

I am passionate about giving back. I am someone who excels when I believe in a mission and that what I do promotes the greater good. Hence, upon receiving my undergraduate degrees from American University, I worked as a recruiter for two international non-profits. After four years, I enrolled in Howard University School of Law, which I chose because of its storied history of welcoming and advocating on behalf of the underserved. (In addition to its famed civil rights work, Howard Law has admitted woman and men of all races since its formation in 1869.)

I fervently believe in Howard's mantra that a lawyer is either a social engineer or a parasite on society. Consequently, ever since passing the Pennsylvania and New Jersey bar examinations seven years ago, I have done all that I can to work in public service. Specifically, I have served the federal and state court systems as a judicial clerk; worked for a public housing agency; mediated and conducted conflict resolution training on behalf of a Delaware County non-profit; and represented indigent clients before the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas. Moreover, for extracurricular activities, I have performed as my homeowners' association's president; chaired the Media Youth Aid Panel (a restorative justice program for juvenile first-time offenders); volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for abused and neglected children; and served on the board of the Friends of the Delaware County Women's Commission.

Over the past few years it has become apparent that the Greater Philadelphia area's public service legal market is unlikely to ever fully recover from the 2008 recession. Given that I want to be a person who uses my education, enthusiasm, and energy for good – not merely to make money – I have thought long and hard about a career change. The answer has become resoundingly clear: I want to become a teacher. Some of the brightest spots of my life have involved children. During undergraduate school, I spent a semester in Paris and taught English at a local high school. I loved it! To this day I keep in touch with my supervising teacher, Beverly Pezon. Additionally, I have

thoroughly enjoyed working with children through my roles with the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Delaware County, the Media Youth Aid Panel, Philadelphia Reads, the Media Moms Club, the Elwyn Development Center's Parents' Association, and MomsRising. And, of course, I am the happy, proud mother of two children. It is truly a thrill for me to hear children's fresh perspectives and help them think even more openly, curiously, and thoughtfully about the world. I would relish the opportunity to work with children and share my love of learning in general, and my love for English, history, civics, and social studies in particular.

Finally, I will always remember my 8th Grade history teacher, Mr. Wiggins. He impacted my life tremendously and showed me the difference a good teacher can make. Mr. Wiggins was dedicated to his students, and while he demanded a lot, he gave a lot. In addition to his wonderful work as a history teacher, he was the teacher-liaison for several after-school clubs. Mr. Wiggins demonstrably cared about the entire child – both the academic side, as well as a child's overall health and well-being. He was an excellent role model and made me a better citizen. My professional and volunteer roles have shown that, similar to Mr. Wiggins, I thrive on working with others and making approachable and accessible matters that can otherwise often be intimidating, complicated, or dull. I would be honored to follow in Mr. Wiggins's footsteps and become a teacher.