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JAMES ALEC GELIN

Associate Professor

jgelin@johnmarshall.edu
678-916-2648

EDUCATION

B.A., Amherst College, *magna cum laude*
J.D., Duke University School of Law, with Honors

COURSES TAUGHT

Criminal Pretrial Practice; Legal Writing, Research & Analysis I and II; Trial Advocacy & Writing

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Professor Gelin is an experienced trial attorney who represented indigent defendants as a Senior Assistant Public Defender with the Office of the DeKalb County Public Defender from 1991 through 2010. Prior to joining the Public Defender's office, he practiced corporate law, first at Goodwin Procter LLP in Boston, and then at Arnall Golden Gregory LLP in Atlanta. Professor Gelin is the Co-Faculty Adviser to the student organization, OutLaw and Allies. From 1994 through 1995, Professor Gelin taught criminal law at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School as an Adjunct Professor.

PUBLICATIONS

Unwarranted Punishment: Why the Practice of Isolating Transgender Youth in Juvenile Detention Facilities Violates the Eighth Amendment, U.C. Davis Journal of Juvenile Law & Policy, Volume 18, Issue 1 (2014).

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Our students come for law school but find a community

In addition to what is mentioned on my C.V., here are some important facts about my career at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, as well as information about hobbies and some of the community activities that I'm involved in:

1) I pride myself on my accessibility to my students. As many of my students are evening students with full time jobs, they take advantage of my availability during nights and weekends, when I routinely respond to emails and conference with them on the phone.

2) Admissions Committee member since the 2011 – 2012 academic year.

3) Co-Faculty Advisor to OutLaw & Allies, 2013 2014 academic year. The mission of this AJMLS student organization is "to promote scholarly discourse of LGBT issues, social equality issues and tolerance."

4) Member of The Temple, Atlanta's largest Jewish Reform congregation, since 2001. From 2011 – 2013, I served on a committee that explored and then implemented policies and programs meant to make my synagogue a more welcoming place for the LGBTQ community. This committee was part of a pilot project, The Welcoming Synagogues Initiative, that took place simultaneously at approximately twenty-five congregations throughout the United States and Canada. Since 2013, I have been a member of The Temple's Membership Committee.

5) Member of the Planning Committee for "Purim Off Ponce," 2012 and 2013. "Purim Off Ponce" was a benefit for the Rainbow Center, formerly affiliated with Atlanta's Jewish Family & Career Services and now known as SOJOURN. SOJOURN is a Southern regional network providing education, resources and support for LGBTQ teens and their friends and family.

6) Community Activist and tree planter in unincorporated DeKalb County. Since 1998, I have advocated for smart growth and development in my community located north of Avondale Estates. In addition, I have individually planted over two hundred trees throughout the county, mostly at my own expense. Currently, one hundred and seventy-five remain. Of those, I maintain the smaller trees (under ten feet tall,) annually through mulching, weeding and pruning.

7) An avid gardener, I collect and maintain an extensive collection of shrubs and trees on my one acre property.