

# DONALD F. TIBBS

---

Drexel Earle Mack School of Law  
3320 Market St., Ste 274  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
215.571.4773 (voice)  
215.571.4768 (fax)  
Donald.F.Tibbs@drexel.edu

1816 Spruce St. 2R  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215.760.2240

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

---

Current Position:	Associate Professor of Law
Research Interest:	Civil Rights/Black Power Legal History; Law and Liberation; Critical Race Theory; Race and Punishment.
Teaching Interest:	Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure; Legal History; Prisoners' Rights Law, Race and the Law

## EDUCATION

---

LL.M. 2007 University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, WI

Thesis Title: *Inmate Discipline In Wisconsin: How Law "Works" Behind Prison Walls*  
Thesis Committee: Walter Dickey, Peter Carstensen, Gerald Thain

PhD 2004 School of Justice and Social Inquiry  
Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program, Committee on Law and the Social Sciences  
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Dissertation Title: *Black Power and Prison Power: The Prisoner Union Movement in North Carolina, 1968-1979*  
Dissertation Committee: Thomas J. Davis (Chair), James Riding-In, Cheree Carlson, Peniel Joseph

J.D. 1996 University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Pittsburgh, PA

Graduating Paper: *Fear of Black Crime: More on Stereotypes and Black Male Criminality*  
Graduating Committee: Kevin Deasy (Chair), Jody Armour, Robert Harper

B.S. 1990 Department of Criminal Justice  
Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Senior Thesis: *Victim Solidarity: Investigating Crimes for the Fulton County Public Defender's Office*  
Senior Advisor: James L Maddex, Jr.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS AND TEACHING STATEMENT

---

My research interests include: race and the law; civil rights/black power legal history; law and liberation; difference and power; law and punishment; anti-colonialism and Third World liberation movements; racial capitalism, Marxist theory, and black radicalism; social movements and cultural resistance; incarceration, criminalization, law and social control; genealogies of violence; popular culture and representation; inter/trans/multi/de-disciplinarity; education and pedagogy.

My approach to teaching comes out of a commitment to education as praxis for freedom. I draw from three related traditions of praxis. First, holistic legal pedagogy, which recognizes that there is a direct connection between how students feel and how they learn, underscoring the necessity of dealing with students' complex lives in order to create environments where creativity, compassion, and critical thought can flourish. Secondly, adult transformative education in which people seeking to make life changes (e.g., addiction, disease status, political empowerment) require a delicate balance between leadership and freedom, revealing how student development comes only by living this tension through open dialogue. Finally, I am instructed in my teaching by the praxis of liberation movements, or the praxis of freedom, which finds that social change can never occur when teachers pretend to be the exclusive subjects of knowledge and power, thus reducing students to mere objects; rather, growth happens when all who are involved help each other mutually, sharing the effort to understand the reality they seek to transform.

## UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

---

Director  
Institute for Civil Rights and Justice  
Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA, Fall 2005 – Spring 2008  
Responsible for Managing Institute Programs, Curriculum, Speakers' Series, and Budget

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

---

*Associate*, Civil Rights Division  
Law Offices Of Pamela A. Hunter & Associates, Charlotte, North Carolina, 1996-1998

Intern, Neighborhood Legal Services (assigned to Law Offices of Ed Feingold), Pittsburgh, PA, 1995

Intern, Office of General Counsel, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, 1994

Research Assistant, Dean. W. Edward Sells, Professor Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Summer 1994 – Spring 1996

## TEACHING

---

Associate Professor of Law  
Drexel University School of Law, Philadelphia, PA, Fall 2008 - Present  
Law 625 Criminal Procedure  
Law 612 Criminal Law

Assistant Professor of Law  
Director, Institute for Civil Rights and Justice  
Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA, Fall 2005 – Spring 2008  
Law 404 Criminal Law  
Law 419 Criminal Procedure

Law 623 Civil Rights  
Law 533 Professional Responsibility

Lecturer

Department of Criminal Justice  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC, Spring 2003  
CJUS 6000 Ethics in Criminal Justice

Lecturer

Department of African American Studies  
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, Summer(s) 2000, 2001, 2002

*Developed original syllabus for each course*

AFR 394 Stereotypes, Prejudice, and the Law  
AFR 394 Law and Racial Identity Resistance  
AFR 394 Supreme Court, Race, and Civil Rights

Lecturer

School of Justice and Social Inquiry  
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, Spring 2000

*Developed original syllabus for the course*

JUS 394 Critical Race Theory

Graduate Teaching/Research Assistant

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Dr. James Riding-In, History of Civil Rights, JUS 301, Fall 2000  
Dr. Peg Bortner, Introduction to Justice Studies, JUS 101, Fall 1999  
Marjorie Zatz, "Anti-Gang Statutes and Racial Politics," Fall 1998

Guest Lectures

"*Thinking Critically About Law and Legal Education: From Legal History to Critical Race Theory*"  
Drexel University School of Law, Orientation Fall 2008 (Invited by Director Jennifer Rosato)

"*Race and the Law.*" Introduction to Sociology 101  
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, Spring 2004 (Invited by Professor Matthew Desmond)

"*Reasonable Racism and the Racial State.*" Race, Gender and Class 301  
Long Beach State University, Long Beach, CA, Spring 2001 (Invited by Professor Tryon Woods)

"*Race Matters: Cornell West on Understanding of the Problem of the Color Line.*" History of Civil Rights 301,  
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, Fall 2000 (Invited by Dr. James Riding-In)

"*Jim Crow Politics and the Racial State, 1910-1921.*" History of Civil Rights 301  
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, Fall 2000 (Invited by Dr. James Riding-In)

"*Race-ing To Law School: Being a Student of Color in Law School.*" Black Student's Pre-Law Association,  
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, Fall 1999 (Invited by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.)

"*Understanding the Feminist Voice: Rape, Gangs, and Race.*" Critical Race Feminism 494  
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, Fall 1999 (Invited by Professor Sahi Kil)

"*Racial Themes in Justice Studies.*" Introduction to Justice Studies 105  
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, Fall 1999 (Invited by Dr. Peg Bortner)

"Where Does Critical Race Theory Fit in Justice Theory? Justice Theory 301  
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, Spring 1999 (Invited by Dr. Marjorie Zatz)

## PUBLICATIONS

---

**BLACK POWER, PRISON POWER: RACE, LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS, AND THE NORTH CAROLINA PRISONERS' LABOR UNION.** (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, release date 2009)

"Peeking Behind the Iron Curtain: How Law 'Works' Behind Prison Walls," 16 S. CAL. INTERDISC. L. J. 137 (2006)

"The Jena 6 and Black Punishment: Law and Raw Life in the Domain of Non-Existence" 7 Seattle J. Soc. Just. \_\_\_\_\_ (2008- - 2009).

"From Grassroots to Prison Suits: Law, Race, and Black Power in Jones v. North Carolina Prisoners Labor Union" (forthcoming Spring 2009)

"Judge Nathaniel R. Jones," AFRICAN AMERICAN NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY (Oxford University Press (2007)

"Jones v. North Carolina Prisoners' Labor Union, Inc., 433 U.S. 119 (1977)," ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES (MacMillan-Thompson (forthcoming 2008)

"Pollock v. Williams, 322 U.S. 4 (1944)," ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES (MacMillan-Thompson (forthcoming 2008)

"Taylor v. Georgia, 315 U.S. 25 (1942)," ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES (MacMillan-Thompson (forthcoming 2008)

## PRESENTATIONS and KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

---

"Teaching (Law) to Transgress: Abolitionist Strategies in Legal Education," *Critical Resistance 10 Annual Meeting*, Oakland, CA, September 26 - 28, 2008

"From Grassroots to Prison Suits: The Hidden Issue of Race and Black Power in *Jones v. North Carolina Prisoners Labor Union*," *Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting*, Amelia Island, Florida, July 30 - August 4, 2007

"American with Disabilities Act Compliance: Access and Inclusion at Post-Secondary Institutions"  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: *Recent Trends in Disability Law: What You Need to Know*, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, Baton Rouge, LA, June 23, 2007

"The State of the Black Law Student" *The Black Law Students Association in Louisiana Law Schools*, Baton Rouge, LA, April 23, 2007

"'Doing' Legal History Behind Prison Walls: Law and the Inmate Disciplinary Process." *Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Annual Meeting*, West Palm Beach, FL, June 16-22, 2006

"Racism, Classism, and State-Sponsored Social Control" *Law and Society Association Annual Meeting* Chicago, IL, May 30, 2004

"Talking About a Revolution: Jones v. North Carolina Prisoners' Labor Union, 433 U.S. 119 (1977) in Legal-Historical Context." *J. Willard Hurst Summer Institute in Legal History*, University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School, Madison, WI, June 8-21, 2003

“All the Prison Has is a Body: Black Prisoner Intellectuals and the Political Prisoner Movement in the United States” *5<sup>th</sup> Annual Osgoode Graduate Students Conference*, Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto, Ontario Canada, May 8-9, 2003

“The Prisoner Union Movement in Black and White: A Forgotten Jewel in a Turbulent Time.” *The Sixties: Style and Substance Interdisciplinary Conference*, University du Quebec Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, November 6-8, 2003

“It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back!: Prisoner Politics and the Radical Prisoner Union Movement in North Carolina” *Southwest Labor Studies Association Conference*, Los Angeles, CA May 9-11, 2002

“Cruel and (Un) Usual Punishment: Police Violence and Jury Nullification in Cases Involving Black Male Criminality.” *Justice in African American Studies, Conference on African American Research Lecture Series (CAAR)*, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ., February 12, 2000

“Fear of Black Crime: More on Bayesians, Stereotypes and Black Male Criminality in the Courtroom.” *Africans in the Americas: Past, Present, and Future: Ninth Annual Africa/Diaspora Conference: Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution*, California State University, Sacramento, CA. May 4-6, 2000

“We Don’t Live in This Courtroom: Post-Modern (UN)Reasonableness in the Twenty First Century.” *National Association of African American Studies National Conference*, Houston, TX, February 21-26, 2000.

“Anti-Gang Statutes and Racial Politics,” *American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting*, Toronto, Canada 17-20 November 1999

#### FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, and PROFESSIONAL HONORS

---

Fellow. HARRY S. GOLDEN VISITING CIVIL RIGHTS SCHOLAR, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina, (June 2007)

Fellow, WILLIAM H. HASTIE LAW TEACHING FELLOWSHIP, University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School, Madison, Wisconsin (January 2004- August 2005)

Fellow, J. WILLARD HURST SUMMER INSTITUTE IN LEGAL HISTORY, Institute for Legal Studies at University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School, Madison, Wisconsin (June 2003)

Fellow, PREPARING FUTURE FACULTY, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona (August 1999-May 2001)

Fellow, GRADUATE COLLEGE ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona (August 1998 - May 2001)

SHEILA S. SKIPPER OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona (2001)

#### GRANTS

---

“The Jena 6 and Black Punishment: Law and Raw Life in the Domain of Non-Existence,” Faculty Research Grant, Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law, Summer 2008. Funded: \$10,000  
Status: 7 Seattle J. Soc. Just \_\_\_\_ (Spring 2009).

“From Grassroots to Prison Suits: Race and Legal Consciousness in Jones v. North Carolina Prisoners’ Labor Union, Inc.,” Faculty Research Grant, Southern University Law Center, Summer 2007. Funded: \$10,000

Status: Out for Publication

“Peeking Behind the Iron Curtain: How Law ‘Works’ Behind Prison Walls,” Faculty Research Grant, Southern University Law Center, Summer 2006. Funded: \$10,000

Status: 67 S. CAL. INTER. L. J.139 (2006)

## CONFERENCE WORK

---

Panel Moderator, “Applied Legal History,” Southeastern Association of Law Schools, West Palm Beach, FL, July 26 – August 3, 2008

Panel Chair, “The Jena 6 and the Era of Civil Rights and Black Power,” Teaching for Change: Training Leaders in the Social Justice Movement, Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, North Carolina Central University School of Law, Durham, NC, April 11-13, 2008

Chair, Student Writing Competition, Teaching for Change: Training Leaders in the Social Justice Movement, Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, North Carolina Central University School of Law, Durham, NC, April 11-13, 2008

Panel Chair, “Racism, Classism, and State-Sponsored Social Control,” Law and Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May 30, 2004

Panel Moderator, “Shades of Darkness: Thinking Critically About the Problem of the Color Line,” Roundtable Discussion on Intra-Group Racism, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Arizona State University, February 15, 2001

Panel Moderator, “Racial Politics and Social Control within the Legal System,” 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Southern California, April 15, 2000

Panel Moderator, “Economic Exclusion, Public Control, and the Hidden Apartheid.” National Conference on Prison and Welfare Policies, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, April 8-9, 1999

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

---

Member, Faculty Appointments Committee, Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law, Philadelphia, PA, Fall 2008

Chair, Formation Committee, Journal of Race, Gender, and Poverty, Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA, Fall 2007

Chair, Formation Committee, Marshall-Brennan Project in Constitutional Literacy, Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA, Spring 2008

Faculty Advisor, Journal of Race, Gender, and Poverty, Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA, Spring 2008

Faculty Advisor, Black Law Students Association, Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA, Fall 2006 – Spring 2008

Faculty Advisor, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA Fall

2005 – Spring 2008

Organizer – Meet the Author: Debating Politics and Race with American Civil Rights Authors, Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA, Fall 2006

Dr. Albert Samuels, Associate Professor of Political Science, Southern University  
Is Separate Unequal: Black Colleges and the Challenges to Desegregation (University of Kansas Press, 2004)

Dr. Thomas J. Davis, Professor of Law and History, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ,  
Race Relations in America: A Reference Guide with Primary Documents (Greenwood Press, 2006)

Organizer - Preserving the Power: Protecting Katrina Voting Rights and Renewing the Voting Rights Act. A Symposium on the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Southern University Law Center. Baton Rouge, LA, March 24-26, 2006

Organizer – De-Disciplining Knowledge in Justice Studies. A Forum in the Justice Studies Colloquia Series, 1999-2000. Arizona State University, Tempe, March 2000

Organizer – Preparing for Life in the Academy: Lessons Learned from Research on Faculty of Color. Guest Speaker: Dr. Caroline Sotello Viernes Turner, Professor, College of Education. A Forum for the Preparing Future Faculty Program Guest Lecture and Discussion Series 1999-2000. Arizona State University, Tempe, April 12, 2000

#### MEMBERSHIPS

---

Organizing Committee, Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS)  
Organizing Committee, Southern/Southwestern People of Color in Legal Scholarship  
American Society for Legal History (ASLH)  
Law and Society Critical Research Network on Race and Law  
Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)  
Society for Law Teachers (SALT)  
Louisiana Association of University Professors (LAUP)

#### REFERENCES

---

Available upon request.