

Reem Haikal, J.D. LL.M.

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BAR ADMISSIONS

Admitted to the State Bar of Texas.

HONORS

Professor of the Year (Two-Time Recipient), 2025 & 2026:

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law (selected by the 3L Class).

First Place, Texas Southern University Research Week, 2026:

Awarded in the Social, Behavioral, Educational, Business, & Policy Research category.

Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award (highest recognition conferred upon alumni):

The University of Houston–Downtown, 2025.

Faculty Research Stipend (merit-based):

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026.

Inducted Member: National Society of Leadership and Success (University of Houston–Downtown), 2025.

Ambassador: Golden Key International Honour Society, 2024.

Class President: Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, 2017.

APPOINTMENTS

Thurgood Marshall School of Law- Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. August 2022 – Present

Assistant Professor of Law

Teaching Criminal Procedure and Criminal Law to second-year law students and Property to first-year law students.

EDUCATION

University of Alabama School of Law, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. December 2021

LL.M. Tax Concentration in Business Transactions, cum laude (GPA: 3.56).

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Houston, Texas. May 2017

Juris Doctor, summa cum laude (Top 10%); President, Class of 2017

Cali Awards: Oil and Gas (2016); Consumer Rights (2016); Constitutional Law (2015); Contracts Law II (2015)

Scholarships: Thurgood Marshall School of Law Merit Scholarship (2014-2015); Full Tuition Academic Scholarship (2015-2016); Half Tuition Academic Scholarship (2016-2017); Buck Wynne Scholarship (2017); Oil & Gas Energy Resources Law Section Scholarship (2017).

Dean's List Fall 2014- Spring 2017

University of Houston- Downtown, Houston, Texas. December 2005

Bachelor of Business Administration

PUBLICATIONS

Professors Cure, Academic Support Cares: The Potential Role of Academic Support in Increasing Graduation Rates at Law Schools at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, University of Baltimore Law Forum (Volume 52, Number 1, Article 3, Spring 22). Available at: <https://scholarworks.law.ubalt.edu/lf/vol52/iss1/3>

This article examines the role of Academic Support Programs (ASPs) in law schools, with emphasis on HBCUs. After a brief history of HBCUs as vital access points for African American higher education, it reports national survey findings from eight public, nonprofit universities showing that well-designed ASPs narrow graduation gaps between minority and non-minority students. Effectiveness stems not from enrollment size or institutional designation but from how closely programs meet students' needs. The article concludes with a practical framework, early identification, consistent feedback, attention to motivation, and focused skill-building, grounded in ongoing collaboration between academic support educators and doctrinal faculty, to help HBCU law schools and peer institutions close graduation gaps and support long-term career success.

Shadows of Prejudice: The History of the Right to Counsel and the Strickland's Pursuit of Justice Amidst Forgotten Witnesses and Disregarded Evidence. Ohio Northern University | Claude W. Pettit College of Law. (Volume 51, Issue 1, Article 1, Spring 2025). Available at:

https://digitalcommons.onu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1371&context=onu_law_review

This article examines systemic issues in the U.S. criminal justice system, focusing on ineffective legal representation under the Strickland standard and the evolution of the right to counsel. It traces the right's historical development from pre-Glorious Revolution England to its codification in the Sixth Amendment. The article highlights the challenges of defining and guaranteeing effective assistance of counsel, emphasizing criticisms and judicial perspectives on the difficulties defendants face in proving ineffective representation. Through an analysis of three capital cases from 2000 to 2020, it illustrates the severe consequences of inadequate defense, particularly for indigent defendants, and concludes with a discussion of ongoing challenges in ensuring meaningful legal representation.

From Gallows to Gas to Bullets: America's Death Chamber and the Case Against Nitrogen Hypoxia. Denver Law Review Forum (Volume 102, Spring 2025). Available at:

https://www.denverlawrev.org/files/ugd/9d4c2a_5d9b575d4d19416480806b4a2d0c31d8.pdf

This article discusses the emergence of nitrogen hypoxia as a controversial alternative execution method to lethal injection, raising significant legal, ethical, and practical concerns under the Eighth Amendment. It provides a historical overview of capital punishment, tracing the evolution of execution methods from ancient times to modern practices in the United States. The article highlights the shortcomings of lethal injection due to botched executions, drug shortages, and lack of transparency, prompting states like Alabama, Oklahoma, and Mississippi to adopt nitrogen hypoxia despite limited scientific backing. The article concludes by evaluating the firing squad as a more reliable and transparent alternative, supported by historical and medical evidence, offering a potential solution in the ongoing debate over execution methods.

Conservative Jurisprudence: Evaluating Ineffective Counsel Claims in the Supreme Court (2020-2023). George Mason University Civil Rights Law Journal (Volume 35. 3, Spring 2025). Available at:

https://www.crlj.org/files/ugd/dfcada_654f914808c94dbf840361dced7bfdb8.pdf

This article explores the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court's conservative majority on claims of ineffective assistance of counsel under the Sixth Amendment, focusing on decisions post-Justice Amy Coney Barrett's confirmation. It highlights the Court's increasing reliance on the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) to limit federal review and uphold state court decisions. The analysis delves into how this trend may restrict reassessments of wrongful convictions and attorney errors, offering insights into the evolving judicial stance on the right to effective legal representation.

Death by Discretion: Executive Power and the Arbitrary Machinery of Federal Capital Punishment. Chapman University Law Review (Volume 29, Fall 2025). Available at: <https://www.chapmanlawreview.com/volume-29/>

This article argues that the federal death penalty has become increasingly arbitrary and politically driven, undermining the constitutional safeguards intended by the Federal Death Penalty Act (FDPA). It critiques how executive discretion, especially under the Trump and Biden administrations, has led to a capital punishment regime shaped more by ideology than law, exposing deep flaws in prosecutorial independence and due process. The article calls for legislative reform, proposing the creation of an independent federal death penalty commission to restore consistency, transparency, and constitutional integrity.

Executions Without Representation: Executive Overreach and the Death Penalty in Washington, D.C. George Mason University Civil Rights Law Journal (Volume 36.2, Spring 2026)

This article examines President Trump's mandate of capital punishment in Washington, D.C., showing how it conflicts with the District's abolition of the death penalty, undermines individualized discretion under the Federal Death Penalty Act, and raises separation-of-powers concerns about executive overreach in federal capital punishment.

Evolving Execution Methods: The Constitutionality of Nitrogen Hypoxia Through Pain, Precedent, and Practicality.
Western New England University Law Review (Volume 48, Spring 2026)

This article explores the constitutional challenges surrounding nitrogen hypoxia as a modern method of execution. The article examines key Supreme Court decisions that shaped the interpretation of the Eighth Amendment, highlighting cases like *Wilkerson v. Utah*, *Weems v. United States*, and *Baze v. Rees*. It then shifts to recent executions using nitrogen hypoxia in Alabama, analyzing their outcomes and the legal arguments raised regarding the humaneness, feasibility, and constitutional validity of this untested method. Ultimately, the article argues that nitrogen hypoxia may survive judicial scrutiny due to its alignment with precedent, practicality, and claims of reduced suffering, despite significant ethical concerns and the risk of cruelty in practice.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Constitutional Protection at the Margins: Intellectual Disability and Capital Punishment.

This article examines the Supreme Court's Eighth Amendment jurisprudence on intellectual disability and the death penalty, critiquing the shift toward administrability and finality through rigid reliance on IQ scores. The article argues that numerical cutoffs have become dispositive gatekeeping tools, often eclipsing functional impairment and moral culpability in determining eligibility for execution.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Counsel on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO), Largo, Maryland. May 2020- Present

Bar Exam Consultant

Responsible for preparing, managing, and conducting workshops that help law students and Bar exam takers enhance their exam success strategies. Tasks include collecting and analyzing data related to students' success rates and program effectiveness and contributing to creating and presenting webinars aimed at increasing Bar passage rates.

Thurgood Marshall School of Law- Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. August 2018 – August 2022

Assistant Director, Academic Success and Bar Readiness

Taught Lawyering Process and Bar Essay Writing courses, and property law as part of the Legal Education and Advancement Program (LEAP). Directed instructional efforts for first- and second-year students in the Skills Academy. Supervised graduate assistants and coached Bar exam takers. Managed academic tutorials and oversaw administrative tasks for student tutors. Worked in collaboration with faculty to pinpoint and address areas needing academic remediation. Additionally, conducted statistical reporting on student attendance and performance outcomes as required.

Thurgood Marshall School of Law- Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. January 2018-August 2018

Full Time Adjunct Professor

Supervised tutors and graduate students' assistants. Taught customized workshops structured to meet first-year students' learning needs. Administered and graded practice exams. Worked one-on-one with at-risk students.

Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Houston, Texas. August 2015- May 2017

Civil Procedure and Constitutional Law Tutor

Mentored students and provided personalized academic assistance in civil procedure and constitutional law. Assisted professors with preparing exams and quizzes. Coached students on study techniques, critical reading, and time management skills.

United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston. August 2016- November 2016

Judicial Intern to the Honorable Kenneth M. Hoyt

Researched criminal cases involving healthcare fraud, deportation, and sex trafficking. Drafted memoranda on foreclosure cases. Observed hearings, jury, and bench trials.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Faculty Advisor: Student Bar Association, Hispanic Law Students Association 2025-2026.

Chair: Students- Faculty Relation Committee, August 2024- August 2025.

Member, Admissions Committee, August 2024-August 2025.

Member, Academic Standards Committee, August 2022- August 2023 and August 2025- August 2026.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

American Bar Association, *Member*; Houston Bar Association, *Member*; Association of Academic Support Educators, *Member*; The Syrian American Club of Houston, *Board Member (2016-2020)*; Spring Branch Independent School District, *Superintendent's Key Communicator Network (2020-2022)*; Houston Young Lawyers Association, *Diversity Committee Co-Chair (2022-2023)*.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Bar Review, Friday Workshops, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, 2023-present.

The Rule of Law and the Threat to our Democracy, the Modern Presidency and Executive Orders. Thurgood Marshall Law Review Spring 2026 Symposium.

Defending Capital Cases, Texas Coalition for the Abolition of the Death Penalty Annual Conference, Spring 2026.

Scholarly Discussion on the Death Penalty and Execution Protocols, University of Houston- Downtown Law Summit, Spring 2026.

The Journey from the University of Houston- Downtown to Law School, University of Houston- Downtown Law Summit, Spring 2026.

Legally Speaking: Women Who Inspire, Minority Women Pursuing Law, University of Houston, Fall 2025.

New Scholars Workshop: Criminal law and Criminal Procedure Panel Moderator. Southeastern Association of Law Schools "SEALS" Conference in Amelia Island, Florida, July 2025.

Facing the Ultimate Penalty: Death- Survivors, Scholars and Students Confront Texas' Capital Punishment System. Thurgood Marshall Law Review Spring 2025 Symposium.

No One Writes Memos Anymore; Testing the Claim and its Implications for Teaching (Panel with Christina Crozier, Alberto Rodriguez, and Katherine Vukadin), Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. July 2024.

Discussion Group: Street law v. Constitutional Criminal Procedure. Southeastern Association of Law Schools "SEALS" Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, July 2024

A Day in the Life of a Law Student, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Council on Legal Education Opportunity College Scholars, Houston, Texas, February 2023.

New Scholars Workshop - Environmental and Housing Justice Panel. Southeastern Association of Law Schools "SEALS" Conference in Boca Raton, Florida, July 2023.

Exploring the Uses and Abuses of Unincorporated Entities, Southeastern Association of Law Schools "SEALS" Annual Conference, Destin, Florida, August 2022.

The Role of Academic Support at Law Schools in Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Lessons to be Learned from Medical Schools, Thurgood Marshall School of Law Fall Faculty Lecture Series, Houston, Texas, October 24th, 2019

A Discussion on Marginalized Individuals through the Lens of Academic Support Educators at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Predominantly White Institutions, Association of Academic Support Educators Biennial Diversity Conference, DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, October 2019.

Reading for Learning and the Overuse of Technology in Higher Education, Damascus University Faculty of Law, Damascus, Syria, July 2018.

POETRY COLLECTIONS: The Road to Damascus; Shattered Memories, Echoes in Silence.