

**EMMA M. HETHERINGTON, J.D., CWLS**  
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**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA SCHOOL OF LAW, Athens, Georgia**

- *Clinical Associate Professor*, July 2022 - Present
  - *Clinical Assistant Professor*, June 2017 – June 2022
  - *Clinical Instructor*, December 2015 – June 2017
- *Director*, Wilbanks Child Endangerment and Sexual Exploitation Clinic, December 2015 - Present
- *Affiliate Faculty Member*, Center on Human Trafficking Research and Innovation, University of Georgia School of Social Work, April 2021 - Present

**AWARDS, HONORS, & RECOGNITION**

- Georgia Crime Victim Service Collaborative and Innovative Project Award, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, 2022
- Child Welfare Law Specialist Certification, National Association of Counsel for Children, January 2022
- University of Georgia Recognition for Greatly Contributing to the Career Development of UGA Graduates, 2019
- SAGE Publishing and Council on Social Work Education National Innovative Teaching in Social Work Education Award Recipient, 2018
- National Association of Counsel for Children Child Welfare Law Specialist Certification Diversity Scholarship Award Recipient, 2018

**COURSES TAUGHT**

- Child Endangerment and Sexual Exploitation Seminar
- Child Endangerment and Sexual Exploitation Clinic
- Child Welfare Mock Trial (Juris Doctorate and Masters of Social Work students)
- Child Welfare Law and Practice

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- Access to Justice for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse and Trafficking, Therapeutic Jurisprudence, Trauma-Informed Lawyering, Rights of Children in Foster Care, Interdisciplinary Practice.

## **EDUCATION**

### **UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA SCHOOL OF LAW, Athens, Georgia**

J.D., *Cum Laude*, GPA 3.53 (Top 20%), May 2011

Honors: Working in the Public Interest Student Achievement Award UGA; Law Equal Justice Foundation Fellow; Equal Justice Works Summer Corps Fellow

### **EMORY UNIVERSITY, Atlanta, Georgia**

B.A. in Comparative Literature and French, GPA 3.85, May 2007

Honors: Emory College Language Center Excellence in Language

Learning French Award; Dean's List; Phi Eta Sigma; Senior Tribute Fund

Book Scholarship; Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory (SIRE) Research Scholar

## **RESEARCH PROJECTS AND GRANTS**

### **Trauma-Informed Legal Services for CSEC Survivors in Georgia**

- *Principle Investigator*, FY 2022: Funded \$75,900 under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant through Georgia's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to hire a full-time Social Work Advocate to provide case management services to survivors of child sexual abuse, exploitation, and trafficking; build and maintain a program to educate and supervise masters of social work students in interdisciplinary practice; and to identify micro- and macro-level solutions for survivors within the legal system.
- *Principle Investigator*, FY 2022: Funded \$72,000 by Georgia's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's Safe Harbor Grant Commission to provide community outreach and education, legal services, individualized case management, systems-based advocacy, and program evaluation on behalf of survivors of commercial and sexual exploitation of children (CSECC) to improve identification, knowledge, and understanding and importance of trauma-informed practices and multidisciplinary coordination.
- *Principle Investigator*, FY 2021: Funded \$50,000 by Georgia's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's Safe Harbor Grant Commission to provide community outreach and education, legal services, individualized case management, systems-based advocacy, and program evaluation on behalf of survivors of commercial and sexual exploitation of children (CSECC) to improve identification, knowledge, and understanding and importance of trauma-informed practices and multidisciplinary coordination.

### **Developing a Comprehensive Training Protocol for Stakeholders Serving Trafficked Youth (2021-2022)**

*Co-Principal Investigator (with Allison Dunnigan, Rachel Fusco, and Jennifer Elkins)*

Funded \$25,000 by the Center on Human Trafficking Research and Outreach at the University of Georgia to develop a human trafficking treatment court toolkit for Georgia, and provide ongoing programmatic and evaluation support for responses to human trafficking from court and law enforcement systems, including juvenile court child trafficking treatment courts.

## **Trauma Informed Pedagogy and Practice in Higher Education (2021-2022)**

*Team Member (with Jennifer Elkins, Allison Dunnigan, Rachelda Lewis, Edward Delgado-Romero, Emily Sahakian, Megan Mittelstadt, and Ruth Proposki)*

Funded \$4,000 by the University of Georgia's Office of Research Teaming for Interdisciplinary Research Pre-Seed Program to begin preliminary activities that will position concept papers and the research team to produce pursue competitive external funding to: (1) identify faculty, administration, student and staff knowledge gaps, barriers, and training needs; and (2) develop and evaluate an interdisciplinary trauma informed framework for implementation.

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

*Measuring Therapeutic Outcomes for Survivors of CSEC*, 44 THE GUARDIAN 17 (Winter 2022).

*Child Trafficking*, CHILD WELFARE LAW AND PRACTICE: REPRESENTING CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND STATE AGENCIES IN ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND DEPENDENCY CASES (Josh Gupta-Kagan, et al., eds., National Association of Counsel for Children, 4th ed., forthcoming 2022) (with Brian Atkinson).

*CSEC Treatment Courts: An Opportunity for Positive, Trauma-Informed, and Therapeutic Systems Responses in Family and Juvenile Courts*, 43 MITCHELL HAMLINE L.J. PUB. POL'Y & PRAC. 200 (Spring 2022) (with Dr. Allison Dunnigan and Hannah Sbaity).

*Considering the therapeutic consequences of recent reforms to civil statutes of limitations for child sexual abuse claims*, 15 CHARLESTON L. REV. 639 (Spring 2021).

*Civil Statutes of Limitation for Child Sexual Abuse and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: A National Survey and Suggestions for Reforms in the State of Georgia*, Policy Paper for the 2020 Georgia General Assembly Session (March 11, 2020) (with Melina Lewis and others).

*Access to the Civil Court System for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse in Georgia: Observations and Recommendations from the Clinical Legal Education Experience*, 53 GA. L. REV. ONLINE (April 5, 2019) (Georgia Law Clinics Special 50th Anniversary Issue) (with Michael Nunnally).

*Statute of Limitations for Child Sexual Abuse Civil Lawsuits in Georgia: Update on Case Findings and Opportunities for Reform*, Policy Paper for the 2019 Georgia General Assembly Session (January 2019) (with Chase Lyndale and others).

## **PANELS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

- Presenter (Invited), "Integrating Evaluations in Practice: Lessons Learned from Representing Survivors of CSEC within a Treatment Court Model," National Association of Counsel for Children Member Webinar (December 2022).
- Presenter (Invited), "Exploring Careers in Child Protection Law," The Summit: Georgia's Child Welfare Conference (December 2022).

- Presenter (Invited), “Impact of Domestic & Family Violence on Children,” South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (October 2022).
- Presenter (Invited), “Trafficking Myths Dispelled,” Savannah Interagency Diversity Council’s 7th Annual Traffick Jam (January 2022).
- Presenter (Selected from call for abstracts), “Collaborating with Multidisciplinary Teams to Advocate for Survivors of CSEC,” The Summit: Georgia’s Child Welfare Conference (November 2021)
- Presenter and Facilitator (Invited), “Trauma-Informed Lawyering,” A Training Series for Metro-Atlanta Public Interest Attorneys (May 2021)
- Presenter (Invited), “Trauma-Informed Victims’ Rights Training,” Western Judicial Circuit District Attorney’s Office (May 2021)
- Presenter (Invited), “What is CSEC? A Brief Legal Lesson, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Social Worker Training (Apr. 2021)
- Presenter (Invited), “Chatham County Healing Opportunities through Positive Empowerment Court,” Georgia’s Criminal Justice Coordinating Council’s Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force Quarterly Meeting (Apr. 2021)
- Presenter and Facilitator, “Teaching Trauma-Informed Lawyering and Secondary Trauma,” Clinical Brown Bag Lunch Series, University of Georgia School of Law (Apr. 2021)
- Panelist (Invited), “Resolving Procedural & Logistical Complexities Inherent in Sexual Abuse/Assault Cases,” Charleston Law Review’s Law and Society Symposium on “Sexual Abuse and Sex Trafficking: Protecting Children, Supporting Victims, and Seeking Justice (Feb. 2021)
- Presenter (Invited), “What is CSEC? A Legal Lesson,” Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta’s Statewide Commercial and Sexual Exploitation of Children Multidisciplinary Team (Jan. 2021)
- Panelist (Invited), “Tackling Human Trafficking,” CARE’s Atlanta Global Innovation Hub Tuesday Talks (Jan. 2021)
- Guest Lecturer, “Representing Children and Youth and the Commercial and Sexual Exploitation of Children,” Child, Parent, & State Law course at Loyola Chicago School of Law (Nov. 2020)
- Organizer, Moderator and Host, 2020 Fall CEASE Webinar Series, a three-part series on CSEC, racial disparities in the child welfare system; COVID-19’s effect on online sexual exploitation of children; and post-conviction relief for survivors of sex trafficking (Fall 2020)
- Presenter and Organizer (Invited), Training on Trauma-Informed Representation of Survivors of Human Trafficking in Pro Bono Cases, Jones Day (September 2020)
- Presenter (Selected from call for abstracts), “Advocating for Transgender Youth in Care: A Case Study,” 43rd National Child Welfare Law Virtual Conference (Aug. 2020)
- Presenter (Invited), “Alternative Justice for Victims,” Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Webinar Series (May 2020)

- Organizer and Presenter, 2020 CEASE Virtual Conference on the Commercial and Sexual Exploitation of Children, LGBTQ+ Youth, and Civil Remedies for survivors of child sexual abuse and exploitation (April 2020)
- Presenter, “Social Welfare in a Time of Crisis,” Ask an Expert webinar series, University of Georgia School of Law (April 2020)
- Presenter and Conference Organizer, “Trauma-Informed Courtrooms,” Office of State Administrative Hearings Child Abuse Registry CLE Training (Feb. 2020)
- Co-Presenter (Selected from call for abstracts), “Collaborating with the Media to Amplify a Clinic’s Impact,” Southern Clinical Conference and New Clinicians Workshop, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law (Oct. 2019)
- Presenter (Selected from call for abstracts), “Developing a Trauma-Informed Courtroom: An Innovative Interprofessional Approach for Improving Outcomes for Child Welfare Involved Children, Families & Professionals,” Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting (Nov. 2018)
- Co-Panelist (Invited), “#MeToo and the Legal Academy,” Women’s Leadership in Academia Conference, University of Georgia School of Law (July 2018)
- Presenter (Selected from call for abstracts), “Georgia’s Child Abuse Registry: Good Intentions and Unintended Consequences,” Georgia Summit on Child Welfare Law (November 2017)
- Presenter (Selected from call for abstracts), “Hidden Registries: Child Abuse Registries and Avoiding the Consequences,” National Association of Counsel for Children National Child Welfare Law Conference (Aug. 2017)
- Presenter (Invited), “Improving Outcomes for Sexually Abused and Exploited Children: An Interdisciplinary, Trauma-Informed Courtroom Practice,” Georgia Juvenile Court Judges Conference (Oct. 2017)
- Discussant (Invited), International Law Colloquium, “Human Rights Education: Traversing Legal and Geographic Boundaries,” University of Georgia School of Law (Feb. 2017)
- Presenter and Organizer, “Trauma-Informed Lawyering” and “Child Sex Abuse in Civil Litigations,” Wilbanks Child Endangerment and Sexual Exploitation Conference, University of Georgia School of Law (Jan. 2017)
- Presenter (Selected from call for abstracts), “Child Sex Abuse in Civil Litigation” Georgia Conference on Children and Families (Nov. 2016)
- Presenter (Selected from call for abstracts), “Creating a New Clinic from Scratch: A Brainstorming Case Round,” Southern Clinical Conference, Charlotte School of Law (Oct. 2016)
- Presenter and Organizer, “Same Child Victim, Same Alleged Abuser, Three Courts—The Intersection of - Administrative, Juvenile and Criminal Courts in Child Abuse Cases,” Office of State Administrative Hearings Child Abuse Registry Training, University of Georgia School of Law (June 2016)
- Presenter (Selected from call for abstracts), “Advocating for Transitioning Youth,” Georgia Association of Counsel for Children’s Georgia Youth Law Conference (June 2014)

- Presenter (Invited), “Education and Homeless Youth,” National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Conference (Nov. 2013)
- Co-Presenter (Selected from call for abstracts), “Representing Children and Parents with Disabilities in Juvenile Court,” National Association of Counsel for Children’s *National Child Welfare Law Conference* (Aug. 2013)
- Co-Presenter (Selected from call for abstracts), “Representing Children and Parents with Disabilities in Juvenile Court,” Georgia Association of Counsel for Children’s Georgia Youth Law Conference (Mar. 2013)

### **APPELLATE AND AMICUS BRIEFS**

- *In the Interest of S.K., a child*, Georgia Court of Appeals (December 2022), Lead author, Application for Certiorari
- *Harvey v. Merchan*, Georgia Supreme Court (October 2020), Co-counsel and Co-author, Response Brief for Appellee
- *Philip Doe v. Archbishop William Gregory, et al.*, Georgia Supreme Court (June 2020), Co-author, amicus on behalf of Philip Doe
- *Goldstein, Garber & Salama v. J.B.*, Georgia Supreme Court (September 2016), Sole author, amicus on behalf on J.B.
- *Coreane High v. Taurean R. Lowe*, Georgia Court of Appeals (May 2015), Sole author, attorney for Coreane High

### **LEGAL AND OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE**

- **Wilbanks Child Endangerment and Sexual Exploitation Clinic**, University of Georgia School of Law, Athens, GA  
*Director*, December 2015 – Present
- **Georgia Law Center for the Homeless**, Atlanta, GA  
*Managing Attorney*, Dec. 2014 – Aug. 2015  
*Senior Staff Attorney*, Jan. 2012 – Feb. 2014
- **DeKalb County Child Advocacy Center**, Decatur, GA  
*Senior Child Advocate Attorney*, Feb. 2014 – Dec. 2014  
*Public Interest Fellow and Legal Intern*, June 2009 – Dec. 2012
- **Advocates for Children of New York**, New York, NY  
*Legal Intern*, June 2010 – Aug. 2010
- **Special Education Law Practicum**, Athens, GA *Law Student Intern*, Aug. 2009 – Dec. 2009
- **Emory Autism Center**, Atlanta, GA  
*Pre-Kindergarten Coordinator and Family Provider*, June 2005 – June 2008

## **SELECTED CONSULTANCIES**

- Office of the Governor, State of Georgia: Consultation on proposed legislation addressing child sexual abuse materials
- Georgia General Assembly: Created report on child sexual abuse in Georgia and access to civil justice for survivors
- The Army of Survivors: Consultation to create trauma-informed lawyering guide and train attorneys representing survivors of Larry Nassar's abuse
- Atlanta Dream Center: Consultation on guardian ad litem representation of survivors of CSEC in dependency and delinquency matters
- Georgia Justice Project: Training on trauma-informed lawyering when working with survivors of trafficking
- Jones Day: Consultation and Training on trauma-informed practice in pro bono cases
- Street Grace: Consultation on human trafficking and illicit massage industry research
- Anderson, Tate, & Carr: Trafficking and hotel liability litigation and trauma-informed practice
- The Penn Law Group: Consultation on Boy Scouts, Catholic Church, and Darlington School litigation
- Alston and Bird: Consultation on legitimation and the child welfare system in child sex abuse cases
- Warshauer Law Group: Consultation on negligence and homeowner's insurance policies in child sex abuse cases
- Shamp, Speed, Jordan & Woodward: Consultation on Boy Scouts litigation
- The Panitch Law Group: Consultation on Boy Scouts litigation; Co-counsel for child sexual abuse lawsuit and lead counsel on case before the Georgia Supreme Court

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES**

- Fulton County Daily Report, June 23, 2021--regarding CEASE's win before the Supreme Court of Georgia in *Harvey et al. v. Merchan*
- Albany Herald, February 28, 2021--regarding Georgia's Child Victim Protection Act
- Atlanta Journal Constitution, March 12, 2020--regarding Georgia House Bill 479, which would amend the civil statute of limitations for claims of child sexual abuse
- Fulton County Daily Report, March 12, 2020--regarding the 2020 Wilbanks CEASE Clinic conference on the commercial and sexual exploitation of children, LGBTQ youth in foster care, and civil justice for survivors of child sexual abuse and exploitation
- Augusta Chronicle, March 5, 2020--regarding Georgia House Bill 479, which would amend the civil statute of limitations for claims of child sexual abuse
- Atlanta Journal Constitution, January 8, 2020--regarding a new federal lawsuit that could provide child sexual abuse survivors a new option for justice against the Boy Scouts of America
- WSB-TV, November 20, 2019--featured on WSB-TV regarding sexual assault of students by teachers
- Georgia Recorder, October 29, 2019--commenting on the possible revival of Georgia's Hidden Predator Act

- USA Today, October 2, 2019--commenting on organizations lobbying against child abuse statutes
- Fulton County Daily Report, July 16, 2019—commenting on Jeffrey Epstein and Georgia’s civil statute of limitation for child sexual abuse
- Atlanta Journal Constitution, July 12, 2019—commenting on Georgia’s statute of limitations for child sexual abuse
- WUGA Public Media, June 19, 2019—featured in two-part series on trauma-informed courtroom training for lawyers and social workers
- WOSU Public Media, June 17, 2019—commenting on mediation in sex abuse lawsuits
- Atlanta Journal Constitution, August 20, 2018—commenting on lawsuits against Boy Scouts of America for child sexual abuse
- Athens Banner-Herald, January 30, 2018—commenting on CEASE Clinic Conference and USA Gymnastics
- Fulton County Daily Report, November 27, 2017—commenting on the #metoo movement and addition of CEASE Clinic Staff Attorney
- Dalton Daily Press, August 7, 2017—report on Hidden Predator Act
- Atlanta Journal Constitution, August 2, 2017—report on press conference on Hidden Predator Act legislation
- Associated Press, June 30, 2017—commenting on expiration of Georgia's Hidden Predator Act
- Athens Banner-Herald, January 30, 2017—commenting on the first annual Wilbanks CEASE Conference and child sex abuse tort litigation
- Macon Telegraph, June 10, 2016—commenting on restitution for victims of child pornography
- WUGA-Athens Public Radio, January 20, 2016—commenting on the passage of the Hidden Predator Act and the foundation of the Wilbanks CEASE Clinic
- The Verdict, Spring 2016—commenting on the passage of the Hidden Predator Act and the foundation of the Wilbanks CEASE Clinic

### **LAW SCHOOL SERVICE**

- Civil Externship Student Court Appointed Special Advocate Advisor, 2017 - Present
- Independent Research/Georgia Law Capstone Writing Requirement Advisor, 2019 - Present
- Equal Justice Foundation Student Organization, *Faculty Advisor*, 2017 - Present
- Placement Committee, *Member*, 2016 - 2017; 2018 - Present
- Admissions Committee, *Member*, 2017 – 2018
- Clinical Website Committee, UGA School of Law, Athens, GA, *Member*, 2016 – 2017
- McClendon Committee, UGA School of Law, Athens, GA, *Member*, 2016
- Wilbanks Child Endangerment and Sexual Exploitation Conferences and Webinar Series, *Organizer*, 2017 - Present
- Office of State Administrative Hearings Child Abuse Registry CLE Training, *Training Organizer and Presenter*, 2016, 2020



## **COMMUNITY AND OTHER SERVICE**

- Georgia Sexual Assault, Child Abuse and Human Trafficking State Expert Committee, Member, March 2022 - Present
- Georgia State Human Trafficking Task Force, Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Member, November 2019 - Present; Work Group #4 Keeping At-Risk Youth Safe Member, November 2019 - Present; Work Group #7 Survivors Supported and Protected Member, January 2021 - Present
- Georgia Public Interest and Pro Bono Attorney Training Program on Trauma-Informed Lawyering, May 2021 - July 2021
- National Association of Counsel for Children's Child Law Office Project (CLOP), Member, August 2020 - Present
- North Georgia Sex Trafficking Awareness and Response Task Force, Co-Chair, Executive Board Member, and Policy and Legislative Committee Chair, May 2020 - May 2021; Member, July 2019 - August 2022
- Georgia Statewide Commercial and Sexual Exploitation of Children Multidisciplinary Team (CSEC MDT), Member, October 2019 - May 2022
- House of Cherith Legal Pop-Up Clinic for Survivors of Human Trafficking, Founder, Organizer and Volunteer, January 2020 - Present
- Athens Access to Justice Initiative, Volunteer Attorney, June 2018 - Present
- Georgia House of Representatives and Senate Judiciary Committees, Expert and Commentator on Proposed Legislation, 2020-2021, 2019-2020, and 2016-2017 Legislative Sessions
- Court Appointed Special Advocates, Athens, GA, Peer Coordinator and Volunteer Training Presenter, September 2016 – December 2019
- Athens Area Homeless Shelter, Board Member, 2017-2018
- Advocates for Students with Disabilities Committee for the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia, Atlanta, GA, Co-Chair, August 2012 – May 2015

## **LICENSES AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- National Association of Counsel for Children
  - Certified Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS)
- State Bar of Georgia, Member since 11/09/2011
  - Georgia Court of Appeals; Supreme Court of Georgia
  - Northern District of Georgia; Middle District of Georgia
  - Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals
- Georgia Trial Lawyers Association