

## **BLAIR E. THOMPSON**

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### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Robert W. Entenmann Veterans Law Clinic, Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra**

**University**, Hempstead, New York

*Assistant Clinical Professor and Director*, January 2019-present

- Represent veterans and supervise clinical law students as they represent veterans in disability compensation appeals before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and in discharge upgrade matters before the various military branches.
- Plan and teach the seminar component of the Clinic; meet with eight students per week in supervision meetings.

#### **Bob Parsons Veterans Advocacy Clinic, University of Baltimore School of Law**, Baltimore, Maryland

*Clinical Teaching Fellow*, August 2017-December 2018

- Represented veterans and supervised student-attorneys as they represented veterans in disability compensation appeals before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, in discharge upgrade matters before the military branches, and in matters before the Baltimore City Veterans Treatment Court.
- Attended hearings before the Board of Veterans Appeals and Discharge Review Boards; conducted research and wrote appellate briefs in matters before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.
- Lectured, facilitated class discussions, planned lessons and assignments for the seminar component of the Clinic; met with four student-attorneys once per week in supervision meetings.

#### **Drexel University School of Law**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*Dean's Scholar in Criminal Law*

- Selected by faculty to serve as one of two Dean's Scholars for Dean Daniel M. Filler's Criminal Law section of first-year law students for the semester.
- Wrote lesson plans and conducted review lessons twice per week; held office hours for first-year law students.

### **EDUCATION**

#### **Drexel University School of Law**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*Juris Doctor*

- Honors:
- *Cum Laude*
  - Recipient of Presidential Scholarship
  - Public Interest Fellow

- Activities:
- *Drexel Law Review*, Lead Editor

#### **St. John's College**, Annapolis, Maryland

*Bachelor of Arts*, The "Great Books" Program, Double Major: Philosophy, History of Math & Science;

Double Minor: Classics and Comparative Literature, May 2007

- Senior Thesis: *Movement and Mortality: An Inquiry into Living a Beautiful Life According to Michel de Montaigne*

## **LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

### **United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Board of Veterans' Appeals, Washington, D.C.**

*Attorney-Advisor, October 2016-August 2017*

- Wrote decisions in veterans' disability compensation appeals for Veterans Law Judges after analyzing the evidence of record—which included medical evidence, service treatment records, military personnel records, hearing transcripts, and lay evidence—and applying the appropriate law.

### **Social Security Administration, Office of Disability Adjudication and Review, Woodlawn, Maryland**

*Attorney-Advisor, October 2014-September 2016*

- Wrote Title II and Title XVI disability decisions for Administrative Law Judges across the country.
- Planned and conducted training for Attorney-Advisors on Residual Functional Capacity.

### **Social Security Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (ODAR), Woodlawn, Maryland**

*Executive Analyst (Detail), January 2016-July 2016*

- Wrote talking points and created PowerPoint presentations for Government Executives for meetings and briefings, including briefings before the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.
- Assisted ODAR's Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, and Senior Advisors with editing drafts of the plan for Compassionate and Responsive Service (the CARES plan) for its release in January 2016. The CARES plan is the plan to reduce the backlog of over one million people waiting for a hearing decision on disability benefits.
- Assisted with coordination and facilitation of the CARES plan audit by SSA's Office of the Inspector General.

### **Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Prince Frederick and Baltimore City, Maryland**

*Assistant Public Defender, May 2012-September 2014*

- Represented indigent defendants charged with criminal and serious traffic offenses in over 100 trial trials, pre-trial motion hearings, bail review hearings, and violation of probation hearings in the District and Circuit Courts of Maryland in Baltimore City.

### **Circuit Court of Maryland for Baltimore City, Baltimore, Maryland**

*Judicial Clerkship, Hon. Robert B. Kershaw, Judge-in-Charge, Juvenile Division, August 2011-May 2012*

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

Speaker, *Successful Advocacy: Knowing Your Audience*, New York State Division of Veterans' Services Annual Training, Syracuse, New York, September 19, 2019.

Panel Moderator, *For All Who Served: Veterans' Advocates Overcoming Legacies of Bias and Stigma*, Veterans Human Rights Conference, Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York, September 5, 2019.

Working Group Facilitator, Veterans Clinics Working Group, AALS Conference on Clinical Education, San Francisco, California, May 2019.

Planning committee member, speaker, & breakout group facilitator, *Critical Lawyering: Bridging Theory and Practice for Social Change*, Critical Lawyering Conference, Harvard Law School, March 2012.

## **BAR MEMBERSHIP**

Admitted to Maryland Bar, December 2011

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Social Security Administration, Deputy Commissioner's Team Award, April 2017

Social Security Administration, Exemplary Contribution or Service Awards, May 16 and August 26, 2016

Fulbright Fellowship Finalist, South Africa, 2012

Clinical Legal Education Association, Outstanding Clinical Student Award, May 2011

Exceptional Pro Bono Service Honors (125+ Service Hours), May 2011

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

**South African Education and Environment Project-USA**, Cape Town, South Africa

*Board Member*, June 2017-Present

- Regularly attend board meetings; participate in fundraising for the organization.

**Civilian Review Board, Baltimore City Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement**, Baltimore, Maryland

*Southeastern District Representative*, April 2017-July 2018

- Nominated by Mayor Catherine E. Pugh and confirmed by the Baltimore City Council after a nomination hearing.
- Reviewed civilian complaints of excessive force, harassment, abusive language, false arrest, and false imprisonment against members of the Baltimore City Police Department; reviewed investigative reports and recommendations from the Police Department's Internal Affairs Division and from the Civilian Review Board's investigators.

**The Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*Fellow*, August 2009-May 2010

- Wrote lesson plans and taught a class of 25 high school seniors at a public high school in South Philadelphia about their constitutional rights in school once per week; coached two high school students in preparation for participation in a Mock Trial Competition.

**Chatteris Educational Foundation**, Hong Kong, Hong Kong

*Chatteris Native English-Speaking Tutor (CNET)*, August 2007-November 2007

- Co-taught English lessons made up of 25-30 grade five and six students at a Cantonese-speaking primary school.

**South African Education and Environment Project**, Cape Town, South Africa

*"Summer" Intern*, May 2006-August 2006

- Implemented the Touchstones Discussion Project in Xhosa-speaking high schools; led weekly discussion groups of five to 10 students at different high schools in the Philippi township of Cape Town.