

# JONATHAN BARRY-BLOCKER

University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law  
Gainesville, FL 32611

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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**UF Fredric G. Levin College of Law**, August 2021  
**Visiting Legal Skills Professor** (incoming)

## EDUCATION

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**University of Florida, Fredric G. Levin College of Law**

Juris Doctor, 2009

*Book Award*, Advanced Comparative Constitutional Law Seminar

*First Place*, 2008 Griot Race, Law, & Justice Oratorical Competition

*Managing Editor*, Entertainment Law Review

*Research Assistant*, Prof. Elizabeth Rowe (Trademarks, Trade Secrets)

### Morehouse College

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, *cum laude*, 2006

2006 Psi Chi Regional Research Award

*Research Assistant*, Dr. Tina Chang

## PUBLICATIONS

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Report: “Alabama’s War on Marijuana: Assessing the Fiscal and Human Toll of Criminalization,” *SPLC & AL Appleseed Center for Law & Justice*, 10/2018, Contributing author with Leah Nelson, Will Tucker, & Frank Knaack

“Judge or Jury: Pros & Cons and Factors to Evaluate for Each,” *54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Invited Attorneys (AMIA)* hosted by Victor O. Schinnerer & Co., Inc., 5/28-29/2015, Co-author with Brian Bennett

Chapter: “Interpretation and Requirements of Contract Specifications,” *Construction Contract Claims, Changes & Dispute Resolution* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.), Co-author with Brian Bennett

## TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**Primary:** Clinical Teaching, Trial Procedure, Criminal Law/Criminal Procedure, Civil Rights, Privacy

**Secondary:** Voting Rights, Legal History, Reparations, Professional Accountability

## LEGAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

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**Southern Poverty Law Center**

**Criminal Justice Reform Practice Group**, *Staff Attorney*

**Montgomery, AL**

January 2018 – July 2021

- Prosecuted impact lawsuits against government agencies for violating the Constitutional rights of people in the custody of Alabama’s criminal justice systems.
- Managed an advocacy project to represent incarcerated Alabamians before the parole board who are at risk for severe COVID-19 infection.
- Spearheaded a bar complaint project against a federal legislator for his involvement in the Insurrection of January 6, 2021.
- Created and consulted on an award-winning statewide initiative to restore voting rights for Returning Citizens; helped citizens navigate the restoration process; advocated for restoration policies with state agency and legislators.
- Researched and contributed to policy positions on reform legislation before the state legislature including regulation of illicit substances, surveillance technologies, parole eligibility, and prison construction.
- Investigated infirm criminal procedures that contribute to overincarceration in Alabama jails and prisons.

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## Legal Services of Alabama

### Housing, Voting, & Education Groups, *Staff Attorney*

**Birmingham, AL**

May 2017 – January 2018

- Created and led a statewide Voting Rights Restoration initiative, via clinics and public presentations, that assisted nearly 200 citizens within 6 months of voter restoration law taking effect.
- Defended children in school discipline proceedings.
- Developed novel litigation strategies to defend tenants from evictions.

## Christian & Small, LLP

### Medical Malpractice, *Associate Attorney*

**Birmingham, AL**

December 2015 – July 2016

- Defended healthcare professionals and entities against medical malpractice claims especially in corrections facility settings.

## Page, Eichenblatt, & Bennett, P.A.

### Construction & Commercial Litigation, *Associate Attorney*

**Orlando, FL**

October 2013 – November 2015

- Assisted in defense of design professionals against professional malpractice disputes on complex construction projects.

## Office of the State Attorney, 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Florida

### Criminal Prosecution, *Assistant State Attorney*

**Orlando & Kissimmee, FL**

October 2009 – October 2013

- Prosecuted more than 30 jury trials to verdict; served as lead prosecutor on at least 28 trials.
- Received advanced training in prosecution of cyber-crimes and digital evidence.
- Successfully appealed trial court order that excluded sexual assault victim and outcry witness from testifying at trial; see *State v. Gene Rolack*, 104 So. 3d 1286 (Fla. 5<sup>th</sup> DCA 2013).
- Acquired significant experience evaluating forensic evidence – fingerprints, toxicology reports, DNA analysis, computer forensic examinations – and eliciting testimony on such matters at trials and hearings.

## PRESENTATIONS

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Trainer, “Parole Representation in AL during COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Internal Trainings for SPLC Staff*, Spring 2021

Trainer, “Restoration of Voting Rights pursuant to Alabama’s Definition of Moral Turpitude Act,” AL Bar Association CLE Webinar, Spring 2020

Trainer/Speaker, “Restoration of Voting Rights pursuant to Alabama’s Definition of Moral Turpitude Act,” Local Bar Associations & Community Organizations, 6/2017 to 2020

Testifying Witness, “Public Hearing re: Access to Voting in Alabama,” *Alabama Advisory Committee to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights*, 2/22/2018

Presenter, “Contract Interpretation – Insight to the Myriad Causes of Conflict Arising from Drawings and Specifications,” CLE Webinar, November 2014, Co-presenter with Brian Bennett

Speaker, *Valedictory at Retirement Ceremony for Chief Judge Belvin Perry, Jr., 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Florida*, 8/22/2014

Speaker, “Navigating the Rights and Liabilities of Parents in Sexual & Child Abuse Investigations,” *Rosemont Elementary School PTA*, 2013

## REPORTED CASES

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*State v. Gene Rolack*, 104 So. 3d 1286, 38 Fla. L. Weekly D132a (Fla. 5<sup>th</sup> DCA 2013)

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## **REPRESENTATIVE CASES**

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*Pennington v. Taylor*, No. 2:19-cv-00695 (M.D. Ala.) (Eighth Amendment, Fourteenth Amendment, & Ex Post Facto clause challenge to Alabama's sex offender registry laws as applied to children tried and convicted as adults for sex offenses) (lead counsel for plaintiffs)

*Braggs v. Dunn*, No. 2:14-cv-00601 (M.D. Ala.) (Long running class action suit alleging the state Department of Corrections violated the U.S. Constitution and Americans with Disabilities Act by discriminating against and providing substandard mental health, medical, and dental services to incarcerated male Alabamians) (co-counsel for plaintiffs during a remedial phase)

*In re State of Alabama ex rel. Children & Youth Advocacy Network*, No. 1190608 (Ala. Supreme Court) (emergency petition for the Court to exercise its constitutional authority and direct inferior juvenile courts to (1) decrease the number of children ordered to detention, correctional, and other residential facilities in Alabama and (2) implement protective measures to prevent spread of COVID-19 in these facilities) (co-counsel for petitioner)

## **AWARDS**

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2019 Jane Katz Public Service Award, *Alabama League of Women Voters*

2018 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award, *UF Fredric G. Levin College of Law*

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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*Member*, UF Law Alumni Council (2021 – Present)

*Founding Member*, Annual Blackout Holiday Networking Affair for Central Florida (2009 – Present)

*Vice President*, Paul C. Perkins Bar Association (2014-2015)

*Board Member*, Orange County Bar Association Foundation (2014-2015)

*Member*, FL Bar Code & Rules of Evidence Committee (2013-2017)

*Member*, 10 Year Class Reunion Capital Fundraising Committee for Morehouse College (2015-2016)

## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

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Alabama (2015), Florida (2010 – readmittance in progress), Middle District of Alabama (2018)