

CAITLÍN EILISH GOSSETT
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SIMMONS LAW SCHOOL
1150 DOUGLAS DR.
CARBONDALE, IL 62901
caitlin.gossett@siu.edu
(618) 434-2278

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SIMMONS LAW SCHOOL	PRESENT
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW <i>Westerfield Fellow</i>	2023-2025
SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL <i>Adjunct Professor</i>	2016-2020

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME LAW SCHOOL

Juris Doctor

- Black Law Students Association, President
- Black Law Students Association, Vice-President
- Notre Dame Law School Pro Bono Program Planning Committee
- Family Justice Center Volunteer

SMITH COLLEGE

B.A., Chemistry

- Dean's List
- Sigma Xi Research Honors Society
- Underrepresented Studentes in the Sciences, Chair
- Track & Field Team

TEACHING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Areas of Specialization:

Poverty Law, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Children & the Law, Legal Writing, Jurisprudence and Professional Responsibility.

Research Interests:

Acknowledging and addressing the complexity of oppressive poverty law systems to advance racial and social justice; civil rights of children in state custody; Feminist and Reproductive Justice jurisprudence.

Obtained summer research grant in 2023.

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Courses Taught:

SIU SIMMONS LAW SCHOOL
Legal Research and Writing I, Fall 2025
Criminal Law, Fall 2025

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS COLLEGE OF LAW
Legal Research and Writing I, Fall 2023, Fall 2024
Legal Research and Writing II, Spring 2024
Selected Topics of Court Involved Children, Fall 2024

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL
Bar Prep, 2016-2020

Courses Developed:

Seminar: Selected Topics of Court Involved Children, Law-L896-002, Fall 2024
The seminar introduces students interested in child welfare, juvenile justice and poverty law to contemporary substantive legal issues for children in state custody within the foster care system. Through lecture and student lead research and writing, I focus on court systems, agencies and attorney roles at play when a child is in foster care.

Seminar: Bar Prep (Suffolk University School of Law)
Class enrollment focused on law graduates who have previously failed a bar exam. Over 80% of my students on average passed their next bar exam. Taught approaches to learning substantive material and bar exam test taking techniques. Test taking techniques included addressing specific obstacles within the MBE section such as understanding the call of questions, issue spotting within the fact pattern and identifying test question patterns.

PRESENTATIONS

Panelist, *AALS Sections on Education Law & Children and the Law, Works in Progress Session*, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, September 20-21, 2024.

Moderator, *Transforming Perspectives Through Evolving Standards of Decency: Death Penalty Abolition in America*, at the Loyola Journal of Public Interest Law Spring 2024 Symposium, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, March 22, 2024.

Panelist, *The Present and Future of Civil Rights Movements: Race and Reform in 21st Century America* presenting “US Police of Deadly Force Against Unarmed Civilian: A Crime Against Humanity?” at the Civil Rights Symposium, Duke Law School, November 2015

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WORK IN PROGRESS

A Child Centered Jurisprudence: Incorporating Critical Race Theory & Feminist Lenses on Foster Children Confined to State Custody

This Article applies child centered jurisprudence to examine the foundational case law governing substantive due process rights and standards of care afforded to children in the U.S. foster care system. Scholar Professor Dorothy E. Roberts's work provides an orientation of how low-income families interact with local child welfare agencies who often functions as a monitoring, regulating and intervention¹ tool for the families under its lens. The often-hostile relationship between local child welfare authorities and families, coupled with the limited protections and duties owed the children in state custody leave foster children subject to the secondary harms of institutional abuse and neglect. This article highlights how applying child centered jurisprudence to modern ideas of child welfare reform can benefit future policy and regulations related to children in foster care.

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Deputy Director of Labor Compliance

BOSTON MAYOR'S OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Developed labor and equity policy practices designed to improve the economic health to Bostonians through overseeing the Boston Living Wage Ordinance and Committee, Wage Theft Executive Order, Prevailing Wage Executive Order. Provided advice on ordinance drafting, municipal law matters and legislative initiatives that impact OWD. Evaluated OWD's capacity and analyzed City of Boston vendors for labor law compliance. Managed staff assisting with Boston Living Wage activities.

Supervising Attorney

GREATER BOSTON LEGAL SERVICES

Supervised attorneys litigating in housing court on behalf of tenants facing eviction with the COVID Eviction Legal Help Project. Trained attorneys in trial practice with a focus on state and federal COVID housing legal protections. Reviewed briefs and motions, trained attorneys in court, managed caseloads. Worked in collaboration with housing advocates and tenant organizations on local and national levels to strategize defenses against landlords who are targeting low-income communities of color.

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Associate General Counsel & Procurement Manager

MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER AND RECEIVER GENERAL

Counseled the Office of the State Treasurer & Receiver General's 13 entities. Advised on unclaimed property, public record, ethics, contract and procurement related matters. Managed the Treasury's procurement contracting process with onshore and international business entities. Worked in collaboration with Treasury Legislative team to further procurement and contracting diversity and ethics initiatives. Developed the legal intern program.

Counsel II

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Litigated emergency custody filings; parental rights termination trials; abuse of discretion hearings, reasonable efforts hearings and adoption proceedings. Served a dual role as in-house counsel and litigator for the Department of Children & Families. Provided counsel on compliance with Commonwealth, agency and Federal laws and regulations. Focus area in compliance with state, federal and agency laws during the Department's engagements with the Boston Juvenile Court.

Attorney

MAINTENANCE CONTRACTORS TRUST FUND OF NEW ENGLAND

Developed strategies and policies to raise standards in the janitorial industry. Assisted workers filing wage theft complaints. Investigated janitorial companies with a history of labor violations. Monitored municipal public bidding processes for janitorial services. Educated advocates and workers on labor law including wage theft, the public bidding process and legislative initiatives.

Attorney

MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES

Trained attorneys on mental health and guardianship law. Performed attorney performance evaluations. Investigated client complaints regarding assigned counsel. Assisted in development and implementation of Mental Health Certification and Re-certification Programs. Represented clients in District Court proceedings and appeal proceedings.

Attorney

PUBLIC DEFENDER CORP., 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, RALEIGH COUNTY, WV

Represented juvenile and adult defendants in both Magistrate and Circuit Court misdemeanor and felony cases. Provided representation for preliminary hearings, status hearings, parole and probation revocation hearings. Represented parents in abuse and neglect proceedings. Assisted in jury selection. Prepared and argued pre-trial motions. Sat second chair on a first-degree murder case. Supervised law student interns in court appearances and client interviews. Advocated against racial sentencing disparities with a focus on cases in Raleigh County.

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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 1 NEW ENGLAND. Legal Intern, Office of Environmental Stewardship, Superfund

GREATER BOSTON LEGAL SERVICES. Legal Intern, Health and Disability Unit

SELECT ACADEMIC & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Orientation Instructor, Lawyering Fundamentals, 2023 & 2024

Notre Dame Law School Alumni Mentor, 2015-2025

Notre Dame Black Law Student Association Alumni Mentor

NDLS Public Interest Alumni Mentor

NDLS First Generation Law Student Mentor

Office of Workforce Development Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, 2022

Boston Lawyers Group Mentor, 2019

Massachusetts Bar Association Tiered Mentoring Program Mentor, 2013, 14, 16

Boston Bar Association Bar Exam Coach, 2014-2018

Raleigh County Board to Investigate Juvenile Sentencing Disparities 2012

Notre Dame Club of Boston Alumni Law Group Planning Committee, 2013-2016

Boston Bar Association, 2019

Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, 2014-2017

BAR MEMBERSHIP Massachusetts State Bar