

Cynthia Ellen Jones

Cynthia Ellen Jones is a professor at the American University, Washington College of Law, in Washington, DC. She teaches courses in Evidence, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and a seminar entitled "Race, Crime and Politics." From 2000-2002, Prof. Jones was the Executive Director of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia ("PDS"). From 1997 to 2000, Prof. Jones was the Deputy Director of the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency. In that capacity, she developed and redesigned programs to provide more alternatives to pretrial detention for arrestees. From 1992-1997, Prof. Jones was a staff attorney at PDS where she represented juveniles in delinquency proceedings, as well as adults in misdemeanor, felony, appellate and other post-conviction proceedings. Professor Jones now researches, writes and lectures on the causes and cures of wrongful convictions in the criminal justice system. Her law review article entitled "*Evidence Destroyed, Innocence Lost: The Preservation of Biological Evidence Under Innocence Protection Statutes*," 42 Am. Crim. L. Rev. 1239 (2005) will be followed shortly by a related article entitled "*The Right Remedy for the Wrongly Convicted: Judicial Sanctions for Evidence Destruction*." Professor Jones was also recently elected Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project, and has spoken at several national conferences on the deficiencies in the criminal justice system that can lead to wrongful convictions. Professor Jones earned a Bachelor's of Arts in criminal justice at the University of Delaware in 1986, and then attended the American University, Washington College of Law, graduating magna cum laude in 1989. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable Frank E. Schwelb of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals during the 1989-1990 term, then worked as an associate at the law firm of Dickstein, Shapiro and Morin (now Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin & Oshinsky) from 1990-1992.