

**ROBIN WALKER STERLING**  
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## **EDUCATION**

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**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER**, LL.M. in Advocacy, January 2009

Honors: E. Barrett Prettyman/Stuart Stiller Fellowship

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**, J.D., May 1999

Honors: Root-Tilden-Kern Public Interest Scholarship

Journal: Annual Survey of American Law, Staff Member

Clinics: Juvenile Rights Clinic  
New York Capital Defender Clinic

**YALE UNIVERSITY**, B.A., History, May 1993

Honors: President's Award for Community Service  
New York Governor's Committee Scholarship  
National Achievement Scholarship

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**UNIVERSITY OF DENVER, STURM COLLEGE OF LAW**, Denver, CO

*August 2010 to present*

*Assistant Professor*

*Criminal Defense Clinic*

Develop and co-teach a semester-long in-house criminal defense clinic consisting of an intensive two-week orientation program and twice-weekly seminar sessions. Supervise students representing adults and juveniles in the municipal and county courts throughout the Denver area.

*Race, Poverty and the Criminal Justice System*

Developed and taught a seminar exploring issues concerning race, poverty and the criminal justice system, including juvenile justice, mass incarceration, jury selection, prosecutorial discretion, the role of defense counsel, and implicit bias.

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER**, Washington, DC

*August 2000-August 2002*

**JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLINICS**

*E. Barrett Prettyman/Stuart Stiller Fellow*

*Supervising Attorney*

Supervised 14 third-year law students in Juvenile Justice Clinic throughout all aspects of client representation. Co-taught accompanying juvenile justice course covering both substantive criminal law issues and trial advocacy skills. Completed year-long clinical fellows training course that included the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) method for providing feedback on courtroom performance. Represented indigent juveniles and adults charged with misdemeanors and felonies at all stages of the criminal process. Won 2002 Outstanding Community Outreach Project Award from the D.C. Bar as co-author of public education materials advising teens on interacting with the legal system titled, *The Law*

*Actually Works . . . When You Know How to Use It: A Practical Guide to D.C. Law for Teens and Young Adults.*

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER**, Washington, DC *September 2006-July 2010*  
*Special Counsel*

Provided technical and policy assistance to juvenile justice system professionals, judges, and legislators. Researched, developed, and wrote articles, reports, and other agency publications on improving access to and quality of representation in juvenile delinquency court. Wrote *amicus* briefs, in state Supreme Courts and the United States Supreme Court, on juvenile defense issues, including the right to counsel at interrogation, the constitutionality of presumptive transfer, and the right to a jury trial in juvenile delinquency proceedings. Coordinated and participated in moots of oral arguments. Conducted and organized juvenile defender trainings on topics such as ethics, opening statements, direct and cross examination, closing arguments, adolescent development, and cultural competency.

**CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER**, Washington, DC *September 2005- September 2006*  
*Supervising Attorney, Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Project*

Supervised staff attorneys handling dependency, adoption, and guardianship cases, accompanying supervisees to court, providing feedback on courtroom performance, reviewing written trial preparation, and mooted arguments. Co-instituted, co-devised the curriculum for, and co-taught semimonthly trial practice skills sessions on, *inter alia*, opening statements, closing arguments, cross examination, hearsay, objections, and investigation to all attorneys. Handled caseload of dependency matters. Hired, trained, and supervised summer class of legal interns.

**D.C. PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE**, Washington, DC *October 2002-July 2005*  
*Staff Attorney, Trial Division*  
*Forensic Practice Group*

Represented indigent juveniles and adults charged with misdemeanors and felonies at all stages of the criminal process, including investigation, trial, and sentencing. Litigated bench and jury trials. Supervised law clerks and investigative interns. As member of Forensic Practice Group, received specialized training in issues surrounding DNA evidence, including methods of analysis, discovery issues, and admissibility/reliability challenges.

**U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**, Washington, DC *August 1999-August 2000*  
**The Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan**  
*Law Clerk*

Researched and drafted bench memoranda prior to hearings and conferences.

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**, New York, NY *August 1998-May 1999*  
**Professor Randy Hertz**  
*Research Assistant*

Provided research assistance for two-volume treatise on federal *habeas corpus* law and practice.

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**, New York, NY *August 1998-May 1999*  
**Professor Kim Taylor-Thompson**  
*Research Assistant*

Provided research assistance for various law review articles and publications, including article arguing for affirmative action for petit juries.

## **ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

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Robin Walker Sterling, *Juvenile Life without Parole and Juvenile Sex Offender Registration: Two Sides of the Same Unconstitutional Coin*, 82 UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW REVIEW \_\_\_\_ (forthcoming 2015).

Robin Walker Sterling, *Defense Attorney Resistance*, 99 IOWA LAW REVIEW 2245 (July 2014).

Robin Walker Sterling, *On Surviving Legal De-Education: An Allegory for a Renaissance in Legal Education*, 91 DENVER LAW REVIEW 211 (2013).

Robin Walker Sterling, *A Broken Shield: A Plea for Formality in the Juvenile Justice System*, 13 UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND JOURNAL OF RACE, RELIGION, GENDER AND CLASS 237 (Fall 2013).

Robin Walker Sterling, "Children Are Different:" *Implicit Bias, Rehabilitation, and the "New" Juvenile Jurisprudence*, 46 LOYOLA LOS ANGELES LAW REVIEW 1019 (2013).

Robin Walker Sterling, *Fundamental Unfairness: In re Gault and the Road Not Taken*, 72 MARYLAND LAW REVIEW 607 (2013).

Anthony Amsterdam, Randy Hertz, Robin Walker Sterling, et al., *Stories Told and Untold: Lawyering Theory Analyses of the First Rodney King Assault Trial*, 12 CLINICAL LAW REVIEW 1 (2005).

## **TESTIMONY, POLICY PAPERS AND PRACTICE GUIDES**

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Robin Walker Sterling, Testimony before the Joint Interim Committee to Study Juvenile Defense, August 5, 2013, August 19, 2013, and October 28, 2013.

Robin Walker Sterling, *Raising Race*, The Champion, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers magazine (April 2011).

Robin Walker Sterling, *Tips for New Juvenile Defense Attorneys*, Children's Rights, American Bar Association's Children's Rights Litigation Committee (Winter 2009).

Robin Walker Sterling, *The Role of Juvenile Defense Counsel*, available at <http://www.njdc.info>. This publication is a policy piece that describes and explains juvenile defense attorneys' day-to-day activities in the context of their ethical obligations under the Model Rules of Professional Conduct. The goal of the piece is to educate judges, prosecutors, probation officers, and other juvenile justice professionals about the importance of the juvenile defender's responsibility to advocate for the client's expressed interests.

Patti Puritz, Robin Walker Sterling, et al., *West Virginia: An Assessment of Access to Counsel and Quality of Representation in Delinquency Proceedings* (2009).

Patti Puritz, Robin Walker Sterling, et al., *Mississippi: An Assessment of Access to Counsel and Quality of Representation in Youth Court Proceedings* (2007) available at: [http://www.njdc.info/pdf/mississippi\\_assessment.pdf](http://www.njdc.info/pdf/mississippi_assessment.pdf).

Robin Walker Sterling, *Ten Principles for Providing Effective Defense Advocacy at Juvenile Delinquency Detention Hearings* (2008) available at: <http://www.njdc.info>.

Robin Walker Sterling, *Guidelines for Juvenile Defenders to Provide Zealous Advocacy at Initial Detention Hearings* (2008) available at: <http://www.njdc.info>.

Robin Walker Sterling, *Checklist to Evaluate Defense Representation at Detention Hearings* (2008) available at: <http://www.njdc.info>.

Carla Cartwright, Nicole Thornton, and Robin Walker, *The Law Actually Works . . . When You Know How to Use It: A Practical Guide to D.C. Law for Teens and Young Adults*, (June 2002) available at: [http://www.dcbbar.org/for\\_lawyers/sections/criminal\\_law\\_and\\_individual\\_rights/law\\_guide\\_for\\_teens/index.cfm](http://www.dcbbar.org/for_lawyers/sections/criminal_law_and_individual_rights/law_guide_for_teens/index.cfm).

## **SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

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### **2014**

**SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAW SCHOOLS 2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, Co-Panelist (with Professors Tucker Carrington and John King), *Teaching Race, Discretion and Implicit Bias in the Criminal Justice System*, August 2, 2012, Amelia Island, FL.

**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO SCHOOL OF LAW, SYMPOSIUM, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE IN THE SPOTLIGHT**, Presenter, *Juvenile Life without Parole and Juvenile Sex Offender Registration: Two Sides of the Same Unconstitutional Coin*, May, 31, 2014, Chicago, IL.

**HARVARD TRIAL ADVOCACY WORKSHOP**, Faculty Member, Harvard Law School, January 5-11, 2014, Boston, MA.

### **2013**

**BRIGHAM YOUNG SCHOOL OF LAW**, Rocky Mountain Junior Scholars Forum, Presenter, *The Unconstitutionality of Juvenile Sex Offender Registration*, November 7-8, 2013, Provo, Utah.

**IOWA SCHOOL OF LAW**, Symposium, Fifty Years of Gideon: The Past, Present, and Future of the Right to Counsel, Presenter, *Defense Attorney Resistance*, October 17-19, 2013, Iowa City, Iowa.

**LATCRIT 2013 CONFERENCE**, Resistance Rising: Theorizing and Building Cross-Sector Movements, Presenter, *Defense Attorney Resistance*, October 3-5, Chicago, IL.

**ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS, 2013 CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION**, Co-Presenter (with Professors D. Christopher Dearborn and Christopher Lasch), *Using Student Role Models to Establish Aspirational Professional Identity Goals and Develop Self-Evaluation Criteria*, May 1, 2013, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**IOWA SCHOOL OF LAW**, Workshop on Empirical Methods in Critical Race Theory, Presenter, *Defense Attorney Resistance*, April 25-27, 2013, Iowa City, Iowa.

**ON HAVING FUN AND RAISING HELL: SYMPOSIUM HONORING THE WORK OF PROFESSOR ANN SCALES**, Presenter, *On Surviving Legal De-Education*, March 30, 2013, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, CO.

**HARVARD TRIAL ADVOCACY WORKSHOP**, Faculty Member, Harvard Law School, January 7-9, 2013, Boston, MA.

## 2012

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF LAW JOURNAL OF RACE, RELIGION, GENDER AND CLASS**, Symposium, Co-Presenter (with Professor Randy Hertz), *Recent Supreme Court Juvenile Jurisprudence*, November 9, 2012, University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, MD.

**LOYOLA LOS ANGELES LAW REVIEW**, Symposium, *Juveniles and the Supreme Court*, Co-Presenter (with Professor Randy Hertz and Khai LeQuang), *Recent Supreme Court Juvenile Jurisprudence*, October 12, 2012, Loyola Los Angeles Law School, Los Angeles, CA.

**SOCIETY OF AMERICAN LAW TEACHERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, Co-Organizer and Panelist, *Race and the Criminal Justice System: Harmonizing Clinical and Doctrinal Teaching to Advance Social Justice*, October 5, 2012, University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, MD.

**SOUTHERN PUBLIC DEFENDER TRAINING CENTER**, Faculty Member, August 4-7, 2012, Birmingham, AL.

**SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAW SCHOOLS 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, Co-Presenter (with Professors Tucker Carrington and John King), *Teaching Race, Discretion and Implicit Bias in the Criminal Justice System*, August 2, 2012, Amelia Island, FL.

**LUTIE LYTLE BLACK WOMEN LAW FACULTY WRITING WORKSHOP**, Presenter, *Tinkering with the Machinery of Death-in-Prison Sentences: Lessons for the Juvenile Justice Community from the Death Penalty*, June 30, 2012, Suffolk School of Law, Boston, MA.

**ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS, 2012 CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION**, Co-Presenter (with Professors Ty Alper, Vida Johnson, C. Benjie Louis and John King), *Teaching Investigation/Investigating Teaching: Ideas on Developing Persuasive Fact Analysis Techniques for Law Students*, May 2, 2012, Los Angeles, CA.

**SEATTLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**, Symposium, *Rethinking Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird Fifty Years Later: A Critical Race Perspective on Atticus Finch, Tom Robinson, and Maycomb County, Alabama*, Presenter, *Atticus Finch and Defense Attorney Nullification*, March 9, 2012, Seattle, WA.

**HARVARD TRIAL ADVOCACY WORKSHOP**, Faculty Member, Harvard Law School, January 3-6, 2012, Boston, MA.

## 2011

**NORTH CAROLINA ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE, 2011 SEMINAR ON RACE AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**, Presenter, *What Defense Attorneys Can Do about Disproportionate Minority Contact*, December 2, 2011, Raleigh, NC.

**SOUTHERN PUBLIC DEFENDER TRAINING CENTER**, Faculty Member, August 3-5, 2011, Birmingham, AL.

**LUTIE LYTLE BLACK WOMEN LAW FACULTY WRITING WORKSHOP**, Presenter, *A Unified Theory of Juvenile Due Process: the Intersection of Fundamental Fairness and Fundamental Rights*, June 18, 2011, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Houston, TX.

**ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS, 2011 CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION**, Co-Presenter (with Professors Christopher Lasch and Patience Crowder), *At SEA: (Sympathy, Empathy,*

and Apathy): *Teaching Students to Distinguish Between and Strategically Select Modes of Communication*, June 16, 2011, Seattle, WA.

**UNIVERSITY OF DENVER STURM COLLEGE OF LAW MODERN LEARNING COLLOQUIUM SERIES**, Co-Presenter (with Professor Christopher Lasch), *Clinical Methodology and the Case for Simulations*, March 24, 2011, Denver, CO.

**COLORADO OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER TRAINING**, Faculty Member and Small Group Leader, *Train the Trainers*, March 7-9, 2011, Denver, CO.

**HARVARD TRIAL ADVOCACY WORKSHOP**, Faculty Member, Harvard Law School, January 3-7, 2011, Boston, MA.

## **2010**

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY CLINICAL LAW REVIEW WRITERS' WORKSHOP**, Presenter, *The Intersection of Fundamental Fairness and Fundamental Rights in Juvenile Delinquency Court*, October 3, 2010, New York, NY.

## **SELECTED TRAININGS AND CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS**

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**COLORADO JUVENILE DEFENDER COALITION**, *The Dangers of Detention and the Over-Incarceration of Youth of Color*, Co-Presenter, October 16, 2014, Denver, CO

**COLORADO JUVENILE DEFENDER COALITION**, *Attorney-Client Relationships with Kids*, Presenter, October 14, 2013, Boulder, CO.

**COLORADO OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, TRAIN THE TRAINERS: POWERFUL PRESENTATIONS**, Presenter, *Presentation Performance: Demonstrations and Other Creative Methods of Enhancing Your Presentation*, August 28, 2012, Denver, CO.

**COLORADO ALTERNATE DEFENSE COUNSEL, TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM**, Faculty Member and Small Group Leader, *Direct Examination*, February 8, 2012, Denver, CO.

**COLORADO OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, Presenter, *Raising Race*, September 12, 2011, Westminster, CO.

**COLORADO JUVENILE DEFENDER COALITION, TRANSLATING CURRENT RESEARCH INTO CONVINCING ADVOCACY**, Presenter, *The Negative Effects of Juvenile Detention*, March 10, 2011, Colorado Springs, CO.

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, LITIGATION SECTION, CHILDREN'S RIGHTS LITIGATION COMMITTEE**, Co-Presenter, *Counseling Children and Youth in Times of Crisis: Tips to Achieve Success and Avoid Pitfalls*, March 8, 2011, Nationally-broadcast teleconference.

**WASHINGTON JUVENILE DEFENDER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**, Co-Presenter (with Anne Lee and Professor Kim Ambrose), *Media and Messaging in Juvenile Defense and Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC): Blind Justice in the Area of DMC*, October 30, 2010, Leavenworth, WA.

**14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JUVENILE DEFENDER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT, NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER**, Co-Presenter (with Dr. Angela Williamson), *DNA 101: Understanding the Basics*; Co-Presenter (with

Barbara Butterworth), *Innovative Use of the Brady Exculpatory Evidence Rule*, October 15-16, 2010, Washington, DC.

**13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JUVENILE DEFENDER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT, NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER**, Co-Presenter, *Appellate Case Rounds*; Co-Presenter, *The Jury's Still Out: Advocating for a Juvenile Right to a Jury Trial*; and Moderator, *Smoke and Mirrors? Defense Tactics to Address the NRC's Report on Forensic Science*, October 16-18, 2009, Denver, CO.

**JUVENILE REGIONAL SERVICES DEFENDER TRAINING**, Presenter, *Witness Preparation; Opening Statements and Closing Arguments*; and *Direct and Cross Examination*, July 7-10, 2009, New Orleans, LA.

**JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL DEFENDER TRAINING, NORTH DAKOTA COMMISSION ON LEGAL COUNSEL FOR INDIGENTS**, Presenter, *Cross Examination of Children*, June 25, 2009, Fargo, ND.

**2009 CRIMINAL DEFENSE CONFERENCE, JUVENILE TRACK, WASHINGTON DEFENDER ASSOCIATION**, Presenter, *Ethics Tune-Up*, April 25, 2009, Winthrop, WA.

#### **SERVICE**

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Experiential Advantage Task Force, Fall 2013

Appointments Committee, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Academic Year 2011-2012.

Faculty Development and Mentoring Committee, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Academic Year 2010-2011.

Multicultural Advisory Committee, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Academic Year 2010-11.

Judge, Denver Urban Debate League, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, March 2011.

Judge, Student Trial Lawyers Association Mock Trial Program, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, October 2010.

Colorado Juvenile Defender Center, Board Member, September 2010-2013.

#### **SELECTED AMICUS BRIEFS**

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*Sullivan v. Florida* and *Graham v. Florida*, United States Supreme Court, Co-Author, with the Juvenile Law Center and with Northwestern Law School available at:

[http://www.abanet.org/publiced/preview/briefs/pdfs/07-08/087412\\_PetitionerAmCu3JuvieDefenderOrgs.pdf](http://www.abanet.org/publiced/preview/briefs/pdfs/07-08/087412_PetitionerAmCu3JuvieDefenderOrgs.pdf) (last visited November 4, 2009).

*In re A.J.*, Louisiana Supreme Court (May 2009), Co-Author.

In this brief, the National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC) argued that Louisiana juveniles facing sex offender registration have the right to be tried by a jury instead of a judge.

*In re P.M.P.*, New Jersey Supreme Court (April 2009), Co-Author.

In this brief, NJDC argued that current adolescent development research indicates that youthful offenders should not be interrogated by the police unless they have counsel present. The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that the filing of the complaint and the obtaining of a judicially approved arrest warrant by the Camden County Prosecutor's Office is a critical stage in juvenile delinquency proceedings, so that, pursuant to New Jersey state law, P.M.P. had the right to counsel once the warrant was issued, and could not waive that right except in the presence of and after consultation with his attorney. Opinion available at <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/opinions/supreme/A%2063%20PMP%20.pdf>.

*In re Marques B. and William M.*, Nos. 48649 and 48650, Nevada Supreme Court (Jan 2008), Co-Author, available at <http://www.jlc.org/files/briefs/njdewilliamm.pdf>.

In this brief, NJDC argued that Nevada's presumptive transfer statute violated the right to counsel. The Nevada Supreme Court struck down the statute on other grounds. *In re Marques B. and William M.*, 196 P.3d 456 (Nev. 2008).

*In re Sherri Jefferson*, Case No. S07G1208, Georgia Supreme Court (Oct 2007), Co-Author.

In this brief, NJDC argued in favor of a stricter, less subjective standard for contempt, in a case in which a juvenile defense attorney was held in contempt for zealously defending her client. The Georgia Supreme Court vacated the contempt finding and articulated a new test for contempt. *In re Sherri Jefferson*, 657 S.E.2d 830 (Ga. 2008).

## **BAR MEMBERSHIPS**

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**COLORADO**, *since 2010*

**THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**, *since 2000*