

DEBORAH A. JACKSON

AREAS OF EXPERIENCE:

Organizational Development: Incorporation of non-profit and for-profit entities, preparation of organizational by-laws and applications for tax-exempt status; business and strategic planning; general legal advice on corporate governance; board training and development. Preparation, analysis and negotiation of agreements and other documents; provide advice on general corporate matters.

Community Development and Capacity-Building: Provide technical assistance for housing and community development planning efforts; assist community groups to build partnerships and coalitions; development of community education and training programs.

Teaching: Development of course curriculum for graduate-level courses; class lectures and presentations; engage students in interactive learning approaches to build on their experiences and integrate class materials.

RECENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

MAYOR City of Lithonia, Georgia. Serve as the Chief Elected Official and responsible for oversight of the day-to-day operations of municipal government. Work with a City Administrator to manage public safety, public works, and administrative functions. Prepare and manage city budgets; write and review grant applications for funding and technical assistance opportunities; preside at city meetings; implement comprehensive plan objectives; and represent the city at local, state and national forums. Led the collaborative effort with private developer and downtown development authority resulting in the redevelopment of distressed city property into a \$12 million affordable housing project. Organized the city's participation in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) program to obtain technical assistance for the development of a housing strategy. (January 2012 - present).

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU), New Hampshire. Taught in the classroom and online courses in the SNHU Master of Science program on Law and Community Economic Development. The course examined the relationship between the law and legal issues faced by community development practitioners including the history of community development, economic development policies, and constitutional issues (2006 – 2011). Taught undergraduate courses in the School of Justice at Westwood on criminal justice, justice administration, and public policy (2009 - 2011). Taught undergraduate course on political science and government at Gordon College (2010 - 2011).

Deborah A. Jackson
Curriculum Vitae

PRESIDENT DAJ Associates LLC. Manage the day to day operations of a small business. Provide technical assistance in the areas of community and economic development, including the development of grant applications and corporate documents; project planning and coordination activities; group and meeting facilitation; advising government and community leaders. Some of the projects include: providing technical assistance to and assessing the capacity needs of organizations affiliated with NeighborWorks America; securing an Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) grant and serving as the municipality's liaison to coordinate the planning process for redevelopment in the City of Lithonia, Georgia; facilitating the public participation in two neighborhood redevelopment plans in Spartanburg, South Carolina; serving as a consultant to an affordable housing community group in Atlanta and providing technical assistance to finalize a development agreement. (2002 - Present)

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES:

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE Various Agencies, New York. Served as a hearing officer to review summonses issued for violations of state and local traffic/parking regulations; safety and health regulations and administrative rules; evaluated testimony and evidence; prepared written findings of fact and decisions. (1995 – 2000)

SENIOR MANAGER Department of Business Services, New York. Administered economic development strategies for the apparel and jewelry industries including the establishment of a development corporation; worked with industry representatives to develop local, state and federal support for initiatives designed to improve the competitiveness of local companies and to help foster long-term job creation potential. (1993 – 1994)

DIRECTOR Department of Business Services - Division of Labor Services, New York. Administration and supervision of staff for contract compliance and small business development programs; prepared written reports; reviewed and prepared legislative proposals; coordinated training programs for staff and other agency personnel; advised the Commissioners on program-related issues. (1992 – 1993)

DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL Department of Business Services - Division of Labor Services, New York. Supervised administrative staff; represented the Division in administrative hearings and negotiations; advised and made recommendations on legal issues and administrative policy; prepared legal research; drafted legislation, program rules and regulations. (1989 – 1992)

DIRECTOR FOR WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT Agricultural Missions, National Council of Churches (USA), New York. Worked with community organizations, nationally and

Deborah A. Jackson
Curriculum Vitae

internationally, focusing on the needs of women in the areas of health care, nutrition and basic skills training through on-site visits, exchange of materials and correspondence; organized educational forums for Board members; reviewed and developed project proposals; administered grant funds; developed educational materials. (1985 – 1989)

NATIONAL DIRECTOR/ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR/PROGRAM COORDINATOR

National Conference of Black Lawyers, New York. Initially served as the program coordinator to work with local chapters and national office staff. Served as the interim National Director and then served as the Associate Director. Supervised program and administrative staff; prepared funding proposals; provided technical assistance in the areas of organizing techniques, skills seminars and community forums; organized and attended national and international legal conferences on human rights and social justice issues. (1981 – 1984)

PARTNER Stevens, Hinds, Jackson & White, P.C., New York. General practice of law, civil and criminal litigation, employment discrimination, contract negotiations, and government benefits cases. (1980 – 1981)

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL Sipser, Weinstock, Harper, Dorn and Liebowitz, New York. Presented cases at arbitration proceedings and hearings before the National Labor Relations Board; assisted in contract negotiations. (1980)

REGINALD HEBER SMITH FELLOW North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, Oxford, Mississippi. Handled federal litigation in the areas of employment discrimination and access to services; litigated divorce, child custody, consumer and criminal matters; developed legal education programs for community organizations. (1977 – 1979)

EDUCATION:

Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH
Doctor of Philosophy, Community Economic Development and Public Policy (2009)
Master of Arts, Community Economic Development (2008)

Rutgers, The State University School of Law, Newark, NJ
Juris Doctorate (1977)

Rutgers, The State University Graduate School, Newark, NJ
Master of Arts, Political Science and International Affairs (1977)

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
Bachelor of Arts, History (1974)

Deborah A. Jackson
Curriculum Vitae

Certificates in Afro-American and Latin American Studies
Semester at National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

Doctoral Dissertation: Where Do We Go From Here? Community Participation and Empowerment in the Empowerment Zone: Atlanta, 1994-2002. (May 2009). A case study using qualitative research methods on four Empowerment Zone neighborhoods that were also part of the Model Cities program in the 1960's. The research draws on the community participation literature and proposes a conceptual framework of community participation as empowerment. The research calls attention to the need for policy-makers to address the underlying causes of poverty to bring about significant change in the conditions of underdevelopment in communities.

Research Assistant: Community Indicators for Greater Manchester, New Hampshire, Chapter 4. Health, pp. 55-78. (2006). Published by the Applied Research Center, School of Community Economic Development, Southern New Hampshire University. The Community Indicators Project was part of an applied research and planning program by the Heritage United Way of New Hampshire in partnership with Southern New Hampshire University. The initial phase provided an overview of some of the major health-related issues in the City of Manchester compared to the State of New Hampshire using state and local data sources.

Research Assistant: Literature Review on the domain of Neighborhood Restoration for the U.S. Department of Justice's Weed and Seed Best Practices Study. A project by the Applied Research Center, School of Community Economic Development, Southern New Hampshire University. The literature review examined the underlying program concepts related to community-building and capacity in the Weed and Seed program and similar programs.

Other research:

"The Phenomenon of Gentrification: Can Social Capital Help Build Community?" (2005). Paper examined the role of social capital in community-building and explored the issue of whether it can help stem the negative consequences of gentrification.

Other research experience includes preparing and drafting legal briefs, opinions, and memoranda. Some work experience included the preparation of reports and informational literature.

**Deborah A. Jackson
Curriculum Vitae**

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Board Member, Georgia Municipal Association (GMA)
Member, GMA Federal Policy Council
Past President, DeKalb Municipal Association
Member, ANDP Advisory Council
Member, Atlanta Regional Commission Community Resources Committee
Registered Neutral for General Mediation and Arbitration, Georgia Supreme Court
President, CrossRoadsNews Foundation, Inc.
President, DeKalb Lawyers Association Community and Education Fund, Inc.
Board Member, Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance, Inc.
Past President, DeKalb Lawyers Association

BAR ADMISSIONS (Active): Georgia, New York and New Jersey

FOREIGN LANGUAGES: Spanish