Attorney (DA) on juvenile, collaborative courts, diversion, restorative justice and all related matters. Duties include:

- Create policy and structure for specialized units of the office, including juvenile, collaborative courts, diversion, and restorative justice.
- Author and revise the youth justice special directives issued by the District Attorney.
- Serve as the DA's representative on special task forces, committees, multi-agency justice meetings and other multi-disciplinary workgroups as requested by the DA, such as Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Task Force, Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) sub-committee, Alternative Crisis Response (ACR) committee focused on LA County's Crisis Receiving and Stabilization Facilities, Men's Central Jail Closure Ad Hoc Committee, and the Jail Population Review Council.

- Evaluate the most difficult and complex cases for filing and resolution considerations as they relate to delinquency and adult criminal proceedings.
- Resolve complex and difficult civil, administrative, or non-legal issues requiring a high degree of initiative, skill and specialized knowledge.
- Participate in the formulation and development of plans, programs, and methods of operation for the department within the juvenile unit and its restructuring, as well as create synergy and consistency among the collaborative courts the Office participates in county-wide.
- Create programs at the direction of the District Attorney, including the formation of a restorative justice model for the diversion of serious and/or violent felonies within the juvenile delinquency system; recreating a model for truancy prevention and community engagement; developing “Young Adult Court” to address the needs of developing young adults between 18-25 and provide an alternative to incarceration; and developing a proposal for restructuring county wide “collaborative courts.”

ATTORNEY 2003 - 2020

Los Angeles County Public Defender

Final assignment was adult felony trials. Most recent title previously was “Deputy in Charge” of a juvenile courthouse. My responsibilities included supervising attorneys, assigning cases to specific attorneys, and handling administrative matters for my branch. I also maintained a caseload which includes interviewing clients and witnesses, conducting preliminary hearings, reviewing transcripts, requesting the investigation of facts and testimony, and conferring with law enforcement officers, experts, deputy district attorneys, and other interested parties to determine the course of action that should be taken on behalf of my clients; representing the defense in the trial of felony cases; advising clients as to their rights and the actions they should take in court; preparing briefs, pleadings and other documents and making motions for discovery, continuances, dismissals on a variety of legal grounds, reduction of bail and new trials,; representing the defense in arraignment, pleading, probation and sentencing proceedings in felony and misdemeanor courts.

SENIOR LAW CLERK 2002 - 2003

Los Angeles County Public Defender

Drafted legal motions on behalf of public defender clients. Researched legal issues. Interviewed defendants and assisted at arraignment hearings. Drafted jury instructions and voir dire (jury selection) questions.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER 2001 – 2002

Inglewood Unified School District

Taught a variety of subjects for grades K – 12 including English, Comparative Literature, History and a Criminal Justice elective.

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER LAW CLERK SUMMER 2001

*references available upon request

Central Federal Public Defender

Drafted legal motions on behalf of federal defendants. Researched pertinent legal issues. Interacted with clients. Observed proceedings in federal court. Attended seminars taught by Federal Public Defenders regarding federal criminal law.

Publications and Awards

- Co-Author, *Race and Ethnicity as a Compound Risk Factor in Police Interrogation of Youth*
- Author, *A Guide to Cash Bail*, for digital magazine Chaos + Comrades
- Recipient of the *Judi Schechter Juvenile Attorney Award* for the Los Angeles County Public Defenders Office
- Recipient of the Miller-Johnson Equal Justice Award

Trainings and Speaking

- Juvenile Justice Expert guest appearance on *Dr. Phil* show
- Speaker at Juvenile Defender Leadership Summit for National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC)
- Workshop Leader at Iowa Justice Summit discussing race and juvenile justice system
- Guest Lecturer, Southwestern Law School, Youth At Risk course
- Guest Lecturer, Marymount California University
- Guest Lecturer, University of Southern California School of Social Work, undergraduate and graduate programs on race and juvenile justice
- Guest Lecturer, University of California, Irvine Law School, Progressive Prosecution
- Guest Lecturer, University of California, Los Angeles, Juvenile Justice
- Speaker at NACDL Conference, *RACE MATTERS II*, on Race & Adolescent Brain Development (https://youtu.be/_lwn-y5AaJI)
- Co-Creator for Freedom Course on Mass Incarceration https://youtu.be/YcyHrEyo_Z0
- Panelist for Los Angeles County Girls Empowerment Conference
- Frequent Panelist at USC Law School discussing public interest work and being a woman in the legal field
- Provide training at Loyola Law School's annual juvenile transfer conference
- Provide training to newly hired attorneys on client interactions and interviewing techniques
- Provide training to attorneys on voir dire and jury selection
- Provide lectures on how to offset racial trauma when raising youth in underserved communities
- Provided restorative justice model "Reconciliation Tour" with formerly incarcerated individuals and public defenders.
- Provided dozens of trainings on interacting with police and the criminal justice system.

Organizations and Groups

- Advisory Board Member of Youth Justice Navigator
- Member of Los Angeles County Youth Justice Advisory Work Group
- Former President of Black Public Defenders Association
- Former Chairperson of the Law Clerk Recruitment/ Diversity Committee
- Former Member of Public Defender Union Political Action Committee
- Policy Committee for George Gascon for Los Angeles District Attorney Campaign
- Transition Team member & contributor for George Gascon post-election
- Former External Vice President of Pacific Juvenile Defender Center (PJDC)