

NOMINATION SIGNATURE PAGE

2023 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards

Nominations must include this as the cover page of the nomination package PDF submission

Name of Applicant:	Julie Ellen McConnell, J.D.
Institution:	University of Richmond
Category (choose only one): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baccalaureate Institution• Masters/Comprehensive Institution• Research/Doctoral Institution• Two-Year Institution• Rising Star	Baccalaureate Institution
Signature of President or Chief Academic Officer:	
Printed Name of President or Chief Academic Officer:	Jeffrey W. Legro Executive Vice President and Provost
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Mission Statement

The mission of the University of Richmond is to educate in an academically challenging, intellectually vibrant, and collaborative community dedicated to the holistic development of students and the production of scholarly and creative work. A Richmond education prepares students for lives of purpose, thoughtful inquiry, and responsible leadership in a diverse world.

Additionally, the following core values (excerpted) are key to the fulfillment of its mission:

Student Growth: The University of Richmond is committed to the personal and intellectual development of all students. Through close mentoring and small classes taught by dedicated teacher-scholars and the opportunities and environment made possible by talented and engaged staff, the University challenges students to recognize their full potential, supports the development of their resilience, and encourages their growth as socially responsible community members.

Pursuit of Knowledge: The University of Richmond values intellectual curiosity, teaching that challenges and inspires, ambitious scholarly and creative work, and education as a lifelong process of discovery and growth. The University is committed to academic freedom and the promotion of a vibrant intellectual community that encourages thoughtful disagreement and the vigorous exchange of ideas.

Inclusivity and Equity: The University of Richmond values the dignity, worth, and contributions of all individuals; the thoughtful and respectful engagement with a broad diversity of perspectives and experiences essential to intellectual growth; and an inclusive community in which all members can engage meaningfully in institutional life and contribute to a community where all thrive.

Ethical Engagement: The University of Richmond values integrity, responsibility for the ethical consequences of our ideas and actions, and meaningful engagement with our local and global communities.

Summary of Accomplishments

Teaching

Professor Julie McConnell creates an immersive learning environment for University of Richmond law students that is a capstone experience for students pursuing a career in criminal law. Her approach to teaching, scholarship, and service has been to meaningfully connect the realities of the criminal legal system to her classroom. She integrates 24 years of legal practice and eight years of non-profit service experience into her teaching, scholarship, training for practicing lawyers, and media commentary in an endeavor to demystify the juvenile legal system. Professor McConnell's analysis in podcasts, documentaries, news articles, journal articles, and legal manuals builds on and informs her teaching. Her engagement as a teacher, scholar, practicing lawyer, and commentator has helped countless law students find success as prosecutors, defense attorneys, family law attorneys, policy advocates, and Guardians *ad litem*.

Professor McConnell is an excellent classroom teacher, fully committed to providing her Children's Defense Clinic students with a robust, rewarding, and inclusive experience. Her 8-person clinical program, in which each student works 20 hours a week, allows individualized attention to student growth and development. Since joining the law school faculty, the community has honored her with numerous awards related to her teaching. In 2022, the University recognized her as a Distinguished Educator, and the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities honored her with its Humanitarian Award. In 2019, Virginia Lawyer's Weekly recognized her with their Influential Women in the Law Award, and the Richmond Criminal Bar Association gave her the Craig S. Cooley Award for Excellence. That same year, the Virginia State Bar Committee on Access to Legal Services recognized the Clinic for "Significant and Noteworthy Contributions to Legal Service for Low-Income and Underserved Virginians." In 2018, the Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association honored her as their Woman of Achievement for her Clinic's work on behalf of children. And in 2017, the Richmond YWCA recognized her for her significant educational contributions with the Outstanding Woman Award in Education. Additionally, in 2011, the Oliver Hill Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court recognized her with an "Unsung Hero" Award.

In addition to her work directing the Clinic, Professor McConnell teaches *Advanced Clinical Practice* and has taught the doctrinal course *Juvenile Delinquency Law and Procedure* and the seminar, *The Science of False Confessions*, through the law school's Cambridge University program. Professor McConnell consistently connects the courtroom to the classroom by taking students into the community to assist individuals who cannot afford legal representation. She teaches students not just legal doctrine but how to help clients successfully navigate a complex legal system that particularly impacts the poor and minorities. She teaches students the nuances of the law and how to harness it to help their clients.

To meaningfully and ethically engage with the community, McConnell and her students handle motions, trials, sentencings, custody proceedings, school-based proceedings, and post-conviction hearings for impoverished children, many of whom would otherwise not have legal representation. Clinic students have avoided felony adjudications for all their trial clients, helped more than 100 elementary-aged children attend school regularly and gained early release for dozens of rehabilitated youthful offenders. They help parents whose elementary-aged children are chronically absent from school through a prevention-based docket McConnell helped create in Richmond called the Parents+Attendance=School Success (PASS) docket. This docket helps the community and her students. In Virginia, 3rd-year law students can directly represent clients in court under the supervision of a practicing attorney. However, this docket also allows 2nd-year law students to provide direct representation to clients because the docket is at a Richmond public school rather than a courthouse.

In-person hearings became challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic. McConnell and her students began representing adults seeking relief from lengthy sentences they received as minors, as the parole board handles these cases remotely. These cases enabled her to provide students with a robust learning opportunity and meaningful engagement with the community without risking students' exposure to COVID. Students helped several clients gain early release based on their extraordinary rehabilitation. Clinic students also helped build re-entry support to ensure a successful transition back to the community. These clients are now contributing members of their communities. Students found these cases so meaningful they have continued to handle them even though local courts have resumed in-person hearings.

Additionally, she and her students successfully assisted more than two dozen neglected or abandoned Central American children seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) predicate orders to facilitate their path to citizenship. Clinic students also advocate for children's best interests as Guardians *ad litem* in education or mental-health related cases, including intellectually disabled children and those functioning on the autism spectrum.

As a complement to her work in the classroom, McConnell has successfully advocated in the legislature for juvenile legal system and SIJS reform. She served as an expert on these issues and frequently met with the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission during their recent study of Virginia's juvenile legal system. Additionally, McConnell and her students collaborated on a First Step Act petition, which resulted in their client's release from federal prison after serving 23 years. The trial court had sentenced him to a mandatory life sentence for a crime for which he turned down a plea offer for a maximum three-year sentence. The case is a classic example of the trial penalty in criminal cases and served as an essential lesson for students on navigating the arbitrariness of the criminal legal system.

Students say this about her Clinic:

"I recommended this Clinic to all of my friends. Prof. McConnell is so knowledgeable, kind, and helpful. She strikes a great balance between helping students complete assignments while also encouraging them to branch out on their own and figure it out independently. This has absolutely been the most valuable thing I have done thus far in law school."

"This Clinic was the best experience I've had in law school. Professor McConnell is good about encouraging and offering guidance while still allowing enough autonomy to follow through on your own with clients. The practical experience of working in the Clinic was more valuable than any class I've taken, and the classroom component was helpful in reflecting on our experiences in working with clients."

Discovery

Although scholarship is not traditionally an area of focus for clinical professors, whose focus is more on teaching, service, and professional identity formation, McConnell has engaged in scholarly research and writing to enrich her classroom teaching. Professor McConnell recently authored two articles about her work, one for the *Richmond Public Interest Law Review* and the other for the national publication *Juvenile Justice Update*. Additionally, she is the author of several chapters and the Co-Editor of the Virginia CLE publication *Juvenile Law and Education in Virginia*. McConnell also co-wrote an *"International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ) Juvenile Justice Practitioners' Note on Best Practices for Juvenile Defense in a Counter-terrorism Context."* She has helped design and execute four intensive trainings on the Note in Malta. The launch of the Note, which took place on a virtual platform because of COVID, drew representatives from 69 countries and four continents. The Note is part of five comprehensive documents on best

practices for prosecutors, judges, defense attorneys, investigators, and correctional officials. McConnell has published multiple articles on best practices in child representation in Virginia and edited a document for unrepresented litigants in domestic relations cases in Virginia called the *Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association Domestic Relations Pamphlet*. Virginia CLE also recently invited her to write a chapter for a book on "war stories," in which she highlighted a case that helped usher in using restorative justice to resolve many youth cases in that locality.

Professor McConnell is committed to all her students' personal and intellectual development. She challenges them to recognize their full potential, supports the development of their resilience, and encourages their growth as socially responsible community members. One student in particular, for whom English is a second language, credits Professor McConnell with helping her to find the confidence to become a courtroom advocate. She is a successful prosecutor today thanks to the countless hours Professor McConnell spent helping her prepare for courtroom hearings she handled in the Clinic. Prof. McConnell has also collaborated on numerous research projects with students. Together, they have completed a re-entry handbook for individuals transitioning back to the community after incarceration, a manual on handling parole cases, training on sentencing in juvenile cases, a procedure for creating videos highlighting mitigation in child cases, and a guide to handling Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Cases in Virginia.

Students say this about her integration of scholarly themes in the class:

"Juvenile defense hinges on the understanding of unequal... practices baked into the justice system. Professor McConnell addresses this in a creative way allowing room for appropriate nuance. We could interact with a number of media pieces that further our understanding and then reflect on how themes from our discussions or material have applied throughout our hands-on work. She encourages candor and thoughtful reflection of our own lives and all of our work and creates a safe space to share with our peers."

"Even when the class seemed to all agree on something, she would often bring in differing viewpoints to make sure we didn't close ourselves off to things we might not have considered. Very refreshing."

Knowledge Integration

The heart of Professor McConnell's teaching and scholarship is connecting the theory and doctrine discussed in the classroom to the reality of life in our most marginalized communities. McConnell endeavors to help students understand the root causes of criminal involvement, including the role of systemic racism. She helps them find evidence-based solutions that best support children and families. McConnell's prior professional experiences in the community enable her to provide students with the context they need to find effective solutions for their clients. Previously, she served as a prosecutor in the Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, where she was a supervisor in the Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. She specialized in prosecuting violent juvenile crimes, domestic violence, elder abuse, child physical and sexual abuse, and domestic homicide cases. She was part of a multi-disciplinary team funded by the Office on Violence Against Women, which trained law enforcement personnel and prosecutors on effectively prosecuting elder abuse and neglect. She established Richmond's first Elder Abuse Multi-Disciplinary Team to staff these cases and helped draft legislation to prosecute undue influence in elder financial exploitation cases. McConnell also served as an assistant public defender in Richmond, where she handled every type of criminal case. Those experiences are foundational for her work as a clinical professor working with students to help them bridge their knowledge from doctrinal courses to direct representation of clients.

As a professor, she has integrated these experiences into the classroom, her research, and her

active service to the profession. Attorneys across Virginia regularly contact Professor McConnell for assistance on their cases, and she has served as a juvenile justice system expert in many instances. There is no better example of a well-rounded teacher, scholar, and community advocate. She is often called upon to teach other lawyers how to serve their clients effectively. She skillfully applies the lessons learned in that teaching to her work with students. And her role as a public intellectual appearing in various media outlets has helped to raise awareness about the role of trauma, poverty, and structural racism in the criminal legal system. She challenges students to apply that knowledge in their advocacy.

Most significantly, Professor McConnell uses her vast courtroom experience to teach students to serve the community as accomplished, client-centered, and ethical lawyers, a cornerstone of the University of Richmond's mission. One measure of success is students' enthusiasm for her classes, which are often oversubscribed. Even more impressive is the success of those who have already graduated from law school and are successfully practicing all over the country.

Service

Professor McConnell is a devoted volunteer at the law school and in the legal community. Many of her scholarly activities fall within the concept of service. Professor McConnell writes several chapters every three years and co-edits the manual *Juvenile Law and Practice in Virginia*. This book is an invaluable resource for attorneys practicing in Virginia Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts. Similarly, Professor McConnell has written journal and law review articles to assist practicing attorneys in understanding the nuances of the juvenile legal system.

In addition to being a scholar and teacher, Professor McConnell has also devoted her energy and passion to the community. In the last three years, she has served in five cases as an expert witness on the juvenile legal system and, in the last 12 years, has been called upon to train practicing attorneys, judges, and other advocates more than 90 times. McConnell plans and hosts an annual training at the law school known as the Robert E. Shepherd Jr. Juvenile Law and Education Conference attended by hundreds of attorneys who represent indigent children and helps plan the annual Leroy Rountree Hassell Sr. Indigent Defense Seminar: *Advanced Skills for the Experienced Practitioner*. She has served twice on the Richmond Bench-Bar Annual Conference planning committee and presented there with local judges. This year, the Virginia Supreme Court invited her to train new Virginia judges on sentencing practices in juvenile cases.

McConnell chairs the Virginia Bar Association's *Commission on the Needs of Children* and the *Virginia Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Prevention*. She serves on the Legal Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors for *Housing Opportunities Made Equal* and the *Regional Gault Center*, the *Child Dependency Legal Representation Workgroup* for the Virginia Office of the Children's Ombudsman, and is a past Chair of the American Association of Law Schools *Committee on Children and the Law*. She often integrates current and former students into the work of these committees and has them attend and present at meetings.

Professor McConnell is also an indispensable part of faculty governance at the Law School. She is Chair of the Admissions Committee, has chaired and served on hiring committees for clinical faculty, serves on the Bridge to Practice selection committee, and is an active participant on the Promotions and Tenure Committee. She has also served on the Awards Committee, the Advisory Council for the University of Richmond Center for Civic Engagement, the Professional Identity Formation, Technology and Innovation, and Externship Director Search Committees, the Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention, and the University Committee on Committees. She consistently volunteers her time to mentor and nurture new faculty members as they integrate into the law school and is an invaluable colleague.

Personal Statement

At the University of Richmond, I am a Professor of Law, Legal Practice and Director of the Children's Defense Clinic. My students and I represent indigent children and families in court and before local agencies. We also assist rehabilitated adults incarcerated as children. I empower my students to provide comprehensive, highly-individualized holistic representation.

I am privileged to help students develop their professional identities. Through our work, students see the power of a law degree to change lives. My students have helped dozens of Central American children escaping horrific conditions gain legal residence. They have ensured that our trial-level clients avoid felony adjudications and helped kids successfully re-enter school after a suspension. They have assisted hundreds of parents with improving their children's school attendance. I love watching that spark ignite when this work helps students find their passion. I regularly see former students flourishing as courtroom lawyers and policy advocates in the community. It is one of the things I appreciate most about this career.

My clinic students successfully resolved several cases involving non-violent demonstrators during the George Floyd demonstrations. A restorative justice approach was so successful in one of our cases that it helped spark the regular use of restorative justice in a local court. We are now embarking on a project to protect low-income families from court costs in delinquency proceedings. These fines and costs keep people in poverty and limit children's options.

I believe one of my most significant contributions is modeling holistic, client-centered legal representation of children and families entangled in the legal system as I help students provide access to justice for individuals who would otherwise be unrepresented. One example of this work is the Parents + Attendance = School Success (PASS) docket. In this project, which I co-created with a local Richmond juvenile court judge and the Richmond Public Schools, my students and I serve as pro bono counsel with this specialized monthly docket for Richmond parents struggling to consistently send their elementary-aged children to school. These parents are all impoverished but are not entitled to court-appointed legal representation for these proceedings. This unique collaboration brings together many local providers to assist parents in overcoming the barriers to their children's regular school attendance. My students meet with the parents to help identify impediments to regular attendance and then connect them with the appropriate providers. We hold this docket at a local school rather than in the courthouse. Approximately 12 agencies, including Legal Aid, community mental health providers, school nurses, Virginia Commonwealth University Hospitals, Stop Child Abuse Now, Communities in Schools, and many others, volunteer their time to meet with parents to develop solutions. If the parents agree to ensure their children's regular school attendance, the judge dismisses the charges. This is a meaningful opportunity for students to apply the skills they have developed to help families change their children's future for the better.

I serve as a juvenile legal system expert in numerous Virginia cases and with the *International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ)* in Valetta, Malta. I helped plan and conduct four IIJ multi-day conferences for prosecutors, judges, defense attorneys, corrections officials, and investigators from over 60 countries across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Europe on best practices in juvenile terrorism cases. Consistent with my scholarly focus on holistic and meaningful representation, I wrote a best-practices guide for defense counsel handling cases for children recruited or conscripted into these activities by groups like Boko Haram. Locally, I serve as Chair of the VBA's Commission on the Needs of Children and the Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Prevention. I also serve on other child-focused committees that further these goals. I regularly weave this work into my classroom.

“Knowledge integration” epitomizes my intentional integration of all the roles I serve in the academy to help families access services to help their children thrive. I am passionate not only about discovering effective approaches to empowering students to bridge the justice gap for marginalized communities but also about inspiring students to help implement evidence-based responses to the root causes of our clients’ criminal involvement.

I did not take the traditional path to academia. I became a teacher after eight years of working in not-for-profits and 12 years as a courtroom lawyer. I am extraordinarily fortunate to teach at the University of Richmond, which provides the support I need to provide an impactful experience for students. I strive to empower children and help students discover that in serving the community, they will gain much more than they give. It will challenge them to stretch and grow in ways they did not even realize were possible. A basic tenet of my classes is there is value in diversity. We will always be stronger when we welcome all voices.

I grew up in Walls, Mississippi, and Memphis, Tennessee. My mother worked as a teacher and later a computer programmer. I had devoted grandparents and a great-aunt who helped raise my brother and me. Once or twice a year, I visited my dad and his parents in North Carolina. My grandparents met while working in the tobacco fields of Eastern North Carolina. My father grew up in a small North Carolina town with few opportunities, but he had a teacher who saw something special in him and nurtured his love of music, particularly the tympani. He helped him earn a scholarship to Brevard Music Camp and later the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music (CCM). My mom also found her way to CCM from her family’s farm in Walls, MS. They were married before they finished college. Even though my parents divorced before I turned two, their ability to reach for the stars despite their humble roots always inspired me.

Many of my family members were teachers. Their love of learning and sharing their gifts with others has always guided me. Indeed, I am still influenced by the lessons I learned from the outstanding teachers I encountered in the rural Mississippi elementary school where my mother taught and had attended. For example, one formative experience I had as a child was volunteering with a teacher to deliver Meals on Wheels to housebound community members. It struck me that almost all of these individuals were women and of color. This is when I first began to understand poverty and trauma. That experience helped motivate me to work towards equality and justice in my community and planted the seed that resulted in the career I enjoy today.

I attended Agnes Scott College, paying for it through scholarships, volunteering with homeless children, and as a waiter. After college, I worked for Amnesty International before moving to Richmond to work with another non-profit. Working as a community organizer, lobbyist, and advocate for more innovative criminal justice approaches, inspired me to change my focus to children. I wanted an opportunity to play a more preventive role, which I found at a group home in Wyoming as a teacher and counselor with kids sent there as a last resort before prison. Several years later, though, I had the opportunity to return to Virginia to serve as Deputy Director for another non-profit until I started law school. After a 10-year music teaching career, my father went to law school at night and became a public defender. His path inspired me to pursue law school as a way to more meaningfully work with children and families. After law school, I clerked for the Honorable James Benton on the Virginia Court of Appeals, worked for six years as a Richmond public defender, another six years as a Richmond child and domestic abuse prosecutor, and then joined the faculty at the University of Richmond School of Law in 2011. These years as a teacher and advocate have been the best years of my professional life. It is an honor to help my students provide thousands of hours of pro bono service each year. My students and our clients inspire me to find new ways to expand our work to serve the community, and the law school supports me at every step.

JULIE ELLEN MCCONNELL ABBREVIATED CURRICULUM VITAE

FULL C.V.: https://assets.richmond.edu/files/faculty-staff-bio/law/mcconnell_cv_22

Education

1999 **University of Richmond School of Law**, Richmond, VA: J.D.

1988 **Agnes Scott Women's College**, Decatur, Georgia: B.A. in International Relations.

Recent Employment

- **Professor of Law, Legal Practice and Director of the Children's Defense Clinic**, University of Richmond School of Law, 2017-present. Associate Professor, 2014-2017. Assistant Professor, 2011- 2014. Chair, Admissions Committee, 2021-present.
- **Juvenile Legal Expert and Specialist, Valetta, Malta/ Richmond, Virginia**. 2018-pres.
- **Supervising Asst. Commonwealth's Attorney**, Rich. Comm.'s Atty's Ofc (2006-2011).
- **Assistant Public Defender**, Richmond, VA Public Defender's Office, 9/2000-12/2005).
- **Law Clerk**, Hon. James Benton Jr., Judge, Virginia Court of Appeals, 8/1999-8/2000.

Selected Publications

"Unshackled: Stories of Redemption Among Serious Juvenile Offenders," Rich. Pub. Int. L. Rev. (4/2022).

"International Instit for Justice & the Rule of Law (IJJ) Juvenile Justice Practitioners' Note on Best Practices in a Counter-terrorism Context," IJJ Juvenile Just Initit. (2/2022).

"Virginia Renews its Faith in Second Chances," Co-written with Honorable Jerrauld C. Jones, published in *Juvenile Justice Update*, New York, NY (9/2021).

"Juvenile Law and Practice in Virginia," Co-ed, 5th & 6th Eds. (2018/2021).

"Juvenile Justice Update," Co-editor/contributor, New York, NY (1/2014-3/2019).

"30 Tips for Excellence in Juvenile Defense," VACDL *Virginia Champion* (1/2018).

"Capital Sentencing for Children in Virginia in the Wake of Miller v. Alabama and Montgomery v. Louisiana," 21 Rich. Pub. Int. L. Rev. 47 (2017).

"Metropolitan Rich. Women's Bar Association Domestic Relations Pamphlet," (2/2017).

"Five Devastating Collateral Consequences of Juvenile Delinquency Adjudications You Should Know Before You Represent a Child," Va. Law, Dec. 2012, at 34.

Recent Awards

- **2022 University of Richmond Distinguished Educator Award.**
- **2022 Humanitarian Award from the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities.**
- **Virginia Lawyer's Weekly 2019 Influential Women in the Law Award.**
- **2019 VA State Bar and Comm. on Access to Legal Services Recog. for Significant and Noteworthy Contribs. to Legal Service for Underserved Virginians.**
- **Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association's 2018 Woman of Achievement.**
- **Richmond YWCA's 2017 Outstanding Woman Award in Education.**
- **Oliver Hill Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court's 2011 "Unsung Hero" Award.**

Selected Recent Presentations

- **"Unshackled: Stories of How We Can Both Hold Children Facing Serious Charges Accountable and Foster Rehabilitation."** Natl Symp. Juv. Serv., Louisville, KY 9/30/22.
- **"Has Virginia Embraced Second Chances?"** VBA Symposium, Richmond, VA 9/16/22.
- **"The Child Welfare to Prison Pipeline."** Webinar, Natl Assoc of Child Counsel, 3/22/22.
- **"Best Practices in Juvenile Defense Representation in a Counterterrorism Context."** Valetta, Malta, 7/15-19/19, 10/20-24/19, 1/20-23/20, 2/9/22

- ***“Juvenile Sentencing in VA Courts.”*** Pre-Bench Judicial Orient., Richmond, VA 6/10/21.
- ***“6th Annual YWCA Women’s Courageous Leadership Forum.”*** Richmond, VA 5/11/21.
- ***“Major Changes in the Sentencing of Minors.”*** Hassell Indig Crim Def Sem, 5/7/21.
- ***“Reexamining How We Incarcerate Juvenile Offenders.”*** Natl Empathy Day 3/2/21.
- ***“Equity and Justice in Education.”*** Martin Luther King Jr. School, Rich., VA 3/12/20.
- ***“Creative Motions Practice.”*** Gault Center, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 10/25/19.
- ***“Mastering Juvenile Court.”*** Va. Assoc. Crim. Defense Lawyers, Roanoke, VA 10/19/19.
- ***“Restorative Justice Practices.”*** Restorative Justice Symp., Richmond, VA 10/4/19.
- ***“Creative Motions Practice.”*** Leroy R. Hassell Sr. Indigent Def. Sem., Rich., VA 5/3/19.
- ***“Juvenile Law Explained,”*** Va. State Bar Seminar, Williamsburg/Charlottesville, VA 2/19.
- ***“Mental Health in Virginia Juvenile System,”*** Regent Law Rev. Symp., VB, VA 11/2/18.
- ***“Tips for Excellence in Juvenile Defense,”*** Indig. Def. Com., Portsmouth, VA 10/17/17.
- ***“Criminal Best Practices in Chesterfield JDR Court,”*** Chesterfield, VA 9/20/17.
- ***“Trying a Miller/Montgomery Resent. Case.”*** Natl Inst Trial Adv, Hous, TX 7/17-19/17.
- ***“4th Amendment Advocacy in Juvenile Court.”*** MS Public Defender, MS 6/11/17.
- ***“Effective Holistic Juvenile Representation.”*** VA State Bar, Charlottesville, VA 2/17.
- ***“Developing a Trauma-Informed Lens.”*** Indigent Def. Comm., Hampton, VA 10/17/16.
- ***“Governor’s Blue-Ribbon Comm.-Juvenile Justice and Education.”*** Rich., VA 9/20/16.
- ***“A Trauma-Informed Approach to Juvenile Justice.”*** Abingdon, VA 8/26/16.
- ***“Holistic Representation of Children with a Trauma History.”*** Richmond, VA 8/3/16.
- ***“Reasonable Expectations for Pros of Def Attys.”*** Va. Comm.’s Attys, VA 5/10/16.
- ***“Interviewing Children.”*** Va. Trial Lawyers Assoc. Conference, Hot Springs, VA 4/1/16.
- ***“Discipline and Law Enforcement in the K-12 Context.”*** ABA National Forum 3/24/16.
- ***“Effectively Using Spec Educ Adv in Juv Cases.”*** Indig. Def. Conf., Hampt, VA 10/6/15.
- ***“Working Effectively with Court Partners.”*** Gault Center, Hampton, VA 8/28/15.
- ***“Collateral Consequences.”*** Rich. Bar Assoc. Bench Bar Conf., Richmond, VA 10/23/14.
- ***“Collateral Consequences: Criminal and Civil Law.”*** Legal Aid, Ports., VA 10/22/14.
- ***“Domestic Violence Cases.”*** Metro Rich. Women’s Bar Assoc., Richmond, VA 10/1/14.
- ***“Human Trafficking: The Modern Slave Trade.”*** Univ. of Richmond, VA May 5/8/14.
- ***“Cruel and Unusual Punishment.”*** W/Cong. Robert Scott, Rich., VA, 9/17/12.
- ***“Abuse and Neglect in the Elderly.”*** Va. Geriatrics Society Conf., Rich., VA 4/27/12
- ***“Prosecution of Elder Abuse.”*** Comm’s Attorneys’ Assoc., Williamsburg, VA 3/22/11.
- ***“Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Cases.”*** Va. Police Acad, Richmond, VA 8/5/09.
- ***Present annually Robert E. Shepherd Jr. Juv. Law & Education Conf.,*** Richmond, VA.

Recent Selected Professional Service

Chair, Virginia Bar Association Commission on the Needs of Children, 2021-present.

Chair, Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Prevention, 2021-present.

Chair, Annual Robert E. Shepherd Jr. Juvenile Law and Education Conference, 2016-pres.

Member, Ofc of the Children’s Ombudsman, Child Dependency Rep. Workgroup, 2022-pres..

Chair, Amer. Assoc. of Law Schools (AALS) Committee on Children & the Law, 2020-2021.

Member, Planning Committee, Va. State Bar Hassell Adv. Indig Def. Conf, 2015-present.

Member, Advis. Comm., University of Richmond Center for Civic Engagement, 2018-2021.

Member, Mid-Atlantic Reg. Advisory Board, Gault Center, 2019-present.

Board Member, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, 2022-present. Volunteer, 1991-present.

Member, Access to Justice Consortium, Virginia State Bar, 2020-present.

Trainer, Juvenile Training Immersion Program (Certified National Trainer), July 2014-present.

Member, Legal and Courts Comm., Richmond Trauma-Informed Care Network, 2016-2018.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT (EXCERPTED)

Professor Julie McConnell is a role model and an inspiration. Her work has a real, tangible, and immediate effect on the lives of others who might now thrive rather than merely survive. Her teaching is service, and it is outstanding. Professor McConnell is not just a professor of law; she leads our Children's Defense Clinic. The clinic focuses on juvenile justice, helping children with a variety of legal problems including serious criminal matters, school discipline, child abuse protection, and mental health issues. Her students represent young indigent clients, helping guide them through their most serious legal problems at a time when they may have no one on which to rely. Professor McConnell must teach students substantive law, how to apply the law in real situations, and how to do so while exercising the highest level of professional care. This is critically important and exhausting work and service to the community. Professor McConnell must train and prepare students so thoroughly that they are fully competent to do the work of an experienced professional. Clients are owed that level of advocacy because they are among the most vulnerable of us. Every time a student meets with a client or negotiates with a government entity or appears in court on a client's behalf, Professor McConnell's work with those students becomes service to the community, an underserved community. Her teaching is, in a very tangible way, service and it is truly outstanding. - **Henry L. Chambers, Jr., Professor of Law, University of Richmond**

Professor Julie McConnell's colleagues and students unanimously recommended her for a University Distinguished Educator Award in 2022. As director of the Children's Defense Clinic, Professor McConnell offers her students an exceptional educational experience. Working under her close supervision, her students represent children in cases ranging from deportation to school-related criminal charges and handle all aspects of these cases from initial client interviews to court hearings. Recently, Professor McConnell expanded the scope of the clinic to include representation in parole hearings of adult prisoners who had been convicted as juveniles and have served long sentences. In the face of COVID, these cases required students to understand an evolving area of constitutional law, to undertake extensive factual investigation, to find creative methods of contacting their clients and to navigate virtual hearings. Under her close mentorship, each of her students not only hone their skills and knowledge, they develop their professional identity as lawyers experiencing first-hand both the satisfaction of helping a client and the frustration of sometimes being unable to achieve justice. Professor McConnell is one of those rare transformative teachers who motivates her students not only to *do* more but to *be* more. She is highly respected as a practicing attorney, a mentor, and a leader in both the teaching and the legal professions. Professor Julie McConnell embodies the best teaching that we can offer our students. She inspires all of us to become better educators. – **Wendy C. Perdue, Dean and Professor of Law, University of Richmond School of Law**

I had the privilege of working with Professor Julie McConnell and her students to reduce the life sentence of a man whose crime was committed as a 15-year-old juvenile. Through her teaching, she brings out the best in her students by engaging with them in projects that deeply impact people's lives. Her students observe her skills and expertise through litigation in real world settings. Julie's students are inspired, dedicated, and productive as they become practicing attorneys from the hands-on setting of Julie's classroom. Their successes in the courtroom and in life will be directly tied to the unique experiences they have had. - **Robert Wagner, former Managing Attorney, Eastern District of VA Federal Defender's Office**

The Children's Defense Clinic was the first time I got to practice law. Under the guidance of Professor McConnell, I had the opportunity to present in front of the Virginia Parole Board, represent a juvenile seeking special immigrant status, and represent a client in a serious offender

review in the Virginia Beach Circuit Court. Professor McConnell created a comfortable, interactive and open environment for the clinic. She provided educational material that not only helped us understand the juvenile justice system but also helped us understand how to adjust our practice of law to fit the needs of juvenile clients. Professor McConnell helped us develop the necessary skills for criminal defense work, including but not limited to client interviewing, building trust, interviewing relevant witnesses, mitigation work, and organizing our case to ensure it is worked thoroughly. As a woman of color, the legal field can be intimidating and it can feel like opportunities are limited. Professor McConnell was encouraging, supportive, and an advocate for my success. [She] embodies all of the qualities you'd want in a professor: She is a leader, she is a motivator, she is an advocate, and she genuinely cares. - **Ka'turah Francis, J.D., Assistant Public Defender, former law student**

Professor McConnell has been a true master of the law and a teacher to many of us. She lit the path for us to promote diversity, fairness, and justice—and she has done it in a way that empowers us. She wonderfully delegates duties in a case and is very subtle to point us in the right direction. Professor McConnell exhibits a great mix of enthusiasm, energy, and objectivity, which only causes us to fight with discipline and bravery for our clients and their cases. - **Salua Kamerow, University of Richmond School of Law, Class of 2022**

Professor McConnell teaches so much more than law – she teaches the significance of building rapport and trust with a client, the importance of compassion in client interactions and representation, and the value of collaboration and candor in case work. She is incredibly dedicated to her students and their personal and professional development. She gives her students autonomy and responsibility for managing their own cases and she provides an opportunity for students to build relationships with the Clinic's clients. She takes the time to learn about each of her students' strengths and how they can be utilized to benefit the clients of the Clinic, and she personalizes each student's experience to make it instructive and memorable. She helped me prepare for my first court appearance – she was patient and understanding of my nerves, and she provided invaluable positive and constructive feedback that contributed to my growth throughout the semester. Under Professor McConnell's leadership, the Clinic was more than a hands-on opportunity to apply and practice the law, it was an opportunity to learn the most fundamental skills of professional and empathetic lawyering from a brilliant practitioner, skills that I carry with me today in practice. - **Olivia Seksinsky, J.D., Former Law Student, Staff Attorney, Central Virginia Legal Aid Society**

Through the Robert E. Shepherd Jr. Juvenile Law and Education Conference, Julie has brought crucial training to Virginia on raising the issue of race in criminal cases. Her leadership of her Clinic has been instrumental in educating, shaping and inspiring generations of talented, committed students to pursue careers as public defenders and prosecutors. She has created a training ground for aspiring public defenders and her clinic has become a pipeline for talented, committed students to move into the public defender system upon graduation. - **Prof. David J Johnson, former Executive Director, Virginia Indigent Defense Commission**

Julie's scholarship and programming have raised the quality of the youth defense bar. She edits and authors Juvenile Law & Practice in Virginia, which is the leading practice manual for youth defense attorneys in Virginia. I assign this textbook to my clinic students every semester. Julie also organizes the annual Robert E. Shepherd Jr. Juvenile Law and Education Conference, which is the premiere youth defense conference in Virginia. Hundreds of defense attorneys rely on this conference to learn the most up-to-date laws and policies regarding youth defense in Virginia. - **Crystal Shin, Director, Holistic Youth Defense Clinic, Associate Professor of Law, General Faculty, University of Virginia School of Law**