

TAIFHA NATALEE ALEXANDER

St. John's University School of Law
 8000 Utopia Parkway Queens, NY 11439
Taifha.Alexander@gmail.com

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Queens, NY

Assistant Professor of Law, June 2026 – Present

Courses: Civil Rights & Civil Liberties; Race and the Law

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (USC) GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW, Los Angeles, CA

Lecturer in Law, August 2023 – December 2025

Courses: Race, Enslavement & Law

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (UCLA) SCHOOL OF LAW, Los Angeles, CA

CRT Forward Project Director, January 2022 – June 2025

Courses: Education Law & Policy; Data, Policy & Legal Responses to the Attacks on Critical Race Theory

MOUNT SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY, Los Angeles, CA

Interim Director of Curriculum for the Graduate Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Certificate Program,
 January 2024 – June 2024

Courses: Foundations of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; Social Identities & Intersectionality; Institutionalizing Change; Law & Diversity

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary: Torts; Education Law (including Higher Education); Critical Race Theory; Civil Rights; Legislation and Regulation; Race and the Law; Law & Inequality

Secondary: Constitutional Law II (Equal Protection and Substantive Due Process); Employment Discrimination; Housing Law & Policy; Law & Social Movements

EDUCATION

UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW, Los Angeles, CA

LL.M., Critical Race Studies Specialization, December 2021

Honors: Ranked 1/58 in LL.M. Graduating Class; Ranked in the Top 10 Percent

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER, Washington, DC

J.D., Cum Laude, May 2017

Honors: Dean's List (2015 – 2017)

Activities: American Bar Association Center for Racial and Ethnic Diversity Student Liaison; Office of Student Life Diversity Committee Representative

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, Queens, NY

B.S., Magna Cum Laude, May 2012

Honors: Dean's List (all semesters); President's Society (Highest Honor Society at St. John's University); 2012 Woman Student Leader of the Year; Phi Eta Sigma (National Freshman Honor Society); Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society; Phi Sigma Tau: International Philosophy Honor Society; Ronald H. Brown Summer Law School Prep Scholar; Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges Inductee

Activities: Office of Multicultural Affairs Student Coordinator; Legal Society President & Editor-In-Chief; Student Government, Inc., Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson; Office of Student Life Peer Mentor; Office of Admissions Student Ambassador

LAW REVIEW ARTICLES & ESSAYS

Systemic Racism as Negligence, 61 HARV. C.R.-C.L. REV __ (forthcoming 2026)

Building Shields: Accreditation, Insurance, and Public-Private Partnerships as Tools to Safeguard Critical Race Theory and Democracy in Higher Education, 106 B.U. LAW REVIEW __ (forthcoming 2026)

Racial Trauma as a Compensable Harm (Work-In-Progress)

Chopped & Screwed: Hip Hop from Cultural Expression to a Means of Criminal Enforcement, 12 HARV. J. SPORTS & ENT. L. 211 (2021)

We Can't Breathe: How Top Law Schools Can Resuscitate an Inclusive Climate, 9 GEO. J. L. & MOD. CRITICAL RACE PERSP. 123 (2017)

CHAPTERS, REVIEWS, REPORTS & BRIEFS

Critical Race Theory Model Measure and Explanatory Memorandum (CRT Forward, UCLA School of Law Critical Race Studies 2024).

An Anti-Racist College, in REVISING THE CURRICULUM AND THE CO-CURRICULUM TO ENGAGE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION, Norah P Shultz, ed. (Routledge 2023). (Resulted from IRB-approved research conducted as Principal Investigator at Wofford College).

CRT Forward: Tracking the Attack on Critical Race Theory (CRT Forward, UCLA School of Law Critical Race Studies 2023). Cited in U.S. News & World Report, TIME, PBS News, and United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, [Visit to the United States: Report on the Right to Education, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/59/41/Add.1](#) (April 14, 2025).

A Love Letter to My Unborn Black Daughter in I'M SPEAKING NOW: BLACK WOMEN SHARE THEIR TRUTH IN 101 STORIES OF LOVE, COURAGE AND HOPE (Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing 2021).

SELECTED SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Selected Panelist, "Systemic Racism as Negligence: From Doctrinal Theory to Procedural Strategy, Policy Implementation & Practice." Private Law and Multicultural Identities Workshop. Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Race and Private Law Section & Center for Retail Investors and Corporate Inclusion. Arona, Italy (July 2026).

Selected Participant, "Trauma without Redress: Race and the Structure of Damages Law." Progressive Scholars Workshop. Society of American Law Teachers (SALT). Boston, MA (April 2026).

Invited Speaker, "Who Regulates the University (from the outside)." Boston University Law Review Symposium. Boston, MA (November 2025).

Selected Presentation, "Systemic Racism as Negligence." Law and Society Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL (May 2025).

Invited Speaker, “Politics of Academic Freedom: Comparative State of Play.” University of Quebec. Montreal, Canada (April 2025).

Distinguished Speaker, “Navigating the Current Higher Education Legislative Climate.” College Board Forum. Austin, TX (October 2024).

Keynote Speaker, “American Association of University Professors Biennial Meeting.” Washington, DC (June 2024).

Panelist, “The Project of Decoloniality in the Age of Retrenchment.” Law and Society Annual Meeting. Denver, CO (June 2024).

Invited Speaker, “Pro-Truth Blueprint: A Model Framework of Equitable K-12 Curriculum and Legislation.” NAACP Legal Defense Fund Thurgood Marshall Institute. New York, NY (June 2024).

Panelist, “Book Bans and Censorship Efforts in K-12 Schools Across the U.S.” NYC Bar Association Education Law Committee. New York, NY (March 2024).

Selected Speaker, “Mapping Attacks on CRT.” SXSW EDU. Austin, TX (March 2024).

Invited Panelist, “The Fight Against Anti-Wokeism in the Classroom: Legal System’s Role in Maintaining the Status Quo.” St. John’s University School of Law Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development Symposium. Queens, NY (March 2024).

Keynote Plenary Panelist, “Children’s Defense Fund Child Watch 2023.” Children’s Defense Fund. Los Angeles, CA (August 2023).

Distinguished Speaker, “CRT Forward in Higher Education. National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE).” New Orleans, LA (June 2023).

Panelist alongside Professor Laura Gomez, “Critical Race Theory: What It Is & What It Isn’t.” Harvard Club of Southern California. Virtual (June 2023)

Co-Speaker alongside Former ACLU Foundation of Southern California Chair Stephen Robde, “Confronting the Assault on Teaching Comprehensive and Inclusive American History.” American Constitution Society (April 2023).

Presidential Panelist alongside Professor Gloria Ladson-Billings, “How Untruths Get Manufactured, Disseminated, and Embraced: Examining Critical Race Theory.” American Educational Research Association (AERA). Chicago, IL (April 2023).

Panelist, “Governance and Political Polarization of Elementary and Secondary Public Schools.” AALS Education Law Section Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA (January 2023).

Panelist, “Critical Race Theory: What It Is, What It Isn’t and What Attorneys Need to Know.” Los Angeles County Bar Association. Virtual (April 2022).

Invited Speaker, “From Backlash to Racial Justice: A Strategic Convening to Protect Our Truths.” African American Policy Forum. Virtual (April 2022).

Invited Speaker, “Antiracism 201: Creating an Antiracist College.” American Association of Colleges & Universities Annual Meeting. Virtual (March 2021).

Invited Panelist, “Project Asian International Mentoring 20th Anniversary Career Panel.” St. John’s University. Virtual (February 2021).

Presenter, “California AGEP Model to Increase the Success of Underrepresented Minority Postdoctoral Fellows Becoming Faculty in Mathematics, Physical and Computer Sciences & Engineering.” Coeur D’Alene, ID (May 2019).

Speaker, “Discussing Diversity: A How-To.” University of South Carolina. Aiken, SC (October 2018).

OPINION EDITORIALS

[Hip-hop on trial: When can a rapper’s lyrics be used as evidence in a criminal case?](#), THE CONVERSATION (September 27, 2023).

[Efforts to ban critical race theory have been put forth in all but one state – and many threaten schools with a loss of funds](#), THE CONVERSATION (April 7, 2023).

[The Political Push to Ban Comprehensive U.S. History](#), THE MEDIUM (January 23, 2023).

[Black Women Scholars on Identify, Research, and Black Women’s Studies: A Roundtable with Anita Gonzalez and Taifha Alexander](#), THE MEDIUM (February 13, 2020).

[A Love Letter to My Unborn Black Daughter](#), THE HUFFINGTON POST (January 4, 2017).

SELECTED MEDIA MENTIONS & INTERVIEWS

[UCLA law researchers track efforts to ban Critical Race Theory](#), ABC7 (September 13, 2023).

[The Next Frontiers in the Battle Over CRT and DEI](#), DIVERSE ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION (September 2023).

[Interview with Marc Lamont Hill](#), THE GRIO (May 10, 2023).

KPCC, Weekend Interview with CRT Forward Project Director Taifha Natalee Alexander (April 2023) (transcript unavailable).

[Alumna Credits Career Success to St. John’s Faith in Her](#), St. John’s University (April 2023).

[Researchers Did a Deep Dive Into Efforts to Restrict Critical Race Theory. Here’s What They Found](#), THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION (August 3, 2022).

[What Is Critical Race Theory & How Is The Fight to Ban It Impacting Black Authors](#), OKAYPLAYER (February 17, 2022).

[Anti-Racism 101 Webinar Series](#), WOFFORD COLLEGE (Summer 2020).

HONORS, RECOGNITION & AWARDS

2024 Diverse: Issues in Higher Education Emerging Scholar Award (Recognized as one of fifteen emerging scholars under the age of 40 for significant contributions to legal scholarship and leadership in the field of Critical Race Theory)

ACPA (College Student Educators International) Pan African Network 2021 ‘Sawubona’ Award Recipient for Campus Partnership (Awarded for collaboration across various roles within higher education)

2020 South Carolina College Personnel Association (SCCPA) Joseph E. Heyward Humanitarian Award Recipient

2019 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) NOW Professional for Inclusion (2019)

2018 Student Affairs Law & Policy NASPA Certification (Earned High Competency designation)

SERVICE

INSTITUTIONAL

Alumni Interviewer, Georgetown University Law Center Admissions (2021 – Present)

Committee Member, UCLA School of Law Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (2024 – 2025)

Spark Magazine Editorial Board Member, University of Michigan National Center for Institutional Diversity (2023 – 2025)

Wofford College Campus Advisor to: Amnesty International Chapter; Association of Multicultural Students; Black Student Alliance; Nu Chi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.; Tau Delta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; LGBT Terriers; Organization of Latin American Students; Asian American & Pacific Islanders; Men of Color; and Women of Color (2019 – 2020)

Panelist & Campus Grievance Committee Member, UCLA Dean for Students Conduct Committee (2019 – 2020)

University of South Carolina – Aiken Campus Advisor, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Lambda Mu Chapter (2017 – 2019)

EXTERNAL

LA Times Background Source on Systemic & Structural Injustices and the Law (2022 – Present)

TreePeople Volunteer (2022 – Present)

Empowher LA Inc. Mentor & Advisory Board Member (2022 – 2025)

South Carolina College Personnel Association Diversity & Inclusion Chair (2020 – 2021)

HIGHER EDUCATION, ANTI-RACISM, DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION EMPLOYMENT

UCLA GRADUATE DIVISION | Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives Coordinator, January 2019 – January 2020

WOFFORD COLLEGE | Assistant Dean of Students for Diversity & Leadership Development, January 2020 – May 2021

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN | Assistant Director of Student Life – Diversity initiatives, August 2017 – January 2020

ACCESS LEX INSTITUTE | Diversity Programs Intern, August 2016 – May 2017

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OFFICE OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION | Diversity Policy & Initiatives Legal Intern, Summer 2016

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, RONALD H. BROWN SUMMER LAW SCHOOL PREP PROGRAM | Teaching Assistant, Summer 2015

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA | Judicial Intern to the Honorable Margaret B. Seymour, Summer 2015

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY | Claims Assistant, September 2013 – August 2014

GEICO INSURANCE COMPANY, Liability Claims Representative, September 2012 – February 2013