

# CYNTHIA WARD

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## EDUCATION

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VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Villanova, Pennsylvania, **J.D.**, 1994

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, New Brunswick, New Jersey, **B.A., Economics and Political Science**, 1991

## LICENSURE/ADMISSION TO PRACTICE

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*Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Michigan Bars*  
*United States District Court for the District of New Jersey*  
*Supreme Court of the United States*

## EXPERIENCE

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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES- State Administrative Manager

**COMPLIANCE OFFICE- Privacy and Compliance Manager**, January 2017 to present

Responsible for ensuring the department's compliance with federal and state privacy and non-discrimination laws in the delivery of program and services. Directly managing three reports.

**OFFICE OF RECIPIENT RIGHTS- Director of Community and Field Operations**, March 2015 to January 2017

Responsible for directing and supervising the field and community operations assuring rights protection and advocacy services were being provided to individuals admitted to state psychiatric hospitals; monitored the quality and effectiveness of the rights protection system statewide in Community Mental Health Service Programs and Licensed Private Psychiatric Hospitals and Units. Second level manager to 10 positions and directly managed five reports.

THOMAS M. COOLEY LAW SCHOOL, Lansing, Michigan

**Assistant Dean of Students**, 2007- 2014

**Assistant Professor to Full Professor**, 2002-2014

**Distinguished Professor Emerita**, conferred 2014

Served as supervising faculty in the Sixty Plus Elderlaw Clinic. Oversaw students' law practice pursuant to Michigan Court Rule 8.120 in District Court, Probate Court, Circuit Court, including Family Division in Ingham, Clinton and Eaton counties. Attorney of record in all court cases under supervision. Enforced student conduct codes, including honor code and disciplinary procedures. Developed and implemented professionalism programs, including character development and student wellness programs. Supervised four campus assistant deans in handling all student conduct matters. Served as Acting Associate Dean of Students and Professionalism (and Acting Title IX Coordinator) during extended absence of incumbent Associate Dean of Students and Professionalism, and participated on law school's leadership team. Researched and taught in the areas of diversity and cultural competency. Supervised law students in clinical skills development through pro bono participation in homeless assistance and prevention project. Served as chair of faculty pro bono resource committee.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, WOMEN AND AIDS CLINIC, Newark, New Jersey  
**Associate Clinical Professor of Law and Program Director, 1998-2002**

Provided civil legal services to women and children affected by HIV and AIDS. Taught weekly clinic seminar on civil rights and other substantive legal issues affecting people living with HIV. Supervised second- and third-year law students in representation of persons living with AIDS. Conducted and coordinated outreach and education seminars on legal issues affecting persons living with HIV and AIDS. Managed all administrative, staff, and fundraising duties. Raised over \$350,000 in foundation grants, maintained maximum student enrollment every semester, and generated supplemental funds for clinic from attorney fee awards.

NEW JERSEY PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY, INC., Trenton, New Jersey  
**Staff Attorney, 1995-1998**

Managed case load of disability civil rights litigation for 11-attorney public interest non-profit organization. Handled litigation in areas of employment, fair housing, transportation, post-secondary education, land use, and places of public accommodation. Litigation experience in state and federal courts, including motions and settlement conferences. Handled all aspects of appellate practice. Substantial experience in administrative proceedings. Negotiated with high level staff of state and private agencies on a variety of issues affecting people with disabilities. Lead counsel on multiple matters at any given time, co-counsel on others. Won substantial attorney fee award for organization.

Precedent Setting Published Case:

*Hunter v. Trenton Housing Authority*, 304 N.J. Super. 70 (App. Div. 1997) (holding “good faith” is not a defense to an award of attorney’s fees to prevailing plaintiff).

**AWARDS, HONORS, AND RECOGNITION**

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Featured cover story in Lansing State Journal, August 20, 2015  
Mock Trial Board - Appreciation Award, Trinity Term, 2013  
Black Law Students Association, Leadership Award, October 2012  
Thomas M. Cooley Health Law Society, Certificate of Appreciation, March 2011  
Downtown Lansing YMCA Wellness Center, “Volunteers of the Year,” 2006 *\*with husband, Greg Ward*  
Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, 2008-current  
Lansing Area AIDS Network, Volunteer Service Award, April 2004  
Mentioned in Ford Foundation Report for Advocacy Work, “Pregnant and Punished,” Winter 2003  
Recognized in Marie Claire for Advocacy Work, “Pregnant Women Sent to Prison,” January 2003  
Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey “Rising Star” Award, 2002  
Soroptimist International of Suburban Essex “Women Helping Women” Award, 2002  
Featured in New Jersey Lawyer, “AIDS Legal Clinic: An Emotional Challenge,” March 11, 2002  
Featured in The Star-Ledger, “For Women with HIV, She’s Their Legal Lifeline,” December 1, 2001  
National AIDS Fund Community Advocates Scholarship Award, 2001

**PUBLICATIONS**

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**Articles**

*Some Hard Aspects About Teaching in a Soft Money Clinic*, 11 The Thomas M. Cooley Journal of Practical and Clinical Law 389 (2009).

*Expanding Students’ Views of the Dilemmas of Womanhood and Motherhood Through Individual Client*

*Representation*, 46 *Howard Law Journal* 269 (2003).

### **Shorter Works**

*The Role of Law Schools in Shaping Culturally Competent Lawyers*, *Michigan Bar Journal* (January 2010) (with Nelson Miller).

*Personal Perspective: Building Confidence as You Practice Law in a New Jurisdiction*. *Ingham County Bar Briefs* (February 2005).

*The Black Church: An Essential Partner in the Fight to Prevent the Spread of HIV and AIDS*, *New Jersey Women and AIDS Network News* (Spring/Summer 2000).

*Treat or Not Treat My Child: A Mother's Decision?*, *New Jersey Women and AIDS Network News* (Summer 1999).

### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

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Recipient Rights Conference, "Decision 2016: Rights of Voters with Mental Disabilities" (September 2016) (with Chris Swope)

Recipient Rights Officers Association of Michigan, "Implicit Bias and Recipient Rights" (August 2015)

Davis-Dunnings Bar Association, "Utility Shut-Off Protection" (October 2013 and November 2014).

Association of American Law Schools Section on Student Services (January 2013), "The Value of Cross Cultural Programming in the Global Legal Market" (Panelist).

Stages of the Law, "Personal Ethics and the Role of Lawyers and Counselors in Modern Society" (March 2008).

Keynote Address, Phi Delta Phi's Annual Celebration, "Integrity: The Cornerstone to Life and Law" (October 2007).

New York Clinical Theory Workshop, Presentation of Paper in Progress, "Teaching in a Grant-Funded Clinic" (April 2006).

Lansing Area AIDS Network, National Black HIV Awareness and Information Day Program (February 2004), "Legal Issues Affecting African-Americans with HIV".

17th Annual Midwest Clinical Conference (March 2003), "The Challenges of Doing Transformative Work" (Panelist).

Mid-Atlantic Clinical Theory Workshop, Presentation of Paper in Progress, "Expanding Students' Views of the Dilemmas of Womanhood and Motherhood Through Individual Representation in the Women and AIDS Clinic" (March 2002).

National Advocates for Pregnant Women's Maternal-State Conflicts Conference (January 2002). "Women as Bystanders to Their Own Bodies" (Panelist).

Association of American Law Schools Workshop on Clinical Legal Education (May 2001), Presentation of Paper Works in Progress, "Rethinking Contemporary Maternal Dilemmas."

New York University Law School's Lawyering Program and the HIV Law Project (May 2001), "When Mothers and Doctors Disagree: Creating a Legal Standard for Resolving Treatment Disputes Involving Children and HIV" (co-presenter).

New Jersey Women and AIDS Network Sister Connect Workshop (January 2000), "HIV and Legal Issues."

New Jersey Women and AIDS Network 11th Annual Symposium (November 1999), "Criminalization of HIV."

New Jersey Women and AIDS Network Peer Treatment Workshop (April 1999), "HIV and Legal Issues."

Hyacinth AIDS Foundation's Legal Information Workshop (December 1998), "New Jersey's Standby Guardianship Law."