

Biography of Kyana K. Givens

Kyana K. Givens became a Federal Public Defender in the Eastern District of North Carolina in 2020 after being a Visiting Attorney Advisor, Defender Services Office, Training Division, from August 2018-December 2019. She previously served as a trial attorney at The Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Washington from 2009-2018 and a state public defender with the King County Public Defender (formerly known as The Defender Association) from 2005-2009. Ms. Givens has been committed to mentoring and teaching other defenders throughout her practice. As the Albert M. Sacks Fellow at Harvard Law School, Ms. Givens worked closely with clinical professors teaching and training in trial advocacy. While at Harvard, she represented adult and juvenile clients being served by the Harvard Criminal Justice Institute and provided litigation support to Professor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr. on criminal and Civil Rights matters. Ms. Givens' dedication to teaching extends beyond the legal community; she taught Constitutional Law to undergraduate students at Seattle University. Ms. Givens is a faculty member at The National Criminal Defense College (NCDC) in Macon, GA and now Bristol, Rhode Island. She is also on the Faculty for the Trial Skills Academy for Federal Defenders and she regularly speaks at continuing legal education trainings for practitioners about trials skills, emerging digital technology in criminal cases and unconscious bias. Prior to Law School, Ms. Givens worked with runaway youth and acted as a counselor at a shelter for teen mothers and their children. She is a graduate of Northeastern University School of Law (Boston, MA) and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Seattle Pacific University (Seattle, WA).