

Dr. ALEKSANDRA B. CHAUHAN

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, Columbia, South Carolina

Juris Doctor, May 2013

- CALI Award: Women and the Law
- Member, Children’s Advocacy Law Society
- Member, Women in Law
- Member, International Law Students Association
- Volunteer, Guardian Ad Litem/Court Appointed Special Advocates, 2011 to present
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Pro Bono Program
- Member, Rule of Law in Afghanistan
- National Scholars Honors Society

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, Columbia, South Carolina

Ph.D. Department of Political Science, May 2010

Dissertation: “The Power and Authority of the Committee on the Rights of the Child”

- National Scholars Honors Society
- Graduate Student Travel Award
- WIAS International Experience Award
- Rules of Law Collaborative

CHRZESCIJANSKA AKADEMIA TEOLOGICZNA, Warsaw, Poland

M.A. Faculty of Theology, September 2001

EWANGELIKALNA WYZSZA SZKOLA TEOLOGICZNA, Wroclaw, Poland

Bachelor of Theology, May 1997

CERTIFICATES and TRAININGS

AMERICAN GRANT WRITERS’ ASSOCIATION

Certified Grant Writer, July 2022

NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER

Juvenile Training Immersion Program Training for Trainers, Ambassador for Racial Justice,

JTIP Trainer Certification, December 2020

SOUTH CAROLINA BAR

Leadership Academy Certification, May 2019

NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER

Juvenile Training Immersion Program Training for Trainers, *JTIP Trainer Certification*, July 2018

NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER & GEORGETOWN LAW

Juvenile Training Immersion Program Summer Academy, June 2014

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Stanford, California

Virtual Summer Institute in Political Psychology, August 2006

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, Columbia, South Carolina

University Classroom Teaching Training, November 2009

PUBLICATIONS

- “International Conflict- A Cruel Necessity?” *International Topics*. 2008. Old Dominion University, Norfolk VA (Peer Review Article)
- Brief for Carolina Youth Action Project, et al. as Amicus Curiae, United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Civil Action No. 2:16-cv-2794-MBS, March 2022 (Amicus Brief)
- Brief for Anthony A. Jones, II as Amicus Curiae, South Carolina Supreme Court, Appellate Case No. 2020-000188, April 2022 (Amicus Brief)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- American Bar Association, The Livingston Hall Juvenile Justice Award, 2022
- SC Department of Public Safety, Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program, 2020, federal grant, \$35,278.00
- Ambassador for Racial Justice Scholarship, Georgetown Law School, 2020
- U.S. Department of Justice, Enhancement for Juvenile Defense System Grant, 2019-2022, federal grant, \$364,257.000 per year
- National Juvenile Defender Center, Second Chance Grant, 2016-2018, federal grant, \$61,567 per year
- SC Department of Public Safety, Formula Grant, 2015-2018, federal grant, \$71,590 per year
- WIIAS International Experience Award, \$2350.00
- SC BAR Leadership Academy Scholarship
- Public Interest Law Society
- SC BAR Foundation Public Interest Fellowship
- USC College of Social Work, Innovative Intervention Incubator Award
- 2017 South Carolina Juvenile Public Defender of the Year
- Graduate Assistantship, 2005-2010
- Graduate Student Travel Award, 2008
- Graduate Student Travel Award, 2006

EMPLOYMENT

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF LAW, Columbia, South Carolina
Visiting Assistant Professor, Director of Criminal Practice Clinic, August 2023 to present

- Directs the Criminal Practice Clinic where second- and third-year law students represent clients on criminal charges, provide parole representation and assist clients with elimination of barriers to successful reentry

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE, Columbia, South Carolina
Juvenile Defender Advocate, November 2019 to July 2023

- Collected and analyzed juvenile justice related data
- Created and provided trainings for juvenile defense attorneys
- Created and disseminated resources for juvenile defense attorneys
- Assisted capital trial attorneys with case advocacy
- Worked with *Justice 360* on advancing equality in South Carolina criminal justice system
- Managed federal and state grants
- Collaborated with stakeholders
- Provided internship opportunities for students from the USC School of Law and the USC College of Social Work

PRO BONO WORK, August 2019 to present

- Represents clients in Post-Conviction Relief trials
- Represents clients in Juvenile Parole proceedings
- Represents clients in Adult Parole proceedings
- Collaborates with *Innocent Project* attorneys on individual cases
- Performs research on criminal justice system
- Drafts policies and legislation
- Advances criminal justice reforms in South Carolina

THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FOUNDATION, Tunisia

Legal Fellow, June- December 2020

- Created and provided trainings for juvenile defense attorneys
- Provided guidance and advice on individual cases
- Assisted attorneys with organization and management of newly established juvenile defense offices

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE, Richland County, Columbia, South Carolina

Assistant Public Defender, December 2013 to August 2019

- Provided criminal defense for youth
- Provided criminal defense for adults
- Wrote, received, and managed federal and state grants
- Created and managed Holistic Representation Program for youth
- Supervised employees
- Provided field supervision for the law clerks from the University of South Carolina School of Law and the M.S.W. interns from the University of South Carolina School of Social Work

JACK B. SWERLING LAW OFFICE, Columbia, South Carolina

Law Clerk, August 2013 to November 2013

- Performed legal research in area of criminal defense
- Communicated with clients, opposing counsels and clerks of court
- Assisted in Post-Conviction Relief trials

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE, Richland County, Columbia, South Carolina

Super Law Clerk, August 2013 to November 2013

- Performed legal research in the area of juvenile defense
- Assisted lawyers in juvenile delinquency proceedings

ROGERS TOWNSEND AND THOMAS, PC, Columbia, South Carolina

Law Clerk, August 2012 to February 2013

- Performed legal research in business, real estate, foreclosure and employment and labor law
- Drafted motions, orders, letters to clients, and letters to opposing counsels

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE, Richland County, Columbia, South Carolina

Law Clerk, May to August 2012

- Performed legal research in areas of criminal defense and the death penalty cases
- Assisted lawyers in juvenile and general sessions proceedings

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER, USC School of Law, Columbia, South Carolina

Law Clerk, August 2011 to May 2012

- Performed legal research focusing on child abuse and neglect and any legislation concerning

- children; developed a courtroom bill of rights for children
- Conducted policy and research analysis
- Contributed to “Prosecution of Child Abuse in South Carolina: A Manual for Solicitors and Investigators” and an online version of an “Update for SC Forensic Interviewers”

SC APPLESEED LEGAL JUSTICE CENTER, Columbia, South Carolina
Volunteer, August 2011

- Performed legal research on Charter Schools and education in South Carolina

CITY OF COLUMBIA, Department of Community Development, Columbia, South Carolina
Law Clerk, Summer 2011

- Performed legal research in areas of real estate, federal grants for housing projects, conflicts of interest laws for recipients of federal grants
- Organized residential and commercial loan files; searched deeds

RICHLAND COUNTY FAMILY COURT, Columbia, South Carolina
The Honorable Judge Dana A. Morris, Judicial Observation Experience, Summer 2011

- Observed Family Court proceedings and obtained partial Rule 403 Certification

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, Columbia, South Carolina
Department of Political Science

- Graduate Instructor: International Law, Human Rights, August 2007 to May 2010
- Teaching Assistant: International Law, International Relations, Russian Foreign Policy, Controversies of Political Globe, Social and Political Philosophy, August 2006 to May 2009

LEADERSHIP

- Obtained and managed a federal grant from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety to provide a Juvenile Training Immersion Program Training for Trainers for juvenile defenders in South Carolina.
- Obtained and managed a federal grant from the US Department of Justice to create a position of a Juvenile Defender Advocate at the South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense.
- Obtained and managed a federal grant from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety to sponsor a position of a reentry youth social worker at the Richland County Public Defender’s Office.
- Obtained and managed a federal grant from the National Juvenile Defender’s Center to sponsor a position of a Civil Legal Fellow at the Richland County Public Defender’s Office.
- Developed and managed Holistic Representation Program at the Richland County Public Defender’s Office. The Holistic Representation Program provides reentry services to minority youth to reduce recidivism, and racial and ethnic disparities in Richland County. The reentry social worker provides case management to youth and their families to improve their education, health, behavioral health, and legal outcomes. The reentry civil attorney represents youth and their families in areas of education, housing, employment, and expungement.
- Received an Innovative Intervention Incubator award from the University of South Carolina School of Social Work to create a Reentry Coalition in Richland County. The Reentry Coalition, composed of relevant state and local leaders, and representatives of relevant agencies, service providers, nonprofit organizations, and other key stakeholders, was to examine ways to pool resources and funding streams, implement

best practices in reentry, and collect outcome data from stakeholder agencies and organizations. The Reentry Coalition then presented a multidisciplinary, jurisdiction-wide reentry strategy to improve outcomes for individuals.

- Developed a partnership with the United Way of the Midlands and other local organizations to start a Resilient Richland initiative. Resilient Richland is a movement to build Richland County, South Carolina into a trauma informed, resilient community.
- Conducted juvenile justice system assessments for the Gault Center in Kansas, New Hampshire and Utah.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

- *Motions Practice*

Presenter, SCCID Juvenile Defense Training, February 10, 2023

- *Juvenile Defense 101*

Presenter, SCCID Juvenile Defense Training, November 3, 2022

- *Juvenile Parole Representation*

Presenter, South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Annual Training, October 7, 2022

- *Challenging Youth Statements*

Presenter, Public Defenders Association Annual Conference, September 20, 2022

- *Challenging Youth Sex Offender Registry Cases, Adverse Childhood Experiences and Resiliency for Lawyers*

Moderator, SCCID Juvenile Defense Training, August 26, 2022

- *School-Related Offenses in South Carolina*

Presenter, Georgetown Law School, Ambassador for Racial Justice Program, May 26, 2022

- *Adolescent Development and Competency to Stand Trial*

Presenter, SCCID Juvenile Defense Training, April 1, 2022

- *Mechanics of a Waiver Hearing*

Presenter, SCCID Juvenile Defense Training, February 25, 2022

- *Juvenile Justice System and the Need for Reform in South Carolina*

Presenter, SC BAR Convention, January 21, 2022

- *Telling The Whole Story: Trauma and Injustice that Black Children Experience in America and the Power of Their Resilience Despite the Odds*

Moderator, World Congress on Justice with Children, November 16, 2021

- *Creating Colorful Systems to Combat Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice Systems*

Presenter, Coalition for Juvenile Justice Annual Conference, November 3, 2021

- *Juvenile Defense 101*

Presenter, SCCID Juvenile Defense Training, October 29, 2021

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- *(In)admissibility of Rap Lyrics*
Moderator, Public Defenders Association Annual Conference, September 28, 2021
- *Disturbing Schools Law in South Carolina*
Presenter, Georgetown Law School, Ambassador for Racial Justice Program, August 26, 2021
- *Fundamental of Restorative Justice: Exploring the Concept and its Application in the Juvenile Justice System*
Moderator, SCCID Juvenile Defense Training, August 6, 2021
- *South Carolina Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2020*
Presenter, SC BAR Children’s Law Committee, March 19, 2021
- *Juvenile Appeals: Essentials for Juvenile Defense Practice*
Moderator, SCCID Juvenile Defense Training, March 12, 2021
- *Rethinking the Role of the Juvenile Justice System: Improving Status Offenders’ Outcomes in South Carolina*
Presenter, South Carolina Family Court Judges Workshop, March 10, 2021
- *Juvenile Justice System in South Carolina*
Presenter, South Carolina United Methodist Women Legislative Advocacy Day, February 3, 2021
- *Mechanics of a Waiver Hearing*
Presenter, SCCID Juvenile Defense Training, April 9, 2021; March 19, 26, 2021; January 29, 2021
- *“It’s Not Me, It’s Them:” Implicit Racial Bias*
Presenter, University of South Carolina School of Law, November 18, 2020
- *Juvenile Defense 101*
Presenter, SCCID Juvenile Defense Training, November 13, 2020
- *“It’s Not Me, It’s Them:” Implicit Racial Bias and Raising Race in the Courtroom*
Presenter, Public Defenders Association Annual Conference, September 22, 2020
- *Advocating for Status Offenders and Children with Mental Health Needs*
Moderator, SCCID Juvenile Defense Training, August 28, 2020
- *The Impact of ACEs, Mental health Disorders and Generational Poverty on School-To-Prison-Pipeline in South Carolina*
Presenter, PRISMA Hospital System, Roundtable Presentation for Psychiatrists, May 4, 2020
- *Challenging Identification Testimony and Motion Practice*
Presenter, SCCID Juvenile Defense Training, July 23, 2019
- *Trauma-Informed Advocacy for Students*
Presenter, Applesseed SC Educational Advocacy Conference, April 9, 2019

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- *Enhancing Police Responses to Children Exposed to Trauma*
Presenter, Richland County Sheriff's Department School Resource Officers Annual Training, August 5, 2018
- *Beyond Family Court Advocacy: Empowering Youth and Establishing Community Connections for Youth Services*
Presenter, World Congress on Justice for Children, UNECSO Paris, June 5, 2018
- *Interviewing and Counseling a Youth Client and Disposition Advocacy*
Presenter, SCCID Juvenile Defense Training, April 11, 2018
- *Role of Counsel in Juvenile Delinquency Cases*
Presenter, SCCID Juvenile Defense Training, August 3, 2017
- *Beyond Family Court Advocacy: Establishing School and Community Connections for Youth Services*
Presenter, Southeastern School Behavioral Health Conference, April 29, 2017
- *Challenging Probable Cause and Detention Hearings*
Presenter, SCCID Juvenile Defense Training, April 11, 2017
- *Juvenile Reentry: Establishing Community Connections for Youth Success*
Presenter, National Juvenile Leadership Summit, October 24, 2016
- *Post-Disposition Advocacy: Establishing Community Connections for Youth Services*
Presenter, Public Defenders Association Annual Conference, September 24, 2016

MEMBERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- Every Black Girl, Inc., Board Member, Secretary, January 2021 to present
- SC BAR Diversity Committee, September 2021-present
- SC BAR House of Delegates, 2020-present
- Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, 2020 to present
- North American Council for Juvenile Justice, 2019 to present
- Lawyers' Committee for Children's Rights, Board Member, 2017 to present
- SC BAR Children's Law Committee, 2016-present
- Southern Juvenile Defender Center Advisory Committee, 2015-present
- Columbia Film Society, Board Member, Secretary, May 2021 to February 2022
- SC Governor's School for Math and Science, DEI Task Force, August 2021 to May 2022
- Richland County Sheriff's Department Community Work Group, 2016-2019
- United Way of the Midlands Youth in Transition, 2016-2019
- East Point Academy (Chinese Immersion Charter School), 2010-2015

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Screening of *On These Grounds* Event: community discussion on dismantling school-to-prison pipeline, University of South Carolina School of Law, February 2022
- Screening of *On These Grounds* Event: community discussion on dismantling school-to-prison pipeline, The Nickelodeon Theatre, October 2022
- Book Event: Kristin Henning, *The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black Youth*, University of South Carolina School of Law, October 2022

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- Book Event: Kristin Henning, *The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black Youth*, ACLU SC, October 2022
- Screening of *Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope* Event: community discussion on how to support families and create resilient communities; University of South Carolina School of Law, April 2018
- Screening of *Paper Tigers* Event: community discussion on how to provide appropriate education for children with Adverse Childhood Experiences; the Nickelodeon Theatre, March 2017
- Palmetto Place Children's Emergency Shelter; volunteer, 2013
- Panel discussion on the effects of Juvenile Diabetes on children suffering from the disease worldwide; The Nickelodeon Theatre, February 2012
- International Day of Peace, Harmony School, September 2011

LANGUAGES

Polish (native), English (fluent), Russian (basic proficiency), French (currently studying),
Classical Greek and Hebrew text translation.