**PETRONILLA RUTH SYLVESTER**

**EDUCATION**

2021 Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic - Master of Laws in Experiential Learning and Teaching (LL.M)

1997 Hugh Wooding Law School, St. Augustine, Trinidad - Legal Education Certificate (L.E.C.)

1995 University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados - Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL.B.)

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Missouri Western State University, Saint Joseph, Missouri

Assistant Professor – August 2021 to present

Teaching: Advanced Legal Research (LAT 400)

Civil Rights Law (LAT 420)

Interpersonal Conflict Resolution (LAT 335)

Legal Research (LAT 220)

Adjunct Professor – Fall 2020, Spring 2021

Teaching: Interpersonal Conflict Resolution (LAT 335)

**Council of Legal Education - Legal Aid Clinic, Hugh Wooding Law School, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago**

**Attorney at Law/Tutor - September 2012 to July 2021**

* Supervised, monitored, guided and instructed students in the practical aspects of their legal training employing various aspects of educational pedagogy including teaching and learning methodologies in classroom and online sessions; employed a variety of assessment and evaluation techniques; instructed and guided students in areas including but not limited to family law, contract law, employment law, land law and probate and assisted students in the development of the core legal skills of advocacy, interviewing, negotiation, legal research and drafting of opinions and legal instruments and an appreciation for social justice;
* Supervised and provided feedback to students in the conduct of client matters;
* Prepared and delivered material in both the practical and theoretical courses offered at the Law School;
* Revised and updated the clinical handbooks and lesson plans for the clinical program at the Legal Aid Clinic with a view to taking certain aspects of the clinic online;
* Assisted in the preparation of students to participate in regional and international competitions and conferences (mooting and interviewing).

**Cipriani College of Labour and Co-Operative Studies, Trinidad and Tobago**

Part-Time Lecturer - 2000-2001

Teaching: Law 101

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

**Legal Division - Ministry of Justice, Trinidad and Tobago**

Assistant Director – May 2011 to July 2012

Developed policies

* Parole - Introduction of a system of Parole to Trinidad and Tobago including the establishment of a Parole Board - The Administration of Justice (Parole) Bill, 2012.
* Offender Management - The establishment of an Offender Management Framework that would be the overarching mode through which transformation of the Criminal Justice System may be effected including the establishment of a framework for an Offender Management Unit to oversee the implementation and maintenance of offender management initiatives – The Administration of Justice (Offender Management) Bill, 2012.
* Police Complaints - Revision of aspects of the operational framework of the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) created by the Police Complaints Authority Act Chapter 15:05 Police Complaints Authority – The Police Complaints Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2012.
* Sexual Offences – Proffered comprehensive and contemporary recommendations on the way to retool, restructure and upgrade the Criminal Justice System of Trinidad and Tobago to address gaps and regressive practices that have stultified the efficacy of sexual offences legislation – including the introduction of a National Sex Offender Registry – The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2012.
* Legal Aid and Advice - Introduction of a Duty Counsel Scheme (provides legal counsel at the time of detention to all juveniles and persons convicted of certain indictable offences), expansion of the categories of persons who can access legal aid and advice, and increase in the quantum of fees payable to attorneys-at-law on legal aid panels - the Legal Aid and Advice (Amendment) Bill, 2011.
* Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) – Provides for the collection and preservation of DNA samples for analysis and the generation of DNA profiles to be uploaded into a DNA Databank that will be used as a major crime fighting tool – The Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Bill, 2011.
* Electronic Monitoring – To provide for electronic monitoring to be utilized to monitor offenders and to establish a framework for an electronic monitoring unit to oversee the implementation and maintenance of an electronic monitoring system in Trinidad and Tobago – The Administration of Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Bill, 2011.

Developed Draft Legislation

* The Legal Aid and Advice (Amendment) Bill, 2011
* The Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Bill, 2011
* The Administration of Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Bill, 2011
* The Police Complaints Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2012

Established and Chaired Committees

* DNA Implementation Committee and Sub-Committee
* Legal Aid and Advice Stakeholder Committee

Other

* Prepared contracts of employment, sponsorship agreements, service provider agreements;
* Conducted research and jurisdictional studies;
* Provided legal advice to and prepared legal opinions for the Legal Aid and Advisory Authority, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre, the Penal Reform and Transformation Unit, the Police Complaints Authority, the Minister of Justice, Permanent Secretary and other Divisions of the Ministry of Justice.
* Supervised a staff of fourteen (14) attorneys, two (2) researchers and two (2) business administration personnel; assisted with managing, planning, directing and coordinating the activities of the Legal Division.

**De Novo Legal, New York, NY**

Contract Attorney - July 2005 - January 2011

Reviewed and analyzed corporate documents in connection with SEC investigations relating to the insurance industry and civil suits against investment banks relating to IPO pricing irregularities. Reviewed and analyzed corporate documents in connection with anti-trust litigation and Department of Justice investigations of claims from the sale, promotion and marketing of pharmaceuticals and from the operations of the credit card industry. Represented a major financial institution in a class action law suit; assisted with the management of pre-trial activities which included the review of documents for production to opposing counsel, preparing for the conduct of depositions, identifying and analyzing issues relevant to the defense of claims of securities fraud and providing litigation technology support, training and management.

**Legal Unit - Atlantic LNG Company of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago**

Legal Officer - July 2001 - December 2004

Worked closely with all business units in the negotiation and drafting of business contracts in accordance with company policies and provided a full range of legal support to all such business units within the organization; provided legal advice on gas supply, LNG sales contracts and a variety of other contracts including joint use and operating agreements; performed Corporate Secretarial duties to the Board of Directors; analyzed documents, performed research and prepared legal opinions; developed and managed the environmental law portfolio which included the company's environmental certification and compliance program; developed and maintained an environmental index in accordance with the company’s environmental management system, conducted environmental audits, acquired environmental and other permits, licenses and certification for the construction and operation of Trains I – IV of the natural gas liquefaction facility, liaised with government and other agencies regarding same; developed and provided advice on corporate policies and assisted in the development of corporate governance guidelines; monitored laws and regulations and provided recommendations and implemented procedures and conducted training exercises to insure compliance; devised and managed early processes and procedures associated with the creation of a Buffer Zone and the relocation of 200+ residents; negotiated and drafted sales agreements and conveyances and assisted outside counsel in trial preparation.

**Legal Unit - Ministry of Food Production and Marine Resources, Trinidad and Tobago**

Legal OfficerII -October 2000 - June 2001

Conducted research; prepared legal opinions; drafted and provided advice on legal and legislative issues pertaining to maritime operations, pest management and food security.

**Watt & Associates, Antigua and Barbuda**

Associate Attorney - January 1999 – January 2000

Conducted research, drafted pleadings and appeared in Magistrate’s Court, High Court and Court of Appeal on civil, criminal and family matters; advised clients and prepared opinions for Senior Counsel; participated in negotiations and settlements.

**Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, Ministry of the Attorney General, Trinidad and Tobago**

Legal Officer I - September 1997 - January 1999

Prepared draft legislation including the Freedom of Information Act, Environmental Management Act as well as amendments to the Food and Drug Act and the Petroleum Act, subsidiary legislation such as the Certificate of Environmental Clearance Rules and Road Traffic Orders; interpreted legislation; conducted research and prepared legal opinions and speeches for use by the Attorney General.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSESS**

* **Jun 2020**

**University of the West Indies, Open Campus, Trinidad**

Online Teaching Workshop (Synchronous Online delivery & Online

Facilitation)

* **May 2020**

**The Open University Business and Law Schools, UK**

Taking Clinical Legal Education Online

* **Sept 2019**

**Hugh Wooding Law School, Trinidad**

Workshop - Conducting Effective Seminars

* **Oct & Nov 2018**

**Living Waters Community – Ministry of Asylum Seekers and Refugees, Trinidad**

Humanitarian Protection and Shelter Response in Humanitarian Action

* **Jan 2017**

**National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), Trinidad**

Advanced Criminal Trial Advocacy Program for the Caribbean Countries

* **Jun 2016**

**Epiphany Consultancy Services, Trinidad**

Child Rights, Child Development and Neglect

* **Jun 2014**

**Association of American Law Schools, Washington, D.C., USA**

Workshop for New Law School Teachers and Workshop for Pre-Tenured People of Color Law Teachers

* **Jan 2013**

**Hugh Wooding Law School, Trinidad**

Workshop – Seminar Teaching Method

* **Nov 2011**

**The Dispute Resolution Centre, Trinidad**

Practical Mediation Skills

* **Sept 2011**

**Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies, Valsayn, Trinidad**

Course Development and Professionalism Workshop

* **Jul 2011**

**National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice Conference & Training Institute, St. Louis, Missouri, USA**

Criminal Justice Administration

* **Jul – Aug 2002**

**International Law Institute & The George Washington University Law School - Washington D.C., USA**

US Orientation Program for International Lawyers and Law Students

**PUBLICATIONS, PAPERS, AND CONFERENCES**

* Sylvester, C.; Moreno, C.; Pelacani, G. (2021) ‘Developing a Regional Service for Asylum Seekers’ Richard Grimes, Věra Honuskova, Ulric Stege. *Teaching Migration and Asylum Law: Theory and Practice*, Routledge, 92.
* **Conference on Applied Learning in Higher Education (2022)**

Presented a paper entitled, “The critical role that self-awareness, supervision, and reflection play in education.”

* **GAJE/IJCLE/ACCLE Worldwide Online Conference (2021)**

Presented papers entitled:

* Access to Justice in Trinidad and Tobago: A Hybrid Approach, Petronilla Ruth Sylvester, and Gail Persad, and
* Bridging the Roles of Practitioner and Clinician: Reflections on the process, Jo Milne, Rebecca Samaras, Petronilla Sylvester.
* **Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia (2019)**

Presented a paper entitled, The Experimental Experiential Exercise: An Interactive Seminar.

* **Cambridge University, Kaleidoscope Graduate Student Research Conference (2018)**

Attended and participated.

* **The Second Asian Conference on Education & International Development (ACEID2016)**

Presented a paper entitled, Fostering Social Justice Orientation Through Clinical Legal Education in the Caribbean – Stakeholder Considerations.

* **National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, USA (2011)**

Attended and participated.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

* Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) (since 2022)
* Global Alliance for Justice Education (GAJE) (since 2018)
* New York State Bar Association (since 2001)
* Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (since 1997)

**SERVICE**

* Board Member, Family Guidance Center, St. Joseph, Missouri.
* Support, promote and participate in community legal aid initiatives;
* **SASANE, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal - Jan 2019**

Volunteer

Working with SASANE (an organization that trains former human trafficking victims to become paralegals), to strengthen the paralegal course curriculum by introducing practical legal skills training to students, providing training and mentoring support to course facilitators and developing student and facilitator handbooks.

* **Living Waters Community, Ministry of Migrants and Refugees, Trinidad and Tobago - October 2018 to Present**

Volunteer

Providing legal support in relation to issues affecting Venezuelan nationals seeking asylum in Trinidad and Tobago and assisting in the design and setting up of a Refugee Law Clinic for meeting the educational requirements of law students and the legal service needs of clients.

* **BABSEACLE, Myanmar - May 2018 to December 2018**

Volunteer International Clinician in Residence (ICIR)

Working with BABSEACLE and Myanmar University Law Departments to strengthen and sustain newly implemented clinical legal education (CLE) programs by providing mentoring support to professors and students, including reviewing lesson plans, observing execution of the lesson plans, the conduct of sessions with students; reviewed the CLE curriculum for the 2018/2019 academic year. Contributed to the development of student handbook containing syllabuses and lesson plans.

* **Trinidad and Tobago Prison Debate Competition, Youth Training and Rehabilitation Centre, Trinidad and Tobago- July 2018**

Judge

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND RESEARCH INTERESTS**

To draw upon insights gained as an attorney at law and clinical instructor and to apply my abilities, education and experience productively in the academic and legal community, specifically through contributions to the body of literature pertaining to experiential learning and clinical legal education. I am currently exploring generally, the theoretical framework underpinning experiential learning and teaching and more particularly, the design and establishment of sustainable specialist law clinics. I am also interested in the role that self-awareness, intercultural awareness, intercultural communication and regular written reflective practice play in teaching and learning. I also intend to explore the importance of utilizing experiential learning methodology and/or the inclusion of clinical components in an undergraduate context. I have contributed to a textbook and to a number of articles on these areas of interest which will be published in 2022.