



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina

Joseph F. Rice School of Law

NATHAN ELLIS ROUSE
University of South Carolina School of Law
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law

Assistant Professor of Law 2025 – Present

Director, Criminal Practice Clinic 2025 – Present

Courses: Criminal Adjudication, Criminal Practice Clinic

Teach doctrinal classes relating to the criminal law and a one-semester clinic providing representation to indigent people involved in the criminal legal system.

New York University School of Law

Acting Assistant Professor 2023 – 2025

Courses: Lawyering; Reading Group: Violence and the Word

Taught a required 1L yearlong experiential course on legal research and writing, lawyering skills, ethics, and critical perspectives on the legal profession.

EDUCATION

New York University School of Law, Juris Doctor, January 2016

Activities: *N.Y.U. Review of Law & Social Change*, Senior Articles Editor

Brennan Center Public Policy Advocacy Clinic

American Civil Liberties Union Racial Justice Clinic

Internships: Public Defender of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee

Charleston County Public Defender's Office

University of South Carolina, Honors College, Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Philosophy and Religion, *magna cum laude*, May 2009

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa

Magellan Scholar

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Restraint Chair, 175 U. PA. L. REV. ____ (forthcoming 2027).

This Article examines the restraint chair, a carceral technology used in jails and prisons to easily force people into total restraints. It shows how the technology has proliferated in the absence of significant legal interpretation, and argues that its widespread use is only possible due to the

culturally pervasive narratives that dehumanize the people who are most commonly forced into it.

Witness-Washing Facial Recognition Technology, 102 DENV. L. REV. 715 (2025).

This Article surfaces the ongoing use of Facial Recognition Technology, which has been in active use by law enforcement since 2001. It shows how the technology has evaded judicial review through “witness-washing,” a process which hides algorithmic technology behind the testimony of witnesses. Witness-washing allowed the technology to proliferate for decades without review of its accuracy, and without defendants and the public having knowledge of its use.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Violence in the Absence of the Word,” Clinical Law Review Writers’ Workshop, October 4, 2025.

“Violence in the Absence of the Word,” Crimfest!, University of Pennsylvania School of Law, July 14, 2025.

“Violence in the Absence of the Word,” Works in Progress, AALS Clinical Conference, April 29, 2025.

“Client Interviewing: A Direct Service Training,” NYU School of Law, February 10, 2025.

“Violence in the Absence of the Word,” Lawyering Scholarship Colloquium, NYU School of Law, October 30, 2024.

“Witness-Washing Facial Recognition Technology,” Lawyering Scholarship Colloquium, NYU School of Law, June 18, 2024.

“Witness-Washing Facial Recognition Technology,” Academic Careers Program, NYU School of Law, April 15, 2024.

“Witness-Washing Facial Recognition Technology,” Clinical Law Review Workshop, NYU School of Law, October 14, 2023.

LEGAL EMPLOYMENT

Brooklyn Defender Services, Brooklyn, New York 2021 – 2023

Staff Attorney, Criminal Defense Practice

Represented clients in misdemeanor and felony cases in Kings County Criminal and Supreme Court. Led trial-level litigation for 70 to 80 clients at a time, including appearing in court nearly daily, supervising investigations and social work, negotiating, motions practice, and collaborating with immigration, civil, and family attorneys. Supervised interns on oral advocacy, motions, and lawyering skills.

Richland County Public Defender’s Office, Columbia, South Carolina 2016 – 2021

Assistant Public Defender and Training Director

Represented more than 700 clients in the Richland County General Sessions Court and the Columbia Municipal Court. Litigated two jury trials to acquittal. Cross-examined hundreds of witnesses at hearings and trials. Managed a caseload of hundreds of clients. Graduated from 3-year Gideon's Promise Core 101 training program. As training director, trained new staff attorneys. Wrote training manuals for new attorneys and attorneys handling probation revocations. Organized and hosted monthly office-wide trainings

American Civil Liberties Union, New York, New York

Jan. 2016 – July 2016

Fellow

Conducted legal research underpinning a lawsuit challenging the deprivation of counsel in South Carolina municipal courts. Edited, researched, and observed court for a report critiquing South Carolina summary courts for the deprivation of counsel.

ADMISSIONS

Admitted to the New York Bar, D.C. Bar, and South Carolina Bar.