

Tamar Birckhead

Associate Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Programs at UNC-Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC, US

Tamar Birckhead teaches the Youth Justice Clinic, the criminal lawyering process, and juvenile courts and delinquency.

Description

Tamar Birckhead is an associate professor of law and the Director of Clinical Programs at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she teaches the Youth Justice Clinic, the criminal lawyering process, and juvenile courts and delinquency. Her research interests focus on issues related to juvenile justice policy and reform, criminal law and procedure, indigent criminal defense, and the criminalization of poverty. She will be a Visiting Clinical Professor of Law at Yale Law School for the 2016-17 academic year.

Professor Birckhead's scholarship appears in the Buffalo Law Review, North Carolina Law Review, Rutgers Law Review, Wake Forest Law Review, Washington and Lee Law Review, and Washington University Law Review, among other law journals. She also regularly writes commentary, which has been published in The Nation, the Los Angeles Times, the Huffington Post, and the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange, and she founded and edits the popular Juvenile Justice Blog. She has presented her work at Yale Law School, Harvard Law School, Washington University Law in St. Louis, Washington & Lee Law School, and the Law & Society Association, among other venues. Professor Birckhead co-edited the third edition of a legal casebook, Children, Parents, and the Law, with Professor Leslie J. Harris. She also regularly teaches a course on juvenile courts and delinquency at Duke Law School.

Professor Birckhead's article on raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction in North Carolina has received significant attention at both the state and national levels. She has published several opinion pieces on the subject of raising the age and has been interviewed by radio and print reporters across the state on her findings.

Prior to joining the UNC School of Law faculty in 2004, Professor Birckhead practiced for ten years as a public defender, representing indigent criminal defendants in the Massachusetts trial and appellate courts as a staff attorney with the Committee for Public Counsel Services and in federal district court in Boston as an assistant federal public defender. Professor Birckhead has defended clients in a wide variety of criminal cases, from violent felony offenses in state court to acts of terrorism in federal court. Among her clients was Richard Reid, the attempted "Shoe Bomber" prosecuted in the First Circuit under the U.S.A. Patriot Act.

Industry Expertise

Legal Services, Education/Learning, Research

Topics

Criminal Defense, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law, Juvenile Delinquency, Legal Education, Sentencing

Affiliations

Clinical Legal Education Association: Board of Directors member, Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth: Board Member Advisory Committee Member, North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence: President of the Board, North Carolina Juvenile Defender: Advisory Board member

Education

Harvard Law School

J.D. Law

Yale University

B.A. English Literature

Accomplishments

Visiting Clinical Professor of Law at Yale Law School

2016-17 academic year Visiting Clinical Professor of Law

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