



Professor Janet Thompson Jackson

Faculty

Janet Thompson Jackson joined Washburn

University School of Law in August 2004. Jackson previously taught at the University of Baltimore School of Law as a Clinical Fellow in the Community Development Clinic and as an Adjunct at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law teaching legal writing and civil rights law. She was also an attorney at the firm of Cole, Raywid and Braverman L.L.P. in the District of Columbia and an attorney with Buchanan Ingersoll P.C. in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In addition, Jackson is a mediator and conflict management consultant.

Jackson received her B.A. in Political Science from Wittenberg in 1984 and a J.D. from Howard University School of Law in 1988. “My mother has been the most influential person in my life. From a very young age she encouraged me to do and be whatever I set my mind to and she has been a big supporter throughout my career. My father was a state legislator and gave me early exposure to the law which ultimately influenced my direction in life,” recalls Jackson.

At Washburn, Jackson teaches Property, Race and the Law and Real Estate Transactions. She also teaches in the Washburn Law Clinic with the Business and Transactional side of clinical practice.

Prior to teaching, Jackson was Executive Director of Families Forward in D.C., a non-profit organization that provides housing and employment services to homeless and low-income families. From this experience, Jackson has formed many opinions and values. “My experience running a non-profit peaked my interest in non-profit and business law, so that became a focus for me. That same experience directly led to my first teaching position as an adjunct professor for the course Race and the Law,” said Jackson.

Jackson was prepared and thrilled to teach at Washburn Law in areas where she has built expertise and where her passion lies. “My non-profit and community development work prepared me to teach in the Business and Transactional Clinic and also prepared me to teach Race and the Law,” she said. Jackson has

many memories from her past, but the ones that stick out the most, and are closest to her heart, are those that came from running an organization which helped people transition out of poverty into a self-sufficient lifestyle. Her devotion to providing legal assistance to those who are disadvantaged and to small business owners is a commitment she takes seriously.

“I hope to have a very positive impact on students by providing them with a solid foundation in their legal education. I also hope to encourage students to be agents for change in low-income communities,” said Jackson. She plans to continue teaching, increasing her expertise in property law, business and non profit law and race in the law. She continues to pursue her scholarship interest of how property, business and non-profit issues impact low-income neighborhoods and communities of color.

Jackson said, “Connecting with students on a one-on-one basis is so satisfying. Preparing students to be future lawyers is an awesome responsibility that I take very seriously.” She hopes her supervision of student interns in the Law Clinic helps them understand the value of helping to build and restore communities through assistance to community groups and small businesses. Now that there is a Business and Transactional Law Clinic, many more students will be able to benefit from her experience and expertise in that area. “Washburn Law is committed to providing students with the very best in legal education and the professors are committed to the success of the students. I am proud to be a part of that tradition,” said Jackson.

Jackson has learned many things during her career. While she was in civil litigation practice she had to quickly get up to speed on many different areas of the law. As an Executive Director of a non-profit, she enjoyed helping people transition through difficult stages of their lives. As a law professor, she continues to learn the art of teaching and mentoring. With a diverse combination of experience and eagerness to pass that along to students, Jackson will provide a solid foundation on which to help students and enhance the classroom and clinical experience at Washburn Law.