

DANNELLE F. W. WHITESIDE, J.D.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

Interim President

August 2020- present

Lead the University as interim Chief Executive Officer. Serve as a transformational, authentic, and strategic leader. Supporting the initiatives of the University's mission to raise the educational attainment of the citizenry, develop programs and services that address regional needs, and provide collaborative opportunities that connect university expertise with private and public resources.

Significant Accomplishments

- Led the university through the reopening of campus during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Secured nearly \$5.5 million donations within the first sixty days of appointment, including a \$3 million gift from the Clarksville Montgomery County Community Health Foundation to fund the proposed Health Professions Building
- Increased retention rate by nearly 5%
- Increased transparent communication through regular social media engagement and "Pop-ins with the Prez" on Zoom
- Launched "A Place at Our Table," a university-wide diversity initiative to encourage healing conversations around issues of race and social justice
- Drafted, negotiated and signed the Multipurpose Event Center lease to house APSU men's and women's basketball programs
- Launched "What if?" Capital Campaign, which has raised \$58 million to date

Vice President for Legal Affairs, General Counsel and Secretary to the Board

January 2017- August 2020

Represented the University as Chief Legal Officer, head of the Office of Legal Affairs, and member of the University's Senior Leadership Team. Oversaw and managed the provision of all legal services to the institution and assist officers of the institution and other upper management in carrying out the mission of the institution. Provided advice and counsel on the strategic direction of the University. Advised the APSU Board of Trustees on all legal matters. Assisted in preparing agendas and planning meetings of the Board. Ensured the accuracy of minutes and other official records of the Board

Significant Accomplishments

- Negotiated an affiliation agreement with 608 Main Apartments to help meet additional housing needs
- Developed the overall legal structure and framework for the newly-formed APSU Board of Trustees
- Planned and executed the Inaugural Legal Clinic to provide free legal advice for APSU students by area attorneys
- Collaborated with the Wilburn N. Daniel African American Cultural Center, the Department of Psychological Sciences and Counseling to produce a series of workshops about black women's involvement in the Women's Suffrage Movement
- Assisted in developing the framework for the 20/20 Mentor Program, a collaboration between APSU and Montgomery County Juvenile Court

United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Philadelphia, PA

General Attorney

September 2014- December 2016

Served as a legal and policy advisor on complex factual and legal issues related to the investigation, negotiation, and resolution of complaints of discrimination by school districts and universities, including Title IX sexual violence cases. Provided training and technical assistance to school districts and universities on compliance with federal civil rights laws, including Title IX, Section 504, ADA, and Title VI. Conducted compliance reviews and monitored corrective action agreements of school districts and universities

Significant Accomplishments

- Represented the regional office in the national employee resource group
- Drafted a resolution agreement in a service animal case that became a national model for resolving cases in that subject area
- Featured and popular presenter in technical assistance workshops focused on Title IX

Tennessee State Board of Education, Nashville, TN

General Counsel

April 2011 – September 2014

Advised the Tennessee State Board of Education on all legal matters. Represented the board in teacher license revocation, suspension, and denial proceedings and managed charter school appeals. Headed the legal team, supervising a staff attorney, secretary/paralegal, and law clerks. Advised board staff on pending education legislation in the TN General Assembly. Collaborated with the Tennessee Department of Education and other organizations to draft or revise Board policies and regulations. Provided training to school districts on State Board policies, rules, regulations, and TN education laws. Responded to inquiries from the media and public regarding Board actions and policy.

Significant Accomplishments

- Developed the legal structure for the State Board as charter school authorizer
- Co-authored legislation that made it easier for foster care children in Tennessee to access quality education
- Promulgated rules making it more difficult for sexual predators to teach in any Tennessee classroom
- Reformed attendance guidelines to reduce truancy across the state

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS), Nashville, TN

District Policy Advisor

August 2009 – March 2011

Created, reviewed, monitored, and provided training on all district policies and procedures. Provided guidance on policy and legal issues arising within the district. Assisted with internal investigations of complaints filed with state and federal Depts. of Education-Office for Civil Rights.

Significant Accomplishment

- Established the first Bullying Task Force to address the persistent issues around the school system's response to bullying.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Loop21.com

Freelance Education Writer

July 2013- January 2015

Education writer for the online news magazine, Loop21.com.

Demand Media Studios

Freelance Writer

May 2013- January 2015

Education writer for online media sites such as GlobalPost Education, eHow Education, and Seattle P-I Education.

Davidson County Youth Court Program

Volunteer Judge

March 2013- September 2014

Presided over the truancy and school discipline dockets and determine a fair and restorative disposition for the youth respondent.

Tennessee Joint Task Force on Children's Justice/Child Abuse

Task Force Member

March 2013- September 2014

Undertook a comprehensive review and evaluation of the law, policy and the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect and to make training and policy recommendation. Task force members also advised and assisted Tennessee State Departments, including the Department of Children's Services, Education, Health, Mental Health/Development, and Human Services; child advocates, service providers; law enforcement, and the judiciary in carrying out their duties related to child protection and responding to child abuse and neglect.

Tennessee Voices for Victims

Founding Board Member

February 2013- September 2014

Provided advice and insight to staff about agency projects and assist in educational outreach efforts in the community, with a particular focus on raising awareness and providing support to victims of educator sexual misconduct.

TRIO Upward Bound Program

Peer Reviewer

March 2012

Reviewed grant applications submitted for Upward Bound's program intended to provide opportunities for identified participants (high school students from low-income families; and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree) to succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits.

Tennessee Supreme Court Improvement Program Law Work Group

Committee Member

April 2011- September 2014

Reviewed various rules and statutes relevant to child welfare and provided suggestions to the Tennessee General Assembly on pending legislation impacting Tennessee's children and youth.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) 2011 Summer of Innovation Grants

Peer Reviewer

March 2011

Reviewed and provided feedback for grant applications submitted for NASA's grant program intended to provide underrepresented and disadvantaged populations with exposure to science, technology, engineering, and math.

EDUCATION

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR

May 2009

Juris Doctor (J.D.)

Honors: Dean's Scholar

President, Black Law Students Association

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB), Pine Bluff, AR

May 2006

Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies

Honors: Summa Cum Laude

President, UAPB Student Government Association

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Nashville Emerging Leader Award- Education, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

August 2013

Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40, National Bar Association and IMPACT

June 2013

Nashville's Top 30 Under 30, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Middle Tennessee

September 2012

Nashville Emerging Leaders Program Nashville, Chamber Public Benefit Foundation

February 2012 – May 2012

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

FOCUS Act Transition Task Force

2017

University Attorney Search Committee, Chair

2017

SACSCOC Governance Change Writing Committee

2017

Athletics Director Search Committee

2018

Data Governance Steering Committee

2018-2020

University Policy Committee

2018- 2020

Student Affairs Search Committee, Chair

2018

COVID-19 Task Force

2020

COVID Command, Lead

2020

PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS AND TEACHINGS

Education Law

Adjunct Faculty, Belmont College of Law, Nashville, TN

Spring 2020- Present

"The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Higher Education"

2020 THEC Fellows Journal "Inspiring Change in An Uncertain Future"

Spring 2020

Overview of TN Administrative Procedures Act

Warm Souls Continuing Legal Education Seminar, Clarksville, TN

December 2019

Academic Achievement Celebration Keynote Speaker

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

November 2019

"Ain't I A Woman: Suffrage and the Black Woman" Presentation

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

September 30, 2019

Freshman Convocation Speaker

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

August 2018 and August 2019

"How Can Universities Successfully Juggle Diverse Goals and Commitments, such as Civility, Inclusiveness, and Robust Free Speech?"

University of Arkansas- Fort Smith

October 2018

Hattie Walker Wilhoite Recognition Ceremony Keynote Speaker

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

April 2018

APSU 1000- Freshman Seminar Course

Instructor, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

Fall 2017- Present

Clarkville Montgomery County School System Scholars Reception Keynote Speaker

Clarksville, TN

May 2017

Wilbur N. Daniel African American Cultural Center Commencement Speaker

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

May 2017

Young Women's Leadership Symposium Keynote Speaker

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

April 2017

"Title IX and OCR Enforcement"

American Association for Access, Equity, and Diversity, Philadelphia, PA

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, Harrisburg, PA

Maryland Title IX Coordinators Conference, University of Maryland- University College

June 2016

November 2015

March 2015

"Protecting Our Children: Can we prevent another Sandy Hook without doing more harm?"

Guest Lecturer for Continuing Legal Education sponsored by the Marion Griffin Chapter of the Lawyer's Association of Women, Nashville, TN

March 2013

"Bad Teacher: Legal, Policy, and Practical Implications for School Districts in Educator Sexual Misconduct Cases"

Paper presented at the Webinar Series of Education Law Association

Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of Education Law Association, Hilton Head, SC

February 2013

November 2012

"Preventing Penn State: Tips for Parents" Op-Ed in The Tennessean, a Gannett Publication

November 2011

"No Child Left Behind (Bars): Examining the Right to Education in Juvenile Residential Facilities and the Impact on African American Males"

Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of Education Law Association, Chicago, IL

November 2011

"Principles of Teacher Liability"

Guest Lecturer at Lipscomb University College of Education, Nashville, TN

2010- 2014

COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Nashville Birth Collective, Board Member and Legal Advisor	August 2019- present
Monocle Society Member, Austin Peay State University Athletics	August 2018
Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee, Troop Leader, #5059	August 2011- May 2012
Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC), Volunteer	June 2011- present
Tennessee Bar Association Juvenile and Children's Executive Council, Member	July 2010- July 2011
Napier-Looby Bar Association), Past President and Student Outreach Committee Chair	November 2009- present
Mt. Zion Baptist Church Social and Political Action Ministry, Education Liaison	November 2009- September 2014
Nashville Toastmasters (Toastmasters International Affiliate), Competent Communicator	September 2009- August 2013

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Millennium Leadership Initiative Protégé, American Association of State Colleges and Universities	2020
Tennessee Higher Education Commission Higher Education Innovation and Leadership Fellow	2020
Tennessee Board of Regents Maxine Smith Fellow	2018
National Association of College and University Attorneys	2017- present
NBA Women Lawyers Division of Philadelphia, Corresponding Secretary	2015-2016
Licensed to practice law in the State of Tennessee	November 2009- present
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.	December 2003- present