

BENJAMIN RIGNEY, PhD, JD

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540-797-6794

EDUCATION:

University of Richmond School of Law

Juris Doctor, cum laude

University of Richmond Law Review: Staff Member (2020-21); Associate Online Editor (2021-22)

Richmond, VA

May 2022

Carolina University

Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership Studies, with high distinction

Dissertation: "Leadership Development Practices of Intercollegiate Athletic Coaches at Christian Universities"

Winston-Salem, NC

June 2017

Liberty University

Master of Arts in Theological Studies

Lynchburg, VA

September 2011

Carolina University

Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies

Winston-Salem, NC

May 2010

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS:

- Benjamin Rigney, *Restoring the Public's Trust: Character Education and the Supreme Court* 14 ST. MARY'S L. J. ON LEGAL MALPRACTICE AND ETHICS 102 (2024).
- Benjamin Rigney, *Defining "Leadership" for Lawyers and Law Students*, TENN. J.L. & POL'Y (forthcoming 2025).
- Benjamin Rigney & Janice Craft, *The Large Impact of Small Groups: Using a Cohort Model of Leadership Development for Law Students*, 74 J. OF L. ED. (forthcoming 2025).
- "Consulting" Children in Permanency Hearings: Navigating the Ambiguity of VA Code Ann. § 16.1-282.1(C) (in progress).

ACADEMIC AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

The Program for Leadership & Character at Wake Forest University School of Law

Winston-Salem, NC

Associate Director for Leadership and Character in the Law School

January 2023 - Present

- Directed the *Leadership & Character Law Scholars Cohort*.
- Created and presented monthly leadership development workshops for the Wake Forest Law community.
- Delivered lectures on the topic of leadership theory and effective leadership practices for lawyers.
- Taught continuing legal education (CLE) ethics workshops.
- Designed and organized two national conferences including the "Clerkship College" with the *Legal Writing Institute* (Fall 2024) and the "Leadership and Character in the Law Conference" with the *AALS Section on Leadership* (Spring 2025).

Wake Forest University School of Law

Winston-Salem, NC

Part-Time Teaching Professor

August 2024 - Present

- Taught a 3-credit "Professional Responsibility" course including coverage of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct with elements of professional identity formation.

University of Richmond School of Law**Richmond, VA***Adjunct Faculty*

August 2022 - May 2024

- Taught the course “Lawyers as Leaders” alongside Professor Janice Craft.
- Lectured on the topic of leadership theory in the context of legal practice including the topics of transformational leadership, emotional intelligence, and ethical leadership.

University of Richmond School of Law**Richmond, VA***Teaching Assistant for Professor Janice Craft*

December 2021 - May 2022

- Co-created and co-taught the upper level elective course “Lawyers as Leaders” with Professor Craft.

University of Richmond School of Law**Richmond, VA***Teaching Assistant for Professor Josh Kubicki*

February 2022

- Assisted in the facilitation of the *Lean Six Sigma* “Legal Project Management” intensive course at the University of Richmond School of Law.

University of Richmond School of Law**Richmond, VA***Research Assistant for Professor Janice Craft*

August 2021 - December 2021

- Aided in the creation of a leadership development course at the University of Richmond School of Law through researching similar courses, analyzing course texts, and compiling materials on leadership development for law students.

University of Richmond School of Law**Richmond, VA***Research Assistant for Dean Alison Tait*

May 2021 - October 2021

- Researched case law, statutes, municipal codes, websites, books, and law review articles regarding the varied definitions of “families” in U.S. Law.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**Halperin Law Center****Glenn Allen, VA***Summer Law Clerk*

May 2021 - August 2021

- Conducted legal research and provided legal analysis for CLE courses and pending federal lawsuits.
- Wrote legal briefs and motions, conducted jury investigations, performed extensive discovery for federal civil cases, and reviewed attorneys’ motions before submission.

Roanoke City Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court**Roanoke, VA***Summer Intern for Judge Frank W. Rogers, III.*

May 2020 - August 2020

- Conducted research, wrote judicial orders and opinions, performed legal analysis, and wrote statutory analysis.
- Wrote and taught presentations on legal theory and its proper application in JDR Courts.

Freelance*Public Speaking and Teaching*

December 2006 – August 2019

- Developed and presented content at universities, high schools, churches, and camps.

Riverside Church**Buchanan, VA***Lead Pastor*

December 2014 - December 2016

- Created and delivered over forty-eight expository sermons annually.
- Oversaw revitalization efforts and led significant organizational change.
- Trained volunteers to effectively lead different church ministries and oversaw all church business.

South Roanoke United Methodist Church**Roanoke, VA***Director of Christian Education*

August 2013 - November 2014

- Identified and trained leaders for the educational programs.
 - Facilitated classes, developed educational programming, and maintained the departmental budget.
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BAR ADMISSIONS:

Commonwealth of Virginia (2022-Present)

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP:**Solomon's Mission****Buchanan, VA***Board of Directors*

December 2013 - August 2019

Carolina University**Winston-Salem, NC***Board of Trustees*

February 2024 - Present

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- *Primary:* Leadership; ethics; professional responsibility; professional identity formation.
- *Secondary:* Alternative dispute resolution; business of law; family law; contract law.

COURSES TAUGHT:

- Professional Responsibility (Wake Forest University School of Law) (2024-2026)
- Lawyers as Leaders (University of Richmond School of Law) (2022-2024)

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS:

- *Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting*, "Leadership Development to Equip Lawyers for Success, Service, & Significance" (Discussion Group, July 2025)
- *Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting*, "Demonstration of Professional Identity Formation Exercises" (Panel, July 2025)
- *American Association for American Law Schools Annual Meeting*, "Developing Courageous Leaders: Trailblazing and Diverse Approaches to Leadership Education for Law Students" (Discussion Group, January 2025)
- *University of Tennessee School of Law Institute for Professional Leadership Symposium*, "Defining 'Leadership' for Lawyers and Law Students" (October 2024)
- *Washington & Lee University Philosophy Department Lecture Series*, "Virtue and Leadership" (February 2024)
- *St. Mary's University Law School Journal for Legal Malpractice and Ethics Symposium*, "Character Education and the Supreme Court" (January 2024)

OTHER PRESENTATIONS:

- *Program for Leadership & Character Course Development Workshop*, "Exploring the Relationship Between Leadership Education and Character Education in Higher Education" (July 2025)
- *National Association of Law Student Affairs Professionals*, "Character-Based Leadership Development for Law Students" (June 2025)
- *Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership at the University of St. Thomas School of Law's Advanced Professional Identity Formation Workshop*, "New Orientation Content Focused on Character-based PIF" (March 2025)

- *Program for Leadership & Character Course Development Workshop*, “Virtuous Leaders” (July 2024)
- *McLane Middleton Attorney Retreat* “Flourishing in the Practice of Law” (June 2024)
- *National Association Law of Student Affairs Professionals Annual Meeting*, “Skill Based Leadership Development for Law Students” (June 2024)
- *Kilpatrick Townsend Ethics, Substance Abuse, and Technology CLE* “Ethical Use of AI in Lawyering” (February 2024)
- *Program for Leadership & Character Course Development Workshop*, “Virtuous Leadership” (July 2023)
- *International Law and Technology Association Conference*, “Lean Six Sigma: A Tasting” (August 2022)