

CHRISTEL BEST

Attorney at Law

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Attorney with 20-plus years experience in equal employment and civil rights law, litigation, diversity and inclusion policy compliance, and legal document writing.

RELEVANT POSITIONS

United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Civil Rights March 2020 – May 2021

- Wrote Final Agency Decisions regarding equal employment opportunity discrimination matters
- Reviewed each discrimination claim, Report of Investigation, and legal standards to draft decisions
- Managed workload to ensure timely submission of each decision by the deadline
- Focused on technical structure of documents to ensure accuracy and consistency
- Communicated with the team as to edits and problem-solving goals to get desired outcome

Seyfarth Shaw at Work, Chicago, Illinois – Attorney Civil Rights Trainer 2016 – present

- Conducted equal employment opportunity compliance trainings for managers, staff and contractors
- Reviewed and assess ethics and harassment policies of businesses in light of EEO policy mandates
- Provided relevant overview of civil liberties law, Title VII of Civil Rights Act, ADA, ADEA as well as state civil rights laws, and employer EEO responsibilities
- Worked with business leaders to develop and implement best practices and policy directives on a broad scale to ensure workplace fairness
- Encouraged robust dialogue and engagement during training to provide an excellent learning experience
- Provided Civil Rights trainings across the U.S. and Canada for businesses of all sizes and types

Christel Turner, LTD - Private Practice 2005 – 2014

- Represented Cuyahoga County Consortium in implementing federal CDBG and Block Grant Compliance
- Focused on equal opportunity for minority and female contractors and those with disabilities
- Represented homeowners in lender liability actions and fraudulent deed transfers
- Drafted numerous pleadings, discovery documents, contracts, and letters

- Applied legal principles based on applicable statutory and case law analysis
- Engaged in oral arguments and public speaking engagements.

Adjunct Law Professor – Cleveland-Marshall College of Law **2008 – 2012**
(Cleveland State University)

- Educated law students in drafting legal documents of all types
- Reviewed, critiqued, and edited student research papers
- Taught and engaged discussion in areas of fair housing, ADA compliance, and fairness and equality in mortgage lending

City of Cleveland Law Department, Assistant Director of Law **2003 to 2005**

- Represented the Department of Community Development in providing equal opportunity in lending and/or granting federal funds, preparing contracts, lease agreements, using Community Development Block Grant funds, and buy- sell agreements
- Represented the Department of Economic Development and helped Cleveland businesses obtain and use Storefront Renovation funds, property tax abatement programs, and low-interest loans based on equal access principles
- Represented the Department of Finance and assisted with drafting documents for City bond offerings
- Handled drafting and negotiating municipal contracts

Teamor and Associates – Attorney **1992-2003**

- Represented City of Cleveland with its municipal finance initiatives
- Served on multiple municipal finance transactions, including Cleveland offerings of general obligation bonds, tax anticipation notes, bond anticipation notes, and revenue anticipation notes
- Served as co-bond counsel and co-underwriters counsel on City of Cleveland municipal finance transactions
- Handled various civil litigation matters, including representing clients with claims of race, age, and gender discrimination against employers and the school board of a private school
- Represented small business owners defending EEO claims of discrimination based on age and race

EDUCATION

Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland, Ohio

Juris Doctorate, 1992

- Clerked with Federal District Court Judge Anne Aldrich, Summer 1990
- Interned with the National Association of Broadcasters, Summer 1991

The American University, Washington, D.C.

Bachelor of Arts, Journalism, 1989

Alliance Française, Paris France

Intensive French language studies, June 2012

BAR ADMISSION

State of Ohio, 1992

Federal District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, 1992