

JAMI M. BECNEL
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SIMMONS LAW SCHOOL
1150 DOUGLAS DRIVE
CARBONDALE, IL 62901
jami.becnel@siu.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SIMMONS LAW SCHOOL <i>ASSISTANT PROFESSOR</i>	2026-PRESENT
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW <i>Westerfield Fellow</i>	2024-2026

EDUCATION

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL Juris Doctor and Doctorate of Comparative Law, Cum Laude • Chancellor Scholarship • Chancellor Scholar • Dean Scholar • Marcia Thomas Pendleton Memorial Scholar • Ben R. Miller, Jr. Endowed Scholar • Robert T. Jorden Endowed Scholar • William M. Meyers Scholar • CALI Legal Writing & Research, Administrative Law, Legal Professions, US Foreign Affairs • LSU Journal of Energy Law and Resources, Senior Associate • Women Law Students Association, President • Louisiana Business and Law Society, Member • Energy and Mineral Law Society, Member	2014-2017
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LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS Bachelor of Accountancy, Accounting, Summa Cum Laude • Dean's List • Dean's Scholar • Member of Phi Eta Sigma: National Scholastic Honor Society, Member • Member of Beta Alpha Psi, Member • Member of Alpha Sigma Nu, Member • Member of Beta Gamma Sigma, Member • Standing Committee on Academic Planning: College of Business, Student Representative • Grade Appeal Committee, Member • Louisiana Society of CPAs, Student Member • American Association of Attorney-CPAs, Undergraduate Student Affiliate	2009-2013
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TEACHING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Areas of Specialization:

Agricultural and Rural Law, Estate Planning Law, Trust and Estates, Legal Writing and Research, Property Law, Professional Responsibility, Administrative Law, International Law and Family Law.

Research Interests:

Acknowledging and addressing the complexity and importance of estate planning, contracts, land acquisition and management, food policy, and federal and state regulations that intersect with emerging developments in agriculture.

Obtained summer research grant in 2024.

Courses Taught:

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SIMMONS SCHOOL OF LAW

Legal Writing, Fall 2026

Property I, Fall 2026

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS COLLEGE OF LAW

Legal Research and Writing I, Fall 2024, Fall 2025

Legal Research and Writing II, Spring 2025, Spring 2026

Seminar on Topics in Agriculture and Estate Planning, Fall 2025

Courses Developed:

Seminar: Southern Gothic: A cautionary tale on why estate planning is crucial for the aging agricultural industry, Law-L L896-002, Fall 2025

The seminar introduces students interested in agriculture law to the importance of estate planning, contracts, land acquisition and management, and regulations that intersect with agriculture, along with the laws governing agricultural production in the United States and the policy choices behind those laws.

PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, *Louisiana Farm Bureau State Convention: Keeping the Family Farm in the Family*, New Orleans Marriot, June 20, 2026.

Presenter, *Louisiana Farm Bureau State Convention: Keeping the Family Farm in the Family*, New Orleans Marriot, June 28, 2025.

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Presenter, *Kathryn V. Lorio Emerging Scholar Program, A Call to Farms: Why the Louisiana Legislature Should Enact a Farm Trust Provision in the Trust Code*, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, April 19, 2024.

State Winner, *Louisiana Farm Bureau State Excellence in AG*, Alexandria, Louisiana, 2021.

Presenter, *Louis A. Martinet Legal Society End of the Year CLE-Human Trafficking: Courts, Healthcare, & Eden House*, New Orleans, Louisiana, December 5, 2019.

Presenter, *Administration of Children and Families Region VI Annual Meeting*, Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, January 23-25, 2019.

Presenter, *2018 South Central U.S./I-20 Corridor Human Trafficking Conference*, Shreveport, Louisiana, July 19-20, 2018.

Presenter, Coordinator, and Author, *2018 Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Advisory Board Annual Report*, Louisiana State Capital, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, January 2019.

WORK IN PROGRESS

A Call to Farms: Why Estate Planning is Crucial in Keeping the Farm and Ranch in the Family. This Article applies national and Louisiana estate planning and succession laws to examine the importance of “keeping the generational farm and ranch in the family.” Across the United States only about 1/3 of farmers and ranchers have an estate plan in place. Approximately 40% of the nation’s farmland is owned by people over the age of 65, which means a large chunk (close to 370 million acres) of farmland will likely change hands in the next 20 years. However, only 23% of all farms have an estate plan in place. This article highlights the best methods of applying national and Louisiana law to farms and ranches to secure the farm for generations to come.

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Associate Attorney, Data Entry Specialist and Coordinator
CARVER DARDEN

2020-2024

Data Entry Specialist and Coordinator for multi-parish and federal Special Master Hurricane Laura and Ida insurance claim court cases in charge of data analysis, entry, as well coordination with mediators and all counsel, invoicing, and facilitating mediations; Counselling clients in areas of wills and estate planning, successions, contracts, business and corporate, and rural/agricultural law; Researched and prepared cases for hearings and court proceedings; Researched and analyzed statutes, judicial decisions, codes, regulations, and legislative updates; Compose pleadings and

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client matter correspondence; Regularly communicated with clients to explain the status of their cases and advise them on their options and the ramifications of their choices as their case progresses; Established a strong follow-up system to ensure deadlines were not missed for which various pleadings must be served and filed.

Research Attorney for Judge Lobrano's Chambers

2017-2020

LOUISIANA STATE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

Head of case file management, Louisiana Supreme Court appointments, programs, and publications; extensive legal research on laws, court decisions, documents, opinions, briefs, or other information related to cases before the court; prepare briefs, legal memoranda, and statements of issues involved in cases; drafted and edited judicial opinions, decisions, and citations; review complaints, petitions, motions, or pleadings that have been filed; reviewed dockets of pending litigation to ensure adequate progress; conferred with judges concerning legal questions and granting of orders; director of internship program for judge's chambers; and coordinated and facilitated national, regional, and global conference materials and telecommunications.

Rule 20 Special Assistant District Attorney

EAST BATON ROUGE DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICE

Assisted Assistant District Attorney in misdemeanor pleas, court procedures, and drafting motions and memoranda; analyzed and researched case files; drafted and maintained records for files; made weekly court appearances, observed proceedings, participated in plea bargaining, and conducted Boykin examinations.

AKERS & WISBAR. Legal Intern.

CARVER DARDEN. Legal Intern.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES. Legal Intern.

LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT. Legal Intern.

LOUISIANA STATE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS. Legal Intern.

SELECT ACADEMIC & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Orientation Instructor, Lawyering Fundamentals, 2024 & 2025

Judge, 32d Annual Judge John R. Brown Admiralty Moot Court Competition, 2025

Plaquemines Parish Community C.A.R.E. Center, 2018-2026

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Vice Chair
Board Member
Finance Committee & Celebrity Waiter Fundraiser Committee
Executive Committee, Executive Director Evaluation Committee

Southern Farm Bureau of Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard, 2018-present

Vice President
Women's Committee Chair and National Voting Delegate
Secretary/ Treasurer
State Excellence in Ag Winner
Voting Member
Board Member
Ag in the Classroom Representative
Women's Committee Chair and Voting Delegate
Ag in the Classroom Website Committee

Project L.A.W. (Legal- Thinking, Awareness, and Wellness), 2018-2020
Developer, Coordinator, and Instructor

2018 LSBA Suit Up for the Bar Summer Program, 2018
Intern Coordinator

Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission, 2018-2021
Executive Council to the Chair
Chair of the Shareholder Coordination, Data Collection, and Funding Workgroup

Administration of Children and Families Region VI Human Trafficking Work Group, 2018-2021
Louisiana Member
Participant

BAR MEMBERSHIP Louisiana State Bar