

KERRY L. SHIPMAN, Ph.D., J.D., MPA

JUSTICE • HEALING • LEADERSHIP

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Interdisciplinary executive, scholar, educator, and former judicial officer whose work centers on justice, behavioral health, reentry, and the public systems that shape people's lives. Experience spans judicial service, higher education, state government, behavioral-health leadership, and applied research. Research and public work focus on how law, family support, behavioral health, and institutional design influence outcomes for justice-involved and underserved communities, with an emphasis on practical systems that connect accountability, access, and stability.

EXECUTIVE & PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

TSG Behavioral Health & Community Services | Charlotte, North Carolina

Agency Director | October 2022 - Present

- Provides executive leadership for a state-licensed behavioral-health organization serving justice-involved, unhoused, and underserved communities.
- Directs strategy, compliance, program development, and cross-system partnerships linking behavioral health, reentry, recovery, and community support.
- Develops relationships with public agencies, correctional partners, managed-care organizations, and community stakeholders to expand access to coordinated services.

North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services, Office of the Secretary | Raleigh, North Carolina

DEI Project Manager / HBCU-MSI Internship Program Manager | February 2023 - July 2023

- Designed and launched a statewide HBCU-MSI internship initiative connecting students from North Carolina institutions with experiential opportunities across public health, human services, policy, and administration.
- Built partnerships with university leaders and NCDHHS divisions, aligning student placements with agency priorities and equitable workforce-development goals.

JUDICIAL & LEGAL EXPERIENCE

North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts | Charlotte, North Carolina

Magistrate Judge (Judicial Officer), Mecklenburg County | January 2020 - January 2023

- Served as an appointed judicial officer handling criminal and civil matters, including bond and pretrial-release decisions, probable-cause determinations, domestic-violence proceedings, mental-health commitments, and small-claims matters.
- Reviewed legal issues involving search warrants, constitutional protections, public safety, and procedural fairness while working across law-enforcement, legal, and social-service systems.

Judicial Extern, Supreme Court of North Carolina - Justice Michael R. Morgan	2018
Judicial Intern, U.S. District Court, District of South Carolina - Hon. David C. Norton	2018
Certified Legal Intern, Bladen County District Attorney's Office	2018
Law Clerk, U.S. Attorney's Office, District of South Carolina	2017

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & TEACHING

Johnson C. Smith University, Department of Political Science | Charlotte, North Carolina

Adjunct Professor | May 2021 - June 2024

- Taught American Government, Constitutional Law, Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, and The Color of Justice: Race, Law, and Politics.
- Created POL 491: The Color of Justice and developed experiential learning through mock trials, policy debates, courtroom observation, guest practitioners, and applied legal analysis.

Voorhees University, Department of Criminal Justice & Social Science | Denmark, South Carolina

Adjunct Professor | May 2021 - June 2024

- Taught Introduction to Criminal Justice, Criminal Law, Ethics in Social Science, American National Government, and Media Law & Ethics.
- Designed scenario-based assignments, case briefs, memoranda, and simulated legal exercises emphasizing critical thinking and practical writing.

EDUCATION

Liberty University, Helms School of Government | 2025

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Criminal Justice

Executive Certificate in Criminal Justice, 2020

Charleston School of Law | 2018

Juris Doctor (J.D.)

Dr. Raymond S. Greenberg Presidential Scholar; Outstanding Public Service Award

University of Phoenix | 2016

Master of Public Administration (MPA)

Shaw University | 2013

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology; concentration in Criminal Justice

Most Distinguished Student in Major; Who's Who Among Students in American Universities

SCHOLARSHIP & PUBLICATIONS

Doctoral Dissertation

- ***Keep the Family Close: A Hermeneutic Phenomenological Study on Family Support and Successful Re-Entry.*** Ph.D. dissertation, Liberty University, 2025. Research on family support, reentry, and the experiences of formerly incarcerated African American men. [View](#)

Scholarly & Law Review Publications

- ***The Reasonable Black Person Standard in Criminal Law: Impartiality, Justice and the Social Sciences.*** 13 Southern Journal of Policy & Justice 75-92 (2019). Available through SSRN and the author's scholarship page. [View](#)

Professional Legal Publications

- ***Alternatives to Traditional Practice.*** The Benchers: The Magazine of the American Inns of Court (July/August 2019). [View](#)

Books

- ***Pathway to Renewal (P2R): A 26-Week Guide to Reentry, Recovery, and Life After Struggle.*** Published paperback. Trauma-informed reentry and recovery workbook. [View](#)
- ***The Vending Game: How to Start and Run Your Own Vending Machine Business.*** with Koby M. Shipman (2020). Practical entrepreneurship guide based on direct operating experience. [View](#)

SELECTED SCHOLARLY IMPACT

- **Wisconsin Supreme Court litigation:** The Reasonable Black Person Standard was cited in a 2025 amicus curiae brief filed by Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc. in *State v. Stetzer*, No. 2023AP874-CR, supporting a contextual analysis of legal reasonableness.
- **Subsequent legal scholarship:** The article has been cited in later scholarship addressing race, the reasonable-person standard, and the relationship between ostensibly neutral legal standards and lived experience, including work published in the *UBC Law Review*.
- **Legal education and tort scholarship:** Cited by Alberto Bernabe in “Teaching at the Intersection of Torts, Race and Gender,” 41 *Quinnipiac Law Review* 1 (2022).

SELECTED PUBLIC & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Secretary, North Carolina Magistrates Association	2020-2022
Board Member (Mayoral Appointee), Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee	2020-2021
Commissioner, Commission on Disability Issues - City of Charleston	2017-2018
Guardian ad Litem, Cass Elias McCarter Program - Charleston County	2017-2018
Member, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences	
Member, American Society of Criminology	

SELECTED MEDIA & PUBLIC COMMENTARY

- **The Post and Courier** - “After Mother’s Death, 2 Charleston Brothers Struggle to Make Her Proud”
- **QC News** - Coverage of reentry and services for formerly incarcerated people in Charlotte
- **Yahoo Finance / Black Enterprise** - Coverage of the Black Therapy Network and expansion of mental-health access
- **NBC Count On 2** - Coverage of law-student expungement and community legal-service work

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) • Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS)

RESEARCH & TEACHING AREAS

Reentry, family support & recidivism • Race, law & criminal justice • Constitutional law & civil liberties • Behavioral health & justice-system intersections • Public administration & systems leadership