

Crystal O Dowdell

Department: **Criminal Justice and Legal Studies**

School: College of Business and Professional Studies

Date of Appointment:

Date of Rank:

Years of Service:



Employment

2024 - Present	Instructor and Program Director , Criminal Justice Legal Studies, Missouri Western State University, Saint Joseph, Missouri.
2022 - 2024	Adjunct Instructor , Criminal Justice Legal Studies, Missouri Western State University, Saint Joseph, Missouri.
2010 - 2024	Senior Paralegal and Office Manager , Briles Law Office, Saint Joseph, Missouri.
2000 - 2010	Legal Assistant , Paralegal , Barnes, Briles McBride, Saint Joseph, Missouri.
1992 - 2000	Legal Assistant , Dale Flynn Barnes McBride Findley and Briles, Saint Joseph, Missouri.

Degrees

MSW In Progress - Anticipated Graduation May 2026

BS *cum Laude*, Criminal Justice Legal Studies (Legal Studies), Missouri Western State University, 2020

IP Master of Social Work, Missouri Western State University, 2025

Certificates & Licensure

PreLaw Advisor, Certified PreLaw Advisor, Law School Admissions Council , 08/31/2025 (Law)
Training, Certificate of Training, Missouri Network Against Abuse , 09/07/2025 –12/31/2027 (Social Work)
Paralegal, Certificate of Paralegal Studies, Missouri Western State University , 12/12/2020 (Legal Studies)
Legal Research, Thomson Reuters Westlaw , 11/12/2020 (Paralegal Studies)
Legal Research and Writing, National Association of Legal Assistants , 12/01/2024 (Paralegal Studies)

Honors

2025 Faculty Compass Award - Alpha Chi National College Honor Society

Presentations

Conferences

- Crystal O. Dowdell, “*American Association for Paralegal Educators.*” Presentation to the Spring 2025 Conference, Virtual on March 19, 2025.
- Crystal O. Dowdell, “*Maximizing Applied Learning on a Budget: Innovative Strategies for Engaging Legal Studies Students.*” Poster presented at the Conference on Applied Learning in Higher Education, Missouri Western State University on March 6, 2025.

Grants

- Crystal O. Dowdell, *Law School Admissions Council Law Forum*, LSAC: \$7,500 (2025).

Service

Committee Service

- *Committee Member.* Strategic Planning Committee January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2030.
- *Committee Member University 101 Taskforce.* February 13, 2025 - April 17, 2025.

Professional Service

- *Facilitator. Life Recovery Group* January 19, 2025 - Present.
- *Healing Stream Spiritual Wellness - The River Church of St. Joseph.* September 1, 2023 - Present.
- *Homeless and Community Outreach.* Weekly community outreach to the homeless of St. Joseph by taking food and hot coffee and cocoa as well as gloves, and other necessities to help those that are living on the streets of our city November 4, 2025 - January 23, 2025.

Community Service

- *Board Member - Samaritan Counseling.* Board Member of Samaritan Counseling November 1, 2024 - Present.
- *Secretary of Board - South Park Christian Academy.* August 28, 2020 - Present.

Professional Development

Scholarship

- *Midwest Association of Pre-Law Advisors 2025 Conference, Cincinnati Ohio* (October 9, 2025 - October 11, 2025).
- *Law School Admissions Council Law Forum, Chicago IL* (October 3, 2025 - October 4, 2025).

Teaching

- *Midwest Association of Pre-Law Advisors 2025 Conference, Cincinnati Ohio* (October 9, 2025 - October 11, 2025).
- *Law School Admissions Council Law Forum, Chicago IL* (October 3, 2025 - October 4, 2025).
- *CALHE Conference on Applied Learning in Higher Education 2025, Saint Joseph Missouri* (March 6, 2025 - March 7, 2025).
- *Legal Research & Writing, online* (December 3, 2024).
- *ACE's & Mental Health Summit, St Joseph Missouri* (November 15, 2024).
- *American Association for Paralegal Educators, Washington D.C.* (October 23, 2024 - October 26, 2024).
- *Empowering Employees to Be Leaders, Saint Joseph, Missouri* (October 11, 2024).
- *ABA Standing Committee on Paralegals & Approval Commission Discussion Hour, Virtual* (August 28, 2024).

General

- *Midwest Association of Pre-Law Advisors 2025 Conference, Cincinnati Ohio* (October 9, 2025 - October 11, 2025).
- *Law School Admissions Council Law Forum, Chicago, IL* (October 3, 2025 - October 4, 2025).
- *Legal Research and Writing, online* (December 3, 2024).
- *ACE's & Mental Health Summit, St. Joseph Missouri* (November 15, 2024).
- *American Association for Paralegal Educators, Washington D.C.* (October 23, 2024 - October 26, 2024).
- *Empowering Employees to Be Leaders, Saint Joseph Missouri* (October 11, 2024).
- *ABA Standing Committee on Paralegals & Approval Commission Discussion Hour, Virtual* (August 28, 2024).