
CIRRICULUM VITAE
MELISSA “MISSY” JANCZEWSKI JONES

CONTACT Mississippi College
Department of History and Political Science
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WORK EXPERIENCE

June 2021-

Present **Director of Paralegal Studies & Public History**, Department of History & Political Science, Mississippi College

August 2020-

May 2021 **Acting Coordinator of Public History & Paralegal Studies**, Department of History & Political Science, Mississippi College

August 2015-

July 2020 **Visiting Instructor**, Department of History & Political Science, Mississippi College

2014-2018

Editor, Historian, and Grant Writer for *Mississippi History Now*, an online publication of the Mississippi Historical Society, Jackson, Mississippi

2014-July 2015 **Adjunct Instructor**, Department of History & Political Science, Mississippi College

2011-2014

Teaching Assistant, Department of History & Political Science, Mississippi College

2012 & 2013

Seasonal Park Ranger (Interpretive), Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Mississippi; served during the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Siege and Fall of Vicksburg

Fall 2012

Contract Editor, University of Syracuse, Syracuse, New York, for “The Long Civil War: Union War Veterans and Suicide,” an article authored by Dr. Larry Logue and submitted for publication to the *Journal of American History*

1992-2010

Senior Paralegal, Bourland, Wall & Wenzel, P.C., Fort Worth, Texas; specializing in *Corporate, Partnership, Tax, & Real Estate Planning* and *Estate, Charitable, & Gift Planning*

EDUCATION

2018-present

Ph.D. candidate (American History with emphasis in gender studies and historical memory), University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

2014

Masters of Social Sciences, *summa cum laude*, History and Political Science (dual emphasis), Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi

1988-1992

Bachelor of Science, *Highest Honors and Special Distinction*, History & Paralegal Studies (double-major), Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi; **Recipient of 1992 Outstanding Senior in Paralegal Studies Award**; senior honors paper “Mississippi College Versus Mississippi’s Mortmain Laws

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETIVE TRAINING CERTIFICATES

- 2012-2013** **National Park Service, Interpretive Development Program (10 hour course)**
Indiana University, Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands (6 hour course)
U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI Learn) Certifications (6 hour course)

AWARDS

- 2020** **Non-Tenured Faculty Grant to attend the Organization of American Historians 2020 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.** (cancelled due to COVID-19)
- 2020** **Research Travel Grant awarded by the Dale Center for the Study of War & Society at the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to present research at 22nd Annual Meeting of The Space Between Conference: Race in the Space Between, 1914-1945, University of Virginia, June, 2020** (cancelled due to COVID-19)
- 2017** **National Endowment for the Humanities Award and Grant to attend the Inaugural Holtzclaw Summer Institute,** Hinds County Community College, Utica, Mississippi
- 2016** **Distinguished Alumna of the Year,** Department of History & Political Science, Mississippi College
- 2014** **Awarded Best Conference Paper** for “Frozen Historical Memory: The Clinton Riot of 1875,” Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi
- 2014** **Awarded Best Conference Paper** for “‘Written in Letters of Blood’: Decoding the Clinton Riot of 1875,” Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference, Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi
- 2013** **Recipient of Book Award** in Seminar in Legal History of Civil War & Reconstruction, MC School of Law (*Dr. Cynthia Nicoletti*)
- 2012** **Recipient of Book Award** in Seminar in American Legal History, MC School of Law (*Dr. Cynthia Nicoletti*)
- 1992** **Awarded Highest Honors** for “Mississippi College versus Mississippi’s Mortmain Laws” (*Undergraduate Honors Research Paper*)
- 1992** **Outstanding Senior in Paralegal Studies Award for 1992,** Department of History & Political Science, Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi

PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA PRESENTATIONS

- “Civil War (or, Who Do We Think We Are),” film consultant and guest appearance as historian of the Clinton Massacre of 1875 in the documentary film by Rachel Boynton, executive produced by Brad Pitt and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., & on Peacock and MSNBC <https://youtu.be/f3nm9d8Jpqc> (released in June 2021)
- “States Rights and the 19th Amendment in Mississippi,” 5th of 10 part interstitial project commemorating the centennial anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, produced and broadcast by Mississippi Public Broadcasting and sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Mississippi and the Mississippi Humanities Council <https://www.facebook.com/MPBOnline/videos/728306107755519/> (published October 2020)

Guest appearance & historical consultant on Mississippi during the Reconstruction era in helping NBC/MSNBC journalist Simone Boyce trace her family ancestry https://youtu.be/G_xURfdl3Wg (published October 2020)

“Clinton Riot (Massacre) of 1875,” entry for the *Mississippi Encyclopedia*, online edition (published August 2019); <https://mississippiencyclopedia.org/entries/clinton-riot-massacre-of-1875/> (also contracted to author for entries for “Meridian Massacre of 1871” & “Vicksburg Massacre of 1874” – publications pending)

“Thawing Frozen History: The Clinton Riot of 1875,” published by *Mississippi History Now*, an online publication of the Mississippi Historical Society <http://mshistorynow.mdah.state.ms.us/articles/399/the-clinton-riot-of-1875-from-riot-to-massacre> (published September 2015)

NON-PUBLISHED HISTORICAL WRITINGS (Available Upon Request)

“Dueling History: A Story of Massacre and Commemoration in Clinton, 1926 to 2021,” presented at the 39th Annual Historical Gulf South History & Humanities Conference, Natchez, Mississippi (October 2021)

“William H. Holtclaw & the Education of African American Mississippians during the Jim Crow Era,” Lesson Plan Developed for Mississippi Studies Course, Mississippi College (*Holtclaw Summer Institute*, Summer 2017)

“Thawing Frozen History: Clinton Riot of 1875,” presented at the Civil Rights Literacy and the Past, Present, and Future of the Common Good Conference, sponsored by the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Jackson, Mississippi (April 2016)

“Meaning of the Clinton Riot for African American Churches in Mississippi,” presented at 1st Annual Historical Unity Celebration between Pleasant Green M.B. Church, Clinton, Mississippi, and Pleasant Green Baptist Church, Ebenezer, Mississippi (November 2015)

“Remembering Moss Hill,” an Observance by Mount Hood M.B. Church, Northside Baptist Church, and Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church (September 2015)

“Thawing Frozen Memory: The Clinton Riot of 1875” presented at the Clinton Genealogical Society (September 2015)

“The Clinton Massacre of 1875: Erasing the Shadow of Reconstruction in Mississippi’s Public Memory,” presented at the 33rd Annual Gulf South History & Humanities Conference, Natchez, Mississippi (October 2015)

“Fraught Memory and the Clinton Riot of 1875,” presented at the 17th Annual Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Graduate Conference, Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, Virginia (Spring 2014)

“Frozen Historical Memory: The Clinton Riot of 1875,” presented at the Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi (Spring 2014); **Awarded Best Conference Paper**

“Revolution, Second Slavery, and the Clinton Riot of 1875,” presented at the First Annual Rethinking Mass Incarceration in the South Conference, the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi (Spring 2014)

“‘Written in Letters of Blood’: Decoding the Clinton Riot of 1875,” presented at the Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference, Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi (Spring 2013); **Awarded Best Conference Paper**

“Vicksburg Massacre of 1874: Beginning and End of Reconstruction in Mississippi” (Interpretive Program written for Vicksburg National Military Park, Summer 2012); presentation became the impetus for 140th Commemoration of the 1874 Vicksburg Massacre presented by Vicksburg National Military Park (December 2014)

PRESENTATIONS, GUEST LECTURESHIPS, & PANELIST

- Panelist (research proposal accepted), 39th Annual Gulf South History & Humanities Conference, Natchez, Mississippi (October 2021)
- Keynote Speaker, Rally and March for Peace, Justice, & Equality in Clinton, Mississippi (June 2020)
- Keynote Speaker, Sesquicentennial Anniversary Celebration of Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church, Clinton, Mississippi, (June 2020)
- Panelist (research proposal accepted), 22nd Annual Meeting of The Space Between Conference: Race in the Space Between, 1914-1945, University of Virginia, June, 2020 (**cancelled due to COVID-19**)
- Keynote Speaker and Panelist, Civil Rights Literacy and the Past, Present, and Future of the Common Good Conference, sponsored by the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Jackson, Mississippi (April 2016)
- Served on Honors Papers Examination Committee for Anna Caroline Gray, “Merely the Reflection of Their Masters: Poor Whites and the White Supremacy Movement in Hinds County, 1850-1877,” graduated with highest honors (May 2016)
- Keynote Speaker, 1st Annual Historical Unity Celebration between Pleasant Green M.B. Church, Clinton, Mississippi, and Pleasant Green Baptist Church, Ebenezer, Mississippi (November 2015)
- Keynote Speaker, Observance of the Clinton Riot of 1875 by Mount Hood M.B. Church, Northside Baptist Church, and Pleasant Green M.B. Church (September 2015)
- Keynote Speaker, Clinton Genealogical Society, Clinton, Mississippi (September 2015)
- Presenter, 33rd Annual Gulf South History & Humanities Conference, Natchez, Mississippi (October 2015)
- Speaker, City of Clinton’s 140th Commemoration of the 1875 Clinton Riot, Clinton, Mississippi (September 2015)
- Keynote Speaker, Dick Brogan Lectureship Series, Northside Baptist Church, Clinton, Mississippi (September 2015)
- Guest Lecturer, Clinton Civitan Club, Clinton, Mississippi (Summer 2015)
- Presenter, 30th Annual Social Studies Teachers Workshop, Mississippi Department of Archives & History, Jackson, Mississippi (Fall 2014)
- Panelist, 17th Annual Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Graduate Conference, Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, Virginia (Spring 2014)
- Panelist, Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi (Spring 2014); **Awarded Best Conference Paper**
- Panelist, First Annual Rethinking Mass Incarceration in the South Conference, the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi (Spring 2014)
- Panelist, Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference, Mississippi College (Spring 2013); **Awarded Best Conference Paper**

Guest Lecturer, Pleasant Green Baptist Church, Clinton, Mississippi (Spring 2014)

Guest Lecturer, Mt. Hood Missionary Baptist Church, Clinton, Mississippi (Spring 2014)

Guest Lecturer, Salvation Army, Jackson, Mississippi (Spring 2014)

Panelist, 15th Annual Mississippi College Graduate Symposium, Mississippi College (Spring 2013)

Historian/Guide, City of Clinton's Sesquicentennial Commemoration of Civil War, Mississippi College (Spring 2013)

Interpretive Guide, first presentation on Vicksburg Massacre of 1874 to a tour group inside the Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Mississippi (Summer 2012)

Guest Lecturer, Northside Baptist Church, Clinton, Mississippi (Summer 2012)

Guest Lecturer, Clinton Civitan Club, Clinton, Mississippi (Summer 2012)

Guest Lecturer, Mississippi Genealogical Society, Jackson, Mississippi (Spring 2011)

Guest Lecturer, Constitutional Development I (Dr. Ron Howard, professor), Mississippi College (Fall 2011)

LEGAL WRITINGS (Available Upon Request)

“Redefining Reconstruction in Mississippi: Law and Honor” (*Seminar in Mississippi Studies*, Spring 2013)

“The Clinton Riot: A Constitutional Crossroads” (*Legal History of Civil War and Reconstruction*, Spring 2012)

“The Civil War and the Rule of Law,” “Family Law, Property Rights and the Transformation of Women’s Legal Rights,” and “The Interdependent Dialectic of Law and Society” (*Legal History of the United States*, Spring 2011)

Telecommuting: One Law Firm’s Evolution,” co-authored with Patricia A. Law, *Independence Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators* (Fall 2000): 24-26.

“Maintaining/Operating the Family Limited Partnership,” co-authored with Kenneth L. Wenzel, presented to Professional Financial Services, LLC, Family Limited Partnership Alert and Update, Harvey Hotel, DFW Airport, Arlington, Texas (2000)

“Estate Planning with Family Limited Partnerships (or the Top Ten Reasons to Use Family Limited Partnerships and Key Partnership Agreement Provisions),” co-authored with Kenneth L. Wenzel, presented to the Continuing Professional Education and Group Meeting for Estate Tax Attorneys, Internal Revenue Service, North Texas District, Dallas, Texas (1997)

“The Family Limited Partnership,” co-authored with Michael V. Bourland, Kenneth L. Wenzel, Christina S. Woods, and P. Michelle Eaton, part of materials disseminated by Bourland, Wall & Wenzel, P.C. to clients (1997)

“Living Trust – Necessary or Not,” part of materials disseminated by Bourland, Wall & Wenzel, P.C. to clients (1992)

“Mississippi College Versus Mississippi’s Mortmain Laws” (*Undergraduate Honors Research Paper*, Spring 1992)

AREAS OF PARALEGAL EXPERIENCE

Corporate/Partnership/Tax Planning

Creating, funding, maintaining, converting, consolidating, merging and dissolving all types of business entities, including corporations (including C, S, professional and non-profit classifications), limited liability companies, limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships, general partnerships and joint ventures (including the review of entity minute books and records, the preparation of documentation to update corporate minute books, and the creation of corporate summaries and calendaring events to correspond with all local, state and federal filing requirements)

Planning, drafting and reviewing all types of loan documentation, including promissory notes, pledge agreements, security agreements, financing statements, guaranty agreements, escrow agreements, line of credit and loan agreements

Conducting and supervising due diligence related to corporate stock and asset sales, acquisitions, mergers and consolidations ranging in consideration up to \$200 million dollars

Served as Senior Paralegal for 1993 acquisition of the Houston Astros by Drayton McLain (transaction value: \$103 million)

Real Estate Planning

Planning, drafting, reviewing and executing all types of real estate documentation, including deeds, deeds of trust, real estate contracts, real estate management contracts, residential and commercial lease agreements, brokerage agreements, oil and gas leases and conveyances of mineral interests in real property

Estate and Gift Planning

Planning, drafting, executing and funding a multitude of both simple and complex estate and gift planning instruments, including wills, revocable trusts, marital trusts, irrevocable insurance and asset trusts, grantor retained annuity trusts, intentionally defective grantor retained annuity trusts, qualified personal residence trusts, probate avoidance trusts, pre-marital/post-marital agreements, partition agreements, stock and other business entity assignments and transfers; planning and calculating estate/gift tax in conjunction with estate/gift planning proposals ranging

Managing and overseeing the preparation, execution and filing of all Federal Gift Tax Returns (IRS Form 709), including filing determinations, gift tax calculations (including unified credit, generation-skipping transfer tax, life estate/remainder interest calculations, charitable interest and charitable split-interest allocations), extensions, required appraisals (real property and business entities) and all due diligence related to the foregoing

Served as Senior Paralegal for estate and gift transactions ranging in value from \$1 million-\$1 billion

Charitable Planning

Planning, reviewing and funding several charitable giving entities such as private foundations, churches and other charitable organizations; planning and preparing estate/gift plans benefiting charitable entities; preparing and executing other charitable instruments such as endowment agreements, charitable lead trusts, charitable remainder trusts

Grant Writing/Management

Experience writing successful grants and acting as manager of multiple awarded grant funds

OTHER LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

- 2019-2022** Member of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Historical Society
- 2019-present** Member of the Publications Board for the Mississippi Historical Society
- 2019-present** Member of the Task Force for the University's Core Curriculum Committee
- 2018-present** Member of the Mississippi College Faculty Council
- 2018-present** Member of the Archives and History Committee of the United Methodist Church MS Conference
- 2015-present** Member of the Civil Rights Education Committee for the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation
- 2018-present** Member of the University of Southern Mississippi Graduate Student Association
- 2013-present** Faculty Sponsor of the Mississippi College History Club
- 2018-present** Member of the Southern Historians Association, Organization of American Historians, & Association for the Study of African American Life & History
- 2014-2015** Member of the City of Clinton's Clinton Riot 140th Commemoration Committee
- 1992-present** Member of Phi Alpha Theta, Pi Gamma Mu, and Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity
- 2011-2015** Vice President, Clinton Arrow Swim Team
- 2008-2013** Member of the City of Clinton's Quisenberry Public Library Advisory Board; facilitated the Grand Opening of the Quisenberry Public Library
- 2018-present** Member of Crossgates United Methodist Church
- 2005-2008** Deacon, Northside Baptist Church (Chairperson of Deacons, 2008)
- 1992-2010** Member of the Fort Worth Paralegal Association
- 1992** Member of Mortar Board, Phi Alpha Theta, Omicron Delta Kappa, Who's Who Among Students in Colleges and Universities

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

- Dr. Larry M. Logue, Senior Fellow, Burton Blatt Institute of Syracuse University
769.572.5282 or lmlogue2@gmail.com; http://bbi.syr.edu/about/team/BBI_Fellows/larry_logue.html
- Dr. Cynthia Nicoletti, Class of 1966 Research Professor of Law, University of Virginia School of Law
434.924.7147 or cnicolleti@law.virginia.edu; <https://www.law.virginia.edu/faculty/profile/cln4x/1195088>
- Brother Rogers, Director Programs and Communications, Mississippi Department of Archives and History
601.576.6936 or brogers@mdah.ms.gov