

**CYNTHIA G. HAWKINS**  
(formerly Hawkins-León & DeBose)  
**Stetson University College of Law**  
**1401 – 61<sup>st</sup> Street South, Gulfport, FL 33707**  
**(727) 562-7885 \*\* chawkins@law.stetson.edu**

**EDUCATION**

**Harvard Law School** Cambridge, MA

Juris Doctor, 1985

Research Assistant to Professor Martha Minow, Summer & Fall 1983

**Wellesley College** Wellesley, MA

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, 1981 (*cum laude* equivalent: B+ overall average; A- in major)

**LAW TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**PROFESSOR (tenured 2004)**

01/04-present

**Stetson University College of Law**

Homer & Dolly Hand Award for Excellence in Faculty Research, 2018-2019

Founding Faculty Director, Family Law Externship Program, 2006-2018

Founding Faculty Advisor, Family Law Society, 2005-2018

SBA's Faculty Golden Apple Award Finalist, 2009

Dean's Award for Law School Service, 2007

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

07/00-12/03

**New England School of Law**

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

07/97-07/00

**Syracuse University College of Law**

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

07/95-07/97

**Duquesne University School of Law**

**COURSES (currently &/or previously taught)**

<b>FAMILY LAW-RELATED COURSES</b>	<b>OTHER COURSES</b>
Adoption Law Seminar	Administrative Law
Children & the Law (Distance Education Course)	Criminal Law
Comparative Adoption Law: US/UK	Law & Public Policy
Domestic Violence Seminar	Legislation
Family Law	Professional Responsibility
Family Law Mediation (Skills Course)	Race & the Law
Family Law Stories Seminar	Real Property I
International Family Law	Real Property II

**BOOKS**

**A SHORT & HAPPY GUIDE TO FAMILY LAW** (sole author)(West Academic Press, forthcoming 2022)

**THE CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT HANDBOOK** (sole author)(Cognella Academic Publishing, 2019)

**MASTERING ADOPTION LAW & POLICY** (sole author)(Carolina Academic Press, 2015)

**MASTERING PROPERTY LAW, 1<sup>ST</sup> ED.** (co-author)(Carolina Academic Press, 2011)

## **LEGAL SCHOLARLY ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS**

***Child Discipline & the African American Family: Legal & Counseling Perspectives*** (work in progress) – this co-authored, interdisciplinary article examines the current status of child discipline in the United States and its implications for African American parents. Specifically, a comprehensive 50-state review of the legal definition of child discipline will be delineated. This information is essential in understanding the legal lens that attorneys, judges, social workers, and mental health personnel use in distinguishing child discipline from child abuse.

***Serving-Up the ACE: Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) in Dependency Adoption Through the Lens of Social Science*** (primary author, co-authored), 54 U. MICH. J. L. REFORM 1 (2020)(lead article) – through the lens of social science, this article makes the case for applying Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) ideology and training to the dependency adoption process.

***Throwing the Baby Out with the Bath: Florida’s Flawed Approach to Post-Adoption Inheritance*** (primary author, co-authored), 18 U. CONN. PUB. INT. L.J. 167 (2018) – this article analyzes divergent approaches to post-adoption intestacy rights and recommends that Florida enact an intestacy statute permitting an adopted child to inherit from his/her birth parents.

***Child Sex Trafficking and Adoption Re-Homing: America’s 21st Century Salacious Secret*** (primary author, co-authored), 7 WAKE FOREST J.L. & POL’Y 487 (2017) – an exposé on human trafficking and the incidence of so-called “re-homing” where – without regulation or over-sight – previously adopted children are “disposed of” via the internet.

***Book Chapter – Commentary on Griswold v. Connecticut, 381 U.S. 479 (1965)*** in FEMINIST JUDGMENTS: REWRITTEN OPINIONS OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT (Cambridge University Press, 2016) – using a feminist critique, the Project rewrites & provides commentary upon the 25 most significant USSC cases on gender.

***The Silent Penalty: Interest Accrues on Unpaid Child Support in Florida*** (primary author, co-authored), 40 SETON HALL LEGIS. J. 279 (2016) – this article discusses the accrual of interest on past due child support & the concomitant consumer crisis.

***Book Chapter – The 2007 National Survey of Adoptive Parents (NSAP): A Review of Race & Domestic Transracial Adoption*** in MASTERING ADOPTION LAW & POLICY (Carolina Academic Press, 2015) – this chapter analyses domestic TRA versus same race placements and the reliance upon post adoption services based upon data from the NSAP.

***The New Cold War: Russia’s Ban on Adoption by U.S. Citizens*** (primary author, co-authored), 28 J. AM. ACAD. MATRIM. LAWYERS 51 (2015) – this article details Russia’s adoption ban & proposes creative solutions to the crisis facing some United States citizens.

***Post-Adoption Services Utilization Among African American, Transracial and White American Parents: Counseling and Legal Implications***, 20 THE FAMILY JOURNAL 392 (2012) – co-authored with an inter-disciplinary team of statisticians & a Ph.D. mental health counselor – this article provides a legal, counseling & statistical analysis of domestic TRA & same race placements with a focus on cultural sensitivity, adoptor characteristics & perceptions.

***“Colonial White Mater Privilege”: An Above-Ground Railroad to Freedom & Land Reclamation for the Mulatto Descendant (circa 1700s-1800s)***, 55 HOW. L. J. 455 (2012) – the author coined the phrase “Colonial White Mater Privilege” for application to a little-known legal alternative for the descendants of freed slaves and indentured servants to reclaim real property and win their freedom. The theory is fully tested with all relevant cases from Colonial Maryland – including several cases involving the author’s direct lineal ancestors.

***10 Years Out-of-Step & Out-Of-Line: Florida's Ban on 'LesbiGay Adoption' Violates the (Federal) Adoption & Safe Families Act of 1997 ("ASFA")***, 8 U. OF MD. L. J. OF RACE, RELIGION, GENDER & CLASS 71 (2008) (primary author, co-authored) – provides an in-depth analysis of ASFA, and -- via a novel theory -- thoroughly catalogs how Florida's ban on lesbigay adoption violates this Federal mandate.

***Race and Transracial Adoption: The Answer is Neither Simply Black or White Nor Right or Wrong*** (primary author, co-authored), 51 CATH. U. L. REV. 1227 (2002) – in an innovative interdisciplinary research effort, this two-part article reviews the evolution of the transracial adoption of African-American children by Caucasian families from both a legal perspective (through an analysis of federal legislation – namely, MEPA, IEPA and ASFA – and case law) and a literature review of case studies conducted by social workers and psychologists from a counseling perspective.

***Transracial Adoption: A Legal and Counseling Perspective*** (co-authored), 80 J. OF COUNSELING & DEV. 433 (2002) – the second of a two-part interdisciplinary discussion of race and transracial adoption (see description above).

***"Literature As Law": The History of the Insanity Plea and a Fictional Application Within the Law & Literature Canon***, 72 TEMP. L. REV. 383 (1999) -- article provides the history of the insanity defense and utilizing the author's newly-coined "literature as law" approach hypothetically determines whether the insanity defense would prevail given the facts as presented in the subject-novel WOMAN ON THE EDGE OF TIME, by Marge Piercy.

***The Socratic Method-Problem Method Dichotomy: The Debate Over Teaching Method Continues***, 1998 B.Y.U. EDUC. & L. J. 1 (1998)(lead article) -- article compares the problem method with the Socratic or case method of teaching from both the historical and practical perspective and their affect upon the quality of legal education.

***The Indian Child Welfare Act and the African American Tribe: Facing the Adoption Crisis***, 36 BRANDEIS J. FAM. L. 201 (1996/1997) – article discusses the adoption crisis facing the African American family today and looks for potential solutions through application of the ICWA and other options.

### **Other Scholarly Publications**

***'Go-eth Forth and Teach-eth On-Line,' So Sayeth the Dean... Or Getting Dropped in the Desert: Law Teaching in the Midst of a Pandemic – Are 'Best Practices' Just a Mirage?***, SPR-SUM AALS SECTION OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY NEWSLETTER 3 (2020).

***"Alimony and Child Support"; "Child Support" and "The Tender Years Doctrine"*** (3 entries) in Drs. Lawrence Ganong, Marilyn Coleman, & J. Geoffrey Golson (Ed.s), THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY, New York, Sage Publications (2014).

***"Adoption: Transracial/Transnational" and "Family & Marital Patterns"*** (2 entries) in Dr. Carlos Cortes (Ed.), MULTICULTURAL AMERICA: A MULTIMEDIA ENCYCLOPEDIA, New York: Sage Publications (2013).

***"History of Divorce – U.S." and "Grounds for Divorce – U.S."*** (2 entries) in Drs. Robert Emery & J. Geoffrey Golson (Ed.s), CULTURAL SOCIOLOGY OF DIVORCE, New York: Sage Publications (2012).

***Book Review: CHILDREN, TRIBES, AND STATES: ADOPTION AND CUSTODY CONFLICTS OVER AMERICAN INDIAN CHILDREN***, by Barbara Ann Atwood, 21 L & POLITICS BOOK REV. 354 (July, 2011).

***"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."; "Marches and Demonstrations"; "National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ('NAACP')"; "David Walker"; and "Zoning & Religious Entities"*** (5 separate entries) in Paul Finkelman (Ed.), ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES, 3 vols., New York: Routledge (2006).

**"Pan-Africanism"** in Molefi Kete Asante and Ama Mazama (Eds.), *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF BLACK STUDIES*, New York: Sage Publications (2004).

**Book Review: UNEVEN GROUND AMERICAN INDIAN SOVEREIGNTY AND FEDERAL LAW**, by David E. Wilkins and K. Tsianina Lomawaima, 13 L. & POLITICS BOOK REV. \_\_ (March, 2003)(this issue has unassigned page numbers).

**Book Review: BATTERED WOMEN & FEMINIST LAWMAKING**, by Elizabeth M. Schneider, 11 L. & POLITICS BOOK REV. 80 (February, 2001).

**Book Review: TO PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE: A COMMUNITARIAN LEGAL READER**, by David Carney (Ed.), 10 L. & POLITICS BOOK REV. 383 (June, 2000).

**"Pan-Africanism"** in Waldo Martin, Jr. and Patricia Sullivan (Eds.), Volume 2, *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES*, New York: MacMillan Reference (2000).

**Book Review: CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN SCOTLAND**, by Peter Duff and Neil Hutton (Eds.), 9 L. & POLITICS BOOK REV. 554 (December, 1999).

**Book Review: GENDER PERCEPTIONS AND THE LAW**, by Christine R. Barker, Elizabeth A. Kirk and Monica Sah (Eds.), 9 L. & POLITICS BOOK REV. 288 (July, 1999).

### **LEGAL SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS (most recent)**

Award Recipient/Honoree/Presenter, Alliance on Aging & Vision Loss (AAVL), ACB Annual Convention, *Overcoming the Barriers of Sudden Vision Loss Over 50*, St. Louis, MO 07/2018.

Invited Presenter, American Association of Visually Impaired Attorneys (AAVIA) Annual Meeting, *ADA Compliance & the Legal Academy*, St. Louis, MO, 06/2018.

Discussant, American Association of Visually Impaired Attorneys (AAVIA) Annual Meeting, *USSC Update*, Reno, NV, 07/2017.

Invited Discussant, SEALS Annual Conference, *How to Get a Law Book Published*, Amelia Island, FL, 07/2016.

Selected & Invited Presenter, ABA ADR Section Annual Meeting, *Teaching Collaborative Law in Law Schools: Report from (My) National Survey*, NYC, NY, 04/2016.

Selected & Invited Presenter, NACC Annual Conference, *Child Discipline & African American Families*, Denver, CO, 08/2014.

Invited Discussant, SEALS Annual Conference, *Child Discipline & African American Families*, Amelia Island, FL, 07/2014.

Invited Lecturer, International Faculty Exchange Program, Université Toulouse – Capitole, *US Family Law & Mediation Lectures*, 02/08-16/2014.

Discussant, SEALS Annual Conference, *What Does the Rise in Cohabitation Mean For US Marriage?*, Palm Beach, FL, 08/2013.

Invited Presenter, NBA Annual Conference, *Limits on Lesbian Gay Adoption Violate Federal Law*, Miami, FL, 07/2013.

Moderator, ABA Family Law Section Annual Meeting, *ICWA Before The US Supreme Court*, Anchorage, AK, 04/2013.

Lecturer, International Faculty Exchange Program, Université Toulouse – Capitole, *US Family Law & Civil Procedure Lectures*, 03/23-31/2013.

Moderator, ACR National Webinar, *Collaborative Family Law Practice*, 03/2013.

Invited Presenter, ABA Family Law Section National Webinar, *The ABCs of Adoption: C is for Consent*, 12/2012.

Moderator, ACR National Webinar, *Building Your Family Mediation Practice*, 12/2012.

Invited Presenter, SEALS Annual Conference, *The Abandonment of Marriage: Fact or Fiction*, Amelia Island, FL, 07/2012.

Presenter, ABA Family Law Section Annual Meeting, *The ABCs of Adoption: C is for Consent*, Miami, FL, 04/2012.

Invited Presenter & Faculty Mentor, SEALS Annual Conference, *ADR in the Legal Classroom*, Hilton Head, SC, 07/2011.

Invited Presenter, International Society of Family Law (ISFL) Annual Conference, *Domestic TRA & the Nat'l Survey of Adoptive Parents (NSAP): Cultural Sensitivity & Training*, Nassau, Bahamas, 03/2011.

Invited Presenter, SEALS Annual Conference, *Reform of the Child Welfare System*, Palm Beach, FL, 08/2010.

## **PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE LAW/MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

#### **Contract Appeals Board, D.C.**

07/93-07/95

Appointed Administrative Law/Magistrate Judge, in specialty area of government contracts, by the Mayor of the District of Columbia with the consent of the Council of the District of Columbia and approval by the US House & Senate. The Board is a trial-level administrative law tribunal. Heard, considered and decided: appeals from final decisions of the Director of the Department of Administrative Services and other independent agency heads; and protests of solicitations or awards of contracts by actual or prospective bidders or aggrieved contractors. All decisions issued by the Board are the final decisions of the D.C. Government and are appealed directly to the D.C. Court of Appeals. Decisions are published verbatim in the *D.C. Register* for use as precedent in other cases, including Federal Boards of Contract Appeals.

### **GENERAL COUNSEL**

#### **Department of Administrative Services; Government of the District of Columbia**

05/92-07/93

Agency is central procurement agency for the District of Columbia. Chief legal advisor for the Department; advised the Director and other Administrators on all legal matters, including the issuance and administration of government contracts, the agency's government-wide contract audit/compliance function, the sale and lease of District-owned real estate and agency personnel matters. Supervised a staff of ten, including staff attorneys. Administered the claims process for contract disputes filed by contractors and adjudicated claims disputes; supervised the Procurement Review Committee which reviewed contracts for executive agencies city-wide. Developed, implemented and managed office's fiscal year appropriated budget on an on-going basis. Served as Freedom of Information Act Officer for the Department. Prepared and delivered testimony before the Council of the District of Columbia; chief liaison between the Council and the Department.

**COMMITTEE COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR****Committee on Government Operations; Council of the District of Columbia**

01/91-05/92

Responsible for developing, reviewing, coordinating and managing all legislative, budget and programmatic oversight activities pertaining to Executive Branch agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction whose responsibilities included government contracting, employee benefits, elections and the general administration of the Government of the District of Columbia. Drafted and presented legislative proposals and Committee reports at Committee meetings and responded to Councilmembers' inquiries; developed expert knowledge, particularly of government contracts, by interpretation of D.C. laws and regulations, agencies' organization, functions and programs.

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & IN-HOUSE GENERAL COUNSEL****Washington, D.C. Association of Realtors®**

02/90-01/91

Lead lobbyist for 4200 member real estate trade association. Created and built government affairs program; Secretary for the association's Political Action Committee throughout the 1990 Mayoral election. Served as In-House General Counsel to provide advice and research on issues involving real estate and corporate law.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL****Councilmember James E. Nathanson****Council of the District of Columbia**

01/87-02/90

Sole legislative assistant and counsel. Established agenda for freshman member; drafted legislation for introduction; interpreted the effect and intent of proposed legislation, rules and regulations; analyzed budget documents and made recommendations for budgetary action. Staffmember responsible for covering the four Committees to which member was assigned: Consumer and Regulatory Affairs; Judiciary; Public Services; and Education and Libraries. Monitored legislation; attended hearings; prepared questions and analyses; briefed member; conducted legal legislative research.

**ASSOCIATE****Wyman, Bautzer, Rothman, Kuchel & Silbert**

06/85-11/86

Researched and wrote motions, briefs, interrogatories, admissions, complaints, answers and legal memoranda relating to general civil litigation.

**PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Executive Board Member (elected), American Association of Visually Impaired Attorneys (AAVIA), 07/18 – present
- Executive Board/Committee Member (elected), AALS Section on Family & Juvenile Law, 01/18-present
- Executive Board/Committee Member (elected), AALS Section on Professional Responsibility, 01/18-present
- Publications Board Member (selected), ABA Section on Dispute Resolution, 01/18-01/19
- Editorial Board, St. Petersburg Bar Association (SPBA), THE PARACLETE MAGAZINE, 07/13-present
- Member, Committee to Advocate for Persons with Impairments (CAPI), City of St. Petersburg, Mayoral Appointee, 12/16-04/17 (resignation due to SUCOL course scheduling conflict)
- Editorial Peer Reviewer, ADOPTION QUARTERLY JOURNAL, 03/16-present
- Hearing Officer, St. Petersburg Housing Authority (state/federal agency; HUD §8 program), 11/09-12/16
- Special Magistrate, Code Enforcement Board, City of St. Petersburg, Mayoral Appointee, 07/08-12/12
- Member, ABA ADR Section, Sub-Committee on Collaborative Law in Law Schools, 01/11-12/16
- ABA ADR Section, WIDR Committee, Southern Region Representative, 2013-2016
- ABA Family Law Section, Diversity Committee, 2012-2015; Sponsorship Committee, 2012-2015
- Member, Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR), 2007-present
  - Member, ACR, Family Section, Advisory Council (elected – 2010-2014 term)
    - Co-Chair, Publications Committee, 2011-2014
- Judge, Nat'l Assoc. of Women Lawyers, Annual Selma Moidel Student Writing Contest, 05/07-present

- Judge, ABA DR Section, Annual James Boskey Law Student Writing Competition, 06/10 – present
- Executive Board Member, Community Law Program (CLP)(legal services), 06/07-02/10
- Chair, AALS, Women in Legal Education (WLE) Section, 01/07-01/08
  - Chair-Elect, AALS, WLE Section, 01/06-01/07
  - Treasurer, AALS, WLE Section, 01/05-01/06
  - Executive Committee/Board Member, AALS, WLE Section, 01/03-01/08
  - Newsletter Editor, AALS, WLE Section, 01/98-01/00
- Exec. Bd. Member, Florida Chapter, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (FLAFCC), 01/07-12/08
- CALI Family Law Fellow, recipient of competitive 9-month fellowship to draft interactive computer-aided teaching lessons in family law to be accessed and utilized by law schools nationwide, 01/06-10/06
- Lecturer, *Real Property Law*, LawPreview, LLC (national law school prep service), Summer 2005
- Member, Florida Adoption Council (a multidisciplinary organization of adoption professionals), 01/05-present
- Panelist & Contributor: PBS-TV (WEDU) -- Weekly Roundup Show; Fox13-TV -- Kathy Fountain Show (live, call-in); FOX13-TV -- The Lightning Round Show; Bay News 9 panelist, 2004 – present (intermittent)
- Editorial Board Member, FAMILY COURT REVIEW (an interdisciplinary journal sponsored by the AFCC & published in cooperation with Hofstra University School of Law), 03/04 – 12/08
- Member, Association of Family & Conciliation Courts (AFCC), 02/04 – present
- Editor, ADOPTION & CHILD WELFARE LAW QUARTERLY (published by the Center for Adoption Research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA), 06/03 – 06/05
- Executive Committee/Board Member, AALS Minority Groups Section, 01/02 – 12/06
  - Chair-Elect, 01/06-01/07 (declined Chair position to serve as WLE Chair (see above))
- Executive Board Member, Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys, 04/02 –12/04
  - Secretary, 06/03 – 12/04
- Member/Candidate, Senior Specialists Roster, J.W. Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Program, 07/01 – 07/06
- Advisory Board Member, The Dunbar Center (New York State-certified adoption agency), 1998-2000
- Member, New York State (Central Region) Commission on Foster Care Reform, 1998-2000
- Publications Chair, Mid-Atlantic Law Professors of Color Legal Scholarship Conference(s), 1997-2001
- Special Events Co-Coordinator, National Law Professors of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, 1998-1999
- Senior Fellow, Duquesne University Family Institute, 1995-1998

### **PERSONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Editor, “Here and There” column, NATIONAL BRAILLE FORUM MAGAZINE (published by the American Council of the Blind (ACB)(Chicago, IL) 12/19 - present
- Executive Board Member (selected), Guide Dog Users of Florida (GDUF), 08/19-present
  - Membership Secretary, 08/19-present
- Executive Board Member (elected), Guide Dog Users, Inc. (GDUI), 07/19-present
  - Membership Secretary, 07/20-present
- Member, Pinellas County Council of the Blind (PCB), 2016-present
  - Chair, Constitution & By-Laws Committee, 01/18-present
  - Delegate, Florida Council of the Blind (FCB) Annual Conference, 05/18; 05/19; 05/20 (selected)
- Member, American Association of Visually Impaired Attorneys (AAVIA), 2017-present
  - Executive Board Member (elected), 2018-present
- Member, Florida Council of the Blind (FCB), 2016-present
  - Member, Publications Committee (01/18-present)
  - Chair, Constitution & ByLaws Committee (07/20-present)
- Award Recipient & Honoree (2018), ACB Alliance on Aging & Vision Loss (AAVL), 04/18
- Member, Jack & Jill of America, Inc., Pinellas County Chapter, 2010-2014; Chapter Foundation Chair, 2010-2011; Chapter Recording Secretary, 2012-2013; Chapter InRoads Liaison 2013-2014

- Wellesley College Alumnae Association – WAAD, Southern Region Representative (elected), 2013-2017
- Assistant Den Leader (Tiger & Wolf Dens), Pack 280 – LCC, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts of America, 2009-2011
- Member, St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, St. Petersburg, FL, 2013-present
- Member, Pinellas Community Church (PCC), St. Petersburg, FL, 2005-2013
- Member, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Legacy & Silver Star Soror designations, 1979-present

**BAR ADMITTANCE, MEMBERSHIPS & CERTIFICATIONS**

- Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Admitted 1986 (active 1986-present)
- Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia; Admitted 1988 (active 1988-present)
- United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; Admitted 1993
- Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Court & County (Civil) Court Mediator, Cert.#: 21569CF (2007)
- Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA) – Advocate designation (1994)
- Florida Bar Association, Law Faculty Affiliate Member (2004-present)
- St. Petersburg Bar Association, Law Faculty Affiliate Member (2004 – present)
- American Bar Association, Member (1986 – present)
- D.C. Bar Association, Member (1988 – present)

**WRITING SAMPLES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**