

IRIS ROBINSON

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10 Oxford Street, Apt. 1
Cambridge, MA 021381234 Main Street
Birmingham, AL 35223**EDUCATION****HARVARD LAW SCHOOL**, J.D. candidate, June 2007

Honors: Best Brief Award in First Year Moot Court Competition
Equal Justice America Fellowship, 2005 and 2006
Featured in *Harvard Law Bulletin* for clinical work in Child Advocacy Program
Panelist on Careers in Public Interest Law Panel for Leadership in Law Conference, Oct. 2006

Activities: Child and Youth Advocates, Co-President
Cambridge School Volunteers

DUKE UNIVERSITY, B.A. in Psychology, May 2003

Honors: *summa cum laude* (Ranked 1 out of 1490, GPA 4.0+)
Phi Beta Kappa
National Collegiate Scholars, Merit Award Winner
Golden Key International Honor Society
Chief Student Marshal (to facilitate 2002 commencement exercises)

Activities: Duke in Florence
FOCUS Program: Forging Social Ideals
Tutor and Volunteer at George Watts Elementary School
Toys and Tales
Tour Guide

EXPERIENCE**TRAUMA AND LEARNING POLICY INITIATIVE**, Jamaica Plain, MA 2006-2007

Promote educational rights of children traumatized by family violence through direct representation and systemic projects. Work with children and youth whose emotional, social, behavioral, and psychological problems impede their ability to succeed in school. Represent parents in team meetings and appeals to Bureau of Special Education Appeals to ensure that children receive services guaranteed by law. Will train juvenile court judges and surrogate parents on special education law and representing children in foster care.

THE DOOR, New York, NY Summer 2006

Advised and represented youth with foster care, education, housing, employment, public benefits, and immigration problems. Helped youth obtain housing and food; find employment; attend school or receive academic support; get financial aid for college; enter foster care; and acquire green cards. Helped to organize and lead Foster Youth Peer Education Project, program to train youth to conduct legal rights workshops about at foster care agencies around city.

CHILD ADVOCACY PROGRAM (CAP), Cambridge, MA 2005-2006

Studied how policies and programs targeting abuse and neglect, foster care, adoption, education, and juvenile delinquency affect youth, including intensive review of scholarly literature. Participated in workshop where leading researchers, advocates, and policymakers discussed issues affecting children and potential means of reform. Worked on Committee on Expediting Dependency and Termination Appeals (see below) through CAP Clinical Workshop.

COMMITTEE ON EXPEDITING DEPENDENCY/TERMINATION APPEALS, Seattle, WA Win./Spr. 2006

Worked in Seattle with Washington Court of Appeals Commissioner during Winter Term and continued placement from Harvard in Spring. Interviewed stakeholders statewide to reveal sources of delay in dependency and termination appeals and ways to address these problems. Researched practices in other states. Presented findings to Committee for use in designing new court rule and other reforms to accelerate permanency for children in foster care.

CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATES, Cambridge, MA 2005-Present

Co-president. Organize community service projects, on-campus events, and community-building activities. Tutor students struggling with state standardized test at Academic Support Center. Work with CAP faculty and administrative directors to plan activities, such as film events.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW, Oakland, CA Summer 2005
Published article about sibling separation in the child welfare system. Wrote memorandum on standard for terminating consent decrees. Investigated effect of impact litigation on child welfare workforce by finding and analyzing provisions in consent decrees and by interviewing stakeholders in these jurisdictions.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR RESPONSIVE PHILANTHROPY, Washington, D.C. Fall 2003
Researched and reported on patterns in foundation giving to ensure that funding goes to those with the greatest need. Contributed to report for progressive foundations analyzing how conservative foundations helped to instigate and drive the conservative movement.

VOICES FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN, Washington, D.C. Summer 2002
Wrote new version of the Child Advocacy Primer, providing information and strategies for child advocates. Published article on an organization's effort to pass legislation creating an oversight commission for the foster care system in New York. Researched and reported on other current issues affecting children for nationwide publications. Attended and reported on congressional briefings and other meetings.

BALCH & BINGHAM, LLP, Birmingham, AL Summer 2001
Assisted attorneys with research for cases. Attended and summarized depositions. Performed secretarial tasks (e.g., typing, filing, xeroxing, faxing).

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM (UAB) HOSPITAL, Birmingham, AL Summer 2000
Assisted research on Growth Hormone by reviewing scholarly articles and performing laboratory procedures. Assisted at clinic serving individuals with hormonal disorders.

GEORGE WATTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Durham, NC 2000-2003
Tutored elementary school students struggling with math and reading. Volunteered in after-school program, helping children to participate in a variety of activities.

TOYS AND TALES, Durham, NC Fall 1999
Collected books and toys for students in inner-city school for holidays. Planned ceremony to present gifts to students.

BETTER BASICS, Birmingham, AL Summers 1996-1998
Tutored inner-city students. Helped organize and direct summer camp for inner-city children. Prepared educational materials at organization's headquarters.

CAMP SMILE-A-MILE, Birmingham, AL Summer 1998
Counselor at overnight camp for children with cancer.

PUBLICATIONS *Providing for the Best Interests of the Child?: The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997*, 12 APPLIED DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY 523 (2004).

Keeping Siblings Together: Past, Present, and Future, YOUTH LAW NEWS, Oct.-Dec. 2005.

Giving a Voice to the Voiceless: Child Advocates Create a State Commission on the Quality of Foster Care, CHILD ADVOCATES MAKING A DIFFERENCE, July 2002.

Harry Spence and the Massachusetts Department of Social Services, Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government, Case Studies in Public Policy and Management (to be published).

Contributed portions of NAT'L COMMITTEE FOR RESPONSIVE PHILANTHROPY, AXIS OF IDEOLOGY: CONSERVATIVE FOUNDATIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY (2004).

LANGUAGE Some knowledge of Spanish.

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EDUCATION**HARVARD LAW SCHOOL**, J.D. Candidate, June 2008 Cambridge, MA

Activities: *Harvard Human Rights Journal*
 Harvard Tenant Advocacy Project, Student Advocate
 Jon Hanson, Professor of Law, Research Assistant
 Jeanne Charn, Director of Access to Civil Legal Services Project, Research Assistant
 Harvard Law School v. Yale Law School Public Interest Basketball Game, Director

Honors: Honorable Mention for Best Appellee Brief, 1st-Year Moot Court Competition, Section Two

Final Project: Combined Law and Public Policy Research Project on Affordable Housing Preservation

JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, M.P.P. Candidate, June 2008 Cambridge, MA

Coursework: Concentration in Housing, Urban Development, and Transportation
 Cross-Registered at Harvard Business School, Real Property

Activities: Real Estate Club, Member

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, B.S. in Symbolic Systems (Cognitive Science), April 2003 Stanford, CA

Activities: Amnesty International, President
 Night Outreach Homeless Community-Building Group, Member
Street Forum Newspaper on Homelessness and Poverty in San Francisco Bay Area, Editor
 La Clinica San Juan de Dios, Volunteer at Children's Hospital in Peru
 Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medicine, Researcher

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, Junior Year Inductee
 Goodman Family Fellowship, Scholarship Recipient
 Symbolic Systems Graduate with Distinction

CLAREMONT HIGH SCHOOL, Diploma, June 1999 Claremont, CA

Activities: Amnesty International, President
 Claremont School Board of Education, Student Member
 Claremont Youth Partnership, Co-Chair

Honors: Ranked #1 in Class of over 500

EXPERIENCE**SMITH & SMITH**, Boston, MA

Summer Associate — Affordable Housing & Real Estate Practice Groups Summer 2007

Conducted legal research related to a proposed 730-unit affordable housing development in Kingston, Massachusetts, under the State's novel Smart Growth Overlay Zoning District Program. Assisted attorneys in the formation of a new limited liability company (LLC) for purposes of structuring a low-income housing tax credit deal to convert old mills in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, into affordable housing. Drafted loan opinion provided to a bank making a seven million dollar construction and permanent loan in a tax credit deal. Drafted letter to HUD in response to its claim that a client management company must comply with a federal regulatory agreement rather than a state regulatory agreement, despite a mortgage rider signed by HUD and the client stating the contrary.

NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY, Washington, DC

Summer Law Intern — Law & Policy Section July – August 2006

Assisted attorneys working on *McWaters v. FEMA*, a class action lawsuit arising out of the mismanagement of federal housing programs following Hurricane Katrina. Conducted legal research on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, charter schools, and the constitutionality of a proposed homeless curfew in Jackson, Mississippi. Helped coordinate national low-income and homeless voter registration events.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Washington, DC

Summer Law Intern — Tax Division

May – July 2006

Drafted appellate briefs submitted to the Fourth and Sixth Circuit Courts of Appeal on issues involving the ineffective assistance of counsel, the preclusive effect of a civil suit on subsequent federal criminal prosecutions, and the admissibility of business records as a hearsay exception. Drafted legal memoranda on the federal insanity defense and the availability of criminal forfeiture procedures following the 2005 reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act.

GREATER BOSTON LEGAL SERVICES, Cambridge, MA

Equal Justice America Fellow – Housing Division

Summer 2005

Managed a caseload of fifteen clients with housing issues ranging from public and private evictions and Section 8 voucher terminations to general landlord/tenant disputes. Presented opening and closing statements, as well as direct and cross questioning at administrative hearings. Negotiated settlements with opposing counsel. Prepared pleadings and motions. Conducted intake interviews with potential clients. Translated for Spanish speaking clients.

TENANT ADVOCACY PROJECT, Cambridge, MA

Student Advocate

2005 - 2006

Represented low-income tenants in civil housing matters before the Boston housing authority. Conducted client interviews and housing law research. Advised tenants of legal rights under federal and state law.

JONES & JONES, Redding, CA

Legal Intern

2003 - 2004

Worked on multiple cases including *Reed v. Tenet Healthcare Corp.*, a massive coordinated action lawsuit following an FBI raid of Redding Medical Center to investigate allegations of unnecessary cardiology procedures. Duties included legal research, independently drafting legal settlement demands, and interviewing clients.

LA CLINICA SAN JUAN DE DIOS, Cuzco, Peru

Volunteer/Spanish Student

April – May 2002

Provided daily care to fifty developmentally and physically disabled Peruvian children at a youth hospital. Studied Spanish at a local Peruvian school and lived with a local Peruvian family.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Washington, DC

Goodman Fellow – Office of Legal Policy

Summer 2001

Compiled data on racial profiling, conducted research for the speechwriter of the U.S. Attorney General, and designed, implemented, and managed the official website of the Office of Legal Policy.

SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER MEDICINE, Puttaparthi, India

Researcher

July 2000

Awarded grant by Stanford University to study a unique hospital in India that provides advanced medical services to low-income individuals free of charge. Designed an original research proposal, traveled to India, and conducted extensive research by interviewing top officials and physicians, on-site inspections, and mass data collection.

PERSONAL

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Classical/Jazz Piano, Intramural Basketball and Volleyball, L.A. Lakers Fan.