

## **TIJUANA BARNES**

tijuana.barnes@udc.edu

May 23, 2017

Dear Nominating Committee, SBA Presidents, and ABA Representatives:

I am a rising third year law student at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law and I am running for Vice Chair of the Law School Division. UDC Law prepares its students to be public servants and I desire to serve every law student across the nation. During the 2016-2017 school year, I was voted by the student body to be UDC's ABA representative. In that position, I learned the importance of ABA membership and the vital role school based leaders play in increasing membership. Last year, my small school finished as one of the top schools to recruit new members. I used various methods to educate students on the benefits of ABA membership such as videos and social media posts, the muffins for membership initiative, and a SBA premium membership raffle. As Vice Chair of Membership, I will partner with school based leaders to encourage all law students to receive the benefits of ABA membership.

My first goal is to inform law students about the advantages of premium membership. As Vice Chair, I not only plan to disseminate information about the partnerships the Law School Division has with Barbri, Brooks Brothers, Quimbee, and West Law, but to educate students about opportunities to compete in national competitions, run for national offices, and discounts on ABA conferences. The advantages of premium membership help mold law students into informed, well connected attorneys, and it would be my job to make students aware of these opportunities.

My second goal is to encourage school based leaders to be active liaisons between the ABA and their law schools. Many school leaders focus on enhancing their specific law school to ensure their students are prepared to take the Bar and become successful attorneys. However, school based leaders should incorporate opportunities from the ABA into the enhancement of their students. As Vice Chair, I will encourage the SBA to have a relationship with the ABA that spans beyond conferences and online voting for resolutions.

My third goal is to facilitate informational sessions throughout the school year to educate school based leaders about the benefits of the ABA. As Vice Chair, I will inform the SBA about opportunities that can help shape future attorneys beyond textbooks. For example, I will encourage student organizations to apply for the ABA grant program to bring informative programs to their student body. Through informational sessions, I will ensure that school based leaders are aware of all opportunities that membership has to offer.

Aside from my goals as Vice Chair, I am willing and capable of assisting other leaders of the Law School Division. My greatest leadership quality is my ability to listen to all perspectives and incorporating them into one effective plan that benefits everyone. When you vote in August, remember the candidate with experience, passion, and the desire to serve every law student.

Respectfully,

*Tijuana Barnes*

Tijuana Barnes

# TIJUANA BARNES

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## EDUCATION

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### University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law (UDC-DCSL)

*Juris Doctor Candidate*

May 2018

### Western New England School of Law, Springfield, MA

*Study Abroad in Israel*

Winter Session 2016

### College of Notre Dame Maryland, Baltimore, MD

*Master of Arts, Teaching with emphasis in Special Education*

May 2008

### Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA

*Bachelor of Arts, Political Science*

May 2005

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

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### UDC-DCSL Housing and Consumer Law Clinic, Washington, DC

*Student Attorney*

January 2017 – May 2017

- Drafted settlement agreements and discovery documents
- Gathered information to answer interrogatories
- Gathered information from potential clients to ensure an accurate intake process
- Conducted research and drafted recommendation memorandums to assist supervising attorneys with determining legal claims

### Clemency 2014, Washington, DC

*Student Volunteer*

February 2016- January 2017

- Analyzed presentencing reports to determine whether clients qualify for clemency
- Drafted Executive Summaries to Clemency 2014
- Researched PACER to locate supporting documents to strengthen client applications
- Updated clients on the status of their application with the Department of Justice

### Quality Trust for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, Washington, DC

*Volunteer/Legal Intern*

Spring 2016

- Researched the DC Municipal Regulation for laws concerning adults with intellectual disabilities
- Gathered information from potential clients to ensure an accurate intake process
- Drafted memorandums to the supervising attorney discussing DC law and client matters

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### E.L. Haynes Public Charter School, Washington, D.C.

*Academic Resource Teacher/Special Education*

July 2014 – June 2017

- Assessed students for special education eligibility, and wrote Individual Educational Plans (IEP) aligned with Common Core and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Differentiated lessons for students with low incidences disabilities, created lessons geared toward multiple learning modalities, and taught functional life skills
- Frequently communicated with caregivers about student progress and collaborated with special education and general educators

## ACTIVITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

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- Special Admission to the Bar of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals pursuant to Rule 48
- Student Bar Association, American Bar Association Representative, 2016- 2017
- National Black Law Student Association, 3rd Place National Negotiation Winner, 2016
- UDC Black Law Student Association (BLSA), Negotiation Chairperson, 2016 - 2017