

VERNETTA R. ALSTON

vernettaalston@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE

Center for Death Penalty Litigation, Inc.

Staff Attorney

Durham, NC

February 2012 – Present

- Litigate direct appeal, post-conviction, and trial cases in state court
- Investigate capital murder cases of death-sentenced prisoners for post-conviction claims
- Consult with forensic, mental health, and legal experts
- Interview and consult with clients on death row in North Carolina and Tennessee
- Negotiate settlements with assistant attorneys general and district attorneys
- Draft petitions for relief, commutation, and pardons of innocence for consideration by the courts and the Governor of North Carolina, including those in *State v. Henry McCollum and Leon Brown*
- Coordinate Racial Justice Act litigation for two North Carolina prosecutorial districts
- Direct the work and funding of private investigators, mitigation investigators, and volunteers
- Deliver speeches, lectures, and local and national media addresses on the death penalty in North Carolina
- Hire and train summer student interns and volunteers

North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services, Inc.

Post-Conviction Staff Attorney

Raleigh, NC

September 2010 – February 2012

- Litigated post-conviction cases in North Carolina state superior and appellate courts
- Interviewed clients, witnesses and family members across North Carolina
- Negotiated settlements with district attorneys and assistant district attorneys

American Civil Liberties Union - Capital Punishment Project

Racial Justice Act Fellow

Durham, NC

June 2010 - August 2010

- Drafted documents in support of motions filed under the North Carolina Racial Justice Act
- Interviewed former North Carolina capital case jurors

North Carolina Racial Justice Act Studies

Staff Attorney

Carrboro, NC

September 2009 - May 2010

- Analyzed North Carolina homicide case records from pre-trial through post-conviction phases
- Collected and reviewed criminal case records from North Carolina judicial districts

Court of Appeals of North Carolina - Hon. Judge Sanford L. Steelman

Extern

Raleigh, NC

August 2008 - December 2008

- Conducted legal research and writing for criminal and civil law cases

National Center for Youth Law

Law Clerk

Oakland, CA

June 2008 - August 2008

- Prepared memoranda based on federal and state law for foster care impact litigation

State of North Carolina - Mecklenburg County Public Defender
Legal Intern

Charlotte, NC
May 2007 - August 2007

- Reviewed and summarized discovery for client interviews and trial preparation

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina School of Law
Juris Doctor

Chapel Hill, NC
2006 - 2009

North Carolina State University
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

Raleigh, NC
2000 - 2004

LICENSURE

State of North Carolina
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina
U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina
U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

2010
2010
2010
2010
2011

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

City of Durham Citizen's Advisory Committee
Member

Durham, NC
March 2015 - July 2017

University of North Carolina Pro Bono Alumni Board
Board Member, Alumni Outreach Subcommittee

Chapel Hill, NC
July 2015 - Present

Durham People's Alliance
Board Member

Durham, NC
January 2016 - May 2017