

## VITAE

### BRIDGETT E. ORTEGA, M.A., J.D.

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## EDUCATION

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- **Doctorate in Organizational Management and Leadership.** University of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ, 2007-Present; *Dissertation:* "Compassionate Jurisprudence as Praxis for Justice" April, 2018.
- **Masters of Arts in Organizational Management,** University of Phoenix, School of Business, Phoenix, AZ,
- **Juris Doctorate,** Lincoln University Law School, San Jose, CA,
- **Bachelor of Arts, Political Science & Communications Science,** San Jose State University, San Jose, CA,

## Core Skills and Competencies

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- Over 30 years of experience training organizations, drug court teams, police departments, criminal and juvenile justice practitioners, health and human service practitioners and the private sector in Cultural Competence, Cultural Humility, Equity and Inclusion. Extensively with Juvenile Drug Courts and Juvenile Justice Practitioners.
- Background in systems change management combined with creative vision assists organizations to shift organization culture and integrate diversity, equity and inclusion into daily practices.
- Project management expertise with demonstrated ability to guide change management include coaching department heads, managers, judges, and leaders to lead culture change initiatives.
- Experience also includes designing and conducting intensive cultural competency programs for policy makers and practitioners with the goal of institutionalizing equity and inclusion into organizational policies, practices and procedures.
- Experienced at managing and interacting with diverse staff and students from a variety of backgrounds, generations, race, disability, sexual preference, economics, language and nationality.
- Skilled in using activities designed for maximum interaction to engage students and training audiences from a wide range of cultural backgrounds.
- Sr. executive, academic, trainer and researcher accomplished at directing and managing administrative and operational activities in higher education and juvenile and criminal justice organizations.
- Research, design and present seminars and workshops on cultural competency and work diversity issues.
- Advisor for the Reducing Ethnic Disparities (RED) project advisory committee for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.
- 15 years on the board of the National Juvenile Defender Center ensuring that equity and inclusion cut across all aspects of the work and that the cultural and gender specific considerations be taken into account when dealing with young clients.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### *Assistant Dean of Experiential Learning* May 2011- Present

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School

1422 W. Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30228

- Department Head for the Office of Experiential Learning Externship and Clinical programs.
- Deliver experiential learning orientation to a diverse audience of students.
- Develop and Teach D-665 Learning from Practice course which includes modules on Cultural Competency, Equity and Inclusion and Navigating Cultural Difference.
- Conduct Externship site visits pursuant to ABA requirements.
- Develop new placements for student experiential learning across diverse fields of practice from poverty law and public interest law to corporate law.

- Manage the Department Budget
- Programmatic and Financial management of department programs including, Street Law, Re-entry Forum, Youth and the Law Summit.
- Manage and supervise department and student staff in the Office of Experiential Learning.
- Develop and implement program substantive and formative assessment processes.
- Maintain data and records required for monthly and annual reports as well as ABA audits.

***Founder & CEO, 2005-Present***

Building Better Bridges Consulting

- Strategically build and sustain critical community relationships through public outreach, education, conflict resolution and the delivery of information to improve outcomes for previously incarcerated people and their children.
- Conduct trainings and webinars for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, NADCP, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Justice Programs Office at American University
- Research and write articles on issues specific to collaborative practice in adult and juvenile courts.
- Develop curricula, project management of several local government programs, analyzed statistics, implemented process improvement plans and designed policies and procedures.

***Online Professor/Facilitator 2005 - 2018***

University of Phoenix Online

- Facilitation of the following courses: GEN105: Skills for Learning in an Info Age, US101: Introduction to University Studies, GEN201 Critical Thinking, Business Management Courses and Criminal and Juvenile Justice Courses.

***Adjunct Professor & Research Associate, 2004-2005***

Portland State University, Criminal Justice Policy Research Institute

- Proactively supported newly formed institute, playing a key role in assisting with all aspects of daily operations.
- Developed and delivered curriculum, managed advocacy programs for a statewide collaborative Children of Incarcerated Parents effort in association with the Children's Justice Alliance.
- Taught Race, Racism and the Law and Poverty and the Law Courses.

***Deputy Director, 2000-2004***

Portland State University, Reclaiming Futures

- Oversaw "Reclaiming Futures: Building Community Solutions to Substance Abuse and Delinquency," a \$21 million national juvenile justice initiative.
- Managed grantees for 11 sites throughout the country including management of program objectives and budgets.
- Supervised administrative staff.
- Assisted with preparation of the budget and budget reconciliation.
- Prepared and managed budget for annual meeting. Negotiated with hotels and venues for annual meeting.

***Attorney IV, 1989-2000***

Office of the Public Defender Santa Clara County

- Assisted in the preparation office budget and defended budget before the County Board of Supervisors.
- Monitored document processing.
- Responsible for human and resource management of the department.

- As Supervisor of the Juvenile Delinquency Unit for five years, developed the model for Juvenile Substance Abuse Treatment Court which went into effect in 1996, one of the first in the country.
- Led, trained and mentored new attorneys, playing an instrumental role in the development of top performing team members.
- Conducted comprehensive research and analysis of cases and criminal law; conducted preliminary examinations, wrote and litigated motions, and processed an appellate matter.

***Contract Administrator***, 1980-1987

FMC Corporation and ROLM Mil-Spec Computers  
San Jose, California

- EEOC Compliance for the organization.
- Oversaw the proposal planning, budget preparation, negotiation and administration of contracts for high tech computer equipment and armored personnel carriers for the Federal Government.
- Prepared contract briefs and revisions summarizing contractual requirements and budgets.
- Tracked authorizations and correspondence.
- Prepared contract change notices, monitored contractor performance, including the reporting and status of contractor and owner deliverables.
- Maintained an audit file for each contract which included original contract, all correspondence, changes/deviations, amendments, clarifications, payment schedules.
- Ensured that contractor was in compliance with legal requirements, owner specifications and government regulations.

**PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

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- Ortega, B. E. (2018). *Compassionate jurisprudence as praxis for justice: A qualitative dialogic inquiry action research study*. Available from Dissertations & Theses @ University of Phoenix; ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (2087754095). Retrieved from <https://search-proquest-com.contentproxy.phoenix.edu/docview/2087754095?accountid=35812>
- Ortega, B. (2018). Trainer – Juvenile Drug Court Standards Implementation, Equity and Inclusion, Cultural Competence, Incentives and Sanctions. 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Courts Missouri (Linn, Sullivan and Chicoteh counties).
- Ortega, B. (2017). Trainer & Advisor. Reducing Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Drug Courts. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and American University.
- Ortega, B. (2017). Trainer - Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence. Nat'l Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence, Atlanta, GA, Louisville, KY, and Oklahoma City, OK. Co-facilitated with Dr. Sujata Warrier, "Cultural Considerations in Domestic Violence Cases."
- Ortega, B. (2017). Trainer – Facilitated Workshop on Cultural Competency and Equity and Inclusion at a Colorado regional drug court training. Invited back for the statewide conference in 2018.
- Ortega, B. (2016). Conference Panelist. National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP). "Why Race Matters." Anaheim, CA.
- Ortega, B. (2016). Trainer – Workshop *Why Race Matters: Race, Racism and Implicit Bias*. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Georgia Regional Juvenile Drug Court Training.
- Ortega, B. (2016, 2015). National Drug Court Online Learning System [www.drugcourtonline.org](http://www.drugcourtonline.org). Center for Court Innovation. 2 video modules – Confidentiality and Information Sharing in Drug Courts and The Role of Defense Counsel in Drug Courts: Through the Looking Glass.
- Ortega, B. (2015). Decreasing Youth Incarceration through Quality Juvenile Defense. *John Marshall Law Journal*. Spring 2015.
- Ortega, B. (2014). Workshop Presenter. Georgia Accountability Courts Conference. "Ethics for Juvenile Drug Court Judges, Prosecutors, & Defense Attorneys" & "Targeting the Right Youth for your Juvenile Drug Court." Atlanta, GA.

- Ortega, B. (2014). 7 (Easy) Steps to Confidentiality and Information Sharing in Juvenile Drug Court. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges 7 Series. [http://www.ncjfcj.org/sites/default/files/NCJFCJ\\_7Series\\_Final.pdf](http://www.ncjfcj.org/sites/default/files/NCJFCJ_7Series_Final.pdf)
- Ortega, B. (2011). Home for Good: A Self-help Guide for Overcoming Legal Barriers to Reentry in Georgia. Atlanta's John Marshall Law School Office of Pro Bono and Experiential Learning.
- Jones, B. (2005). And how are the Children? Improving Outcomes for Children of Incarcerated Parents Curriculum. Portland State University: Criminal Justice Policy Research Institute.
- Jones, B. (2005). Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines: Improving Court Practice in Juvenile Delinquency Cases. Member of Development Team. <http://www.ncjfcj.org/resource-library/publications/juvenile-delinquency-guidelines-improving-court-practice-juvenile>
- Jones, B. (2002). In Brief – Information Sharing and Confidentiality: A legal primer. Princeton, New Jersey: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. [http://reclaimingfutures.org/members/sites/default/files/main\\_documents/RFreport\\_lglprimer02.pdf](http://reclaimingfutures.org/members/sites/default/files/main_documents/RFreport_lglprimer02.pdf)
- Jones, B. (2002). Suffer the little children. Children's Legal Rights Journal. Winter, 2001-2002. Loyola University Chicago.
- Jones, B. (2000-2005). Conducted workshops on Generational Differences, Cultural Sensitivity, and Cultural Competency for Reclaiming Futures a \$21 million initiative by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation aimed at reducing substance abuse in juveniles coming into the juvenile justice system.
- Jones, B. (1987-2000). Conducted Cultural Competency trainings for Public Defenders and Probation Offices in Santa Clara, Alameda, and San Mateo Counties.

#### **PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS**

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- Active Member – State Bar of California
  - Active Member – American Bar Association
  - Active Member - Atlanta Bar Association
  - Past Board President & Board Member - National Juvenile Defender Center, Washington, D.C.
  - Board member & Equity Officer – ACLU (Georgia Affiliate)
  - Board Member – Thurgood Marshall Action Coalition
  - Board Member – Ma'at Matters
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