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Theresa M. Pelfrey

Publications

Pelfrey, T. M. (2020). A survey: Children's rights posttermination of parental rights and pre-adoption. *Juvenile & Family Court Journal*, 71(1), 45-61.

Auburn University at Montgomery (2025). *Interim Report for the American Bar Association*. Montgomery, AL: Pelfrey, T. M.

Auburn University at Montgomery (2021). *Reapplication for the American Bar Association*. Montgomery, AL: Pelfrey, T. M.

Auburn University at Montgomery (2018). *Interim Report for the American Bar Association*. Montgomery, AL: Pelfrey, T. M.

Auburn University at Montgomery (2015). *Reapplication for the American Bar Association*. Montgomery, AL: Pelfrey, T. M.

Auburn University at Montgomery (2012). *Interim Report for the American Bar Association*. Montgomery, AL: Pelfrey, T. M.

Pelfrey, T. and others, (1978). *Home Economics State Course of Study*. Montgomery: State of Alabama.

Grants

Chon, D., Younker, B., & Pelfrey, T. (2012). Government Ineffectiveness, Social disorganization, and national homicide rate. New Faculty Grant. Funded by Auburn University, Montgomery, AL.

Kaur, P., & Pelfrey, T. (2012). Human trafficking. Proposal submitted to Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Presentations

Pelfrey, T.M. (2020). "A Survey: Children's Rights Post Termination of Parental Rights." Paper to be presented at the American Criminal Justice Society National Conference, March 27, San Antonio, TX. Conference cancelled.

Pelfrey, T. M. (2019). "Ruth Bader Ginsburg: An Introduction to the Documentary *RBG*." Presentation at the AUM Political Film Series, March 21, 2019, Montgomery, AL.

Ice, R. & Pelfrey, T.M. (2018). "Navigating the Unchartered Channels of Assessment." Presentation at the 37th Annual National Conference of the American Association for Paralegal Education, October 31, Newport, RI.

Ioimo, R., Pelfrey, T., Zanglin, L. (2015). "The POTC Program." Paper presented by Pelfrey, T., & Zanglin, L. at the American Criminal Justice Society National Conference, March 4, Orlando, FL.

Pelfrey, T. M. (2012). "The Paralegal Jobs Symposium." Paper presented at the American Association for Paralegal Education National Convention, October 11, Savannah, GA.

Pelfrey, T., Zanglin, L., & Russell, R. (2012). "Application of Best Practices." Paper presented at the National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference, April 24, Marksville, LA.

Costley, V., Dunlap, J., & Pelfrey, T. (2012). "Career Services, Job Search Skills and Legal Technology." Panelists at the American Association for Paralegal Education National Convention, October 11, Savannah, GA.

Kaur, P., & Pelfrey, T. (2012). "Sexting Perceptions and Practices Among College Students." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology National Convention, November 14, Chicago, IL.

Kaur, P. & Pelfrey, T. (2012). "Practice of Feticide: Formal Remedial Measures for Population Preservation." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology National Convention, November 16, Chicago, IL.

Chon, D., Younker, B., & Pelfrey, T. (2012). "Government Ineffectiveness, Social Disorganization, and National Homicide Rate." Paper presented by Chon, D., at the American Society of Criminology National Convention, November 17, Chicago, IL.

Ioimo, R., Pelfrey, T., Kaur, P., Chon, D., Smith, F., Younker, B., & Zanglin, L. (2012). "Bias-Based Policing: Voices from Within." Paper presented by Ioimo, R., at the American Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences National Conference, March, New York, NY.

Professional

Alabama State Bar, Montgomery, Alabama

Membership	Attorney at Law, State of Alabama	
Special Interests	Wills, Trusts, and Estates; Alternative Dispute Resolution; Children's Rights; And Juvenile Justice.	
Academic Experience	January 2009 - Present	Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Auburn University at Montgomery, Montgomery, Alabama
	Interim Chair:	June 2021 to June 30, 2022
	Director of Legal Studies: September 2009 to present	
	Associate Professor,	2014-Present
	Assistant Professor,	2009-2014
	Adjunct Professor,	2009
	1978 – 1978	Northeast Alabama Community College Rainsville, Alabama
	Adjunct Instructor	
	▪ Taught English Composition	
	1978 – 1979	Cherokee County Board of Education Centre, Alabama
	Teacher	
	▪ Taught English Composition	
	▪ Junior Class Sponsor	
	▪ Directed Junior Play	
	1977 – 1978	Baldwin County Board of Education Bay Minette, Alabama
	Teacher	
	▪ Taught Home Economics	
	▪ Served on the Alabama Home Economics State Course of Study Taskforce	
	▪ Sponsored Future Homemakers of America	
Education	University of Alabama	Tuscaloosa, Alabama
2003	Juris Doctor	
	▪ Coale, Dukes, Kirkpatrick & Crowley Award for Academic Excellence in the Study of Estate Planning, Honors Day, 2003	
	▪ Cali Excellence for the Future Award for Excellent Achievement in the Study of Estate Planning, 2003	
	▪ Best Paper, Estate Planning, 2002	
	▪ Who's Who: American Law Students, 2003	
	▪ Farrah Law Society	
	Research Topic: The Role of the Child's Attorney	
	Courses: Contracts I, Torts, Criminal Law, Civil Procedure, Legal Research/Writing I, Property, Contracts II, Constitutional Law, Personal Income Tax, Legal Research/Writing II, Children's Rights, Evidence, Decedents' Estates, Business Organizations, Legal Profession, Problems in Civil Procedure, Future Interests, Federal Estate and Gift Tax, Conflicts of Law, Environmental Law II, Payment Systems, Secured Transactions, Trial Advocacy I, Estate Planning, Laws of Banking, Will Drafting, Advanced Evidence, Trial Advocacy II Workshop, FamilyLaw I, Administrative Law, and Income Tax Business Entities	
1993	University of Alabama	Tuscaloosa, Alabama
	Master of Social Work	
	▪ Academic Excellence Award, Honors Day, 1993	
	▪ Phi Kappa Phi	
	▪ Recipient of State of Alabama Educational Stipend, 1991 – 1993	
	Specialization: Family and Children Services	
	Research Topics: Rural Health Care Crisis in Alabama, and Survey of Income	

Influenced Perceptions in Two Tuscaloosa Neighborhoods

Courses: Social Welfare Problems Serving the Profession, Personal Development and Social System Problems, Social Work Practice with Individuals and Groups, Social Work Practice with Communities, Policy Analysis of Social Indicators, Research Methods in Social Work, Field Education I, Budget and Information Systems, Psychopathology, Social Work Experiential Research, Family Oriented Practice, Legal Aspects Serving Children and Families, Clinical and Administrative Supervision, Select Topics in Social Work Practice, and Field Education II

1976 University of Alabama Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Bachelor of Science in Education

- Most Outstanding Home Economics Education Major Award, Honors Day, 1976
- Kappa Delta Pi
- Kappa Delta Epsilon

Service**National**

2012-2014: American Association for Paralegal Education, National Access to Justice Task Force

State

2010-Present: Articulation and General Studies Committee, State of Alabama, Criminal Justice

Auburn

2011-2014: Insurance and Benefits Committee, Auburn University

AUM

2023-Present: Pre-law Advisory Group

2013-Present: AUM IRB Committee

2023-Present: Durr Essay Committee

2023-2024: Faculty Senate, Executive Committee

2017-2023: AUM Academic Honesty Hearings

2015-2017, 2019: Family Campaign Committee

2015-2018: AUM Graduate Council

2014: AUM Faculty Advisory Committee

2012-2013: Parliamentarian of Faculty Senate

2012-2013: Faculty Senate Rules Committee

2012: AUM Faculty Service Award Selection Committee

2012: AUM Strategic Plan, Advancement, Goal 5 Task Force

2011-2013: AUM Curriculum Committee

2010: AUM Goodwin Hall Renovation Committee

College/School

2023-Present: MLA Audit Committee

2021-2022: CLASS Curriculum Committee

2018-2020: Faculty Search Committee, Anthropology, Sociology & Social Work (3 searches)

2015-2018: Public Policy and Justice Curriculum Committee

2015-2017: Faculty Marshal for New Student Convocation, College of Public Policy and Justice

2011-2013: School of Sciences Curriculum Committee

2011-2013: School of Sciences Faculty Awards Committee

2010-2013: Science Policy Group

2010: Judge, School of Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium Posters

Department

2009-Present: Director of Legal Studies, Criminal Justice

2009-Present: AUM liaison to American Bar Association; responsible for all action necessary to insure Legal Studies Programs comply with ABA standards, thereby ensuring continued ABA-approval of all Legal Studies Programs, including: Communications, reporting, program analysis, and Legal Studies Programs corrective actions

2009-Present: Chair, Legal Studies Advisory Committee

2024-2025: CJ Legal Studies Faculty Search Committee

2023-2024: CJ Legal Studies Faculty Search Committee, Chair

2022-2023: CJ Legal Studies Faculty Search Committee (2 searches)

2022: Tenure and Promotion Committee, Dr. Jacqueline McNett

2021-2022: Criminal Justice Chair Search Committee

2022:	Administrative Associate Search Committee
2020-2021:	Criminal Justice Chair Search Committee
2010-2011:	Chair, Faculty Search Committee
2012, 2016:	Chair, Adjunct Search Committee
2009:	Reinstated and reorganized Paralegal Studies Advisory Committee Meetings prior to American Bar Association Site Visit to ensure continued ABA approval of our Legal Studies Programs
2009-Present:	Organize, conduct, and document biannual Legal Studies Advisory Committee Meetings
2009-Present:	Faculty sponsor and advisor for Lambda Epsilon Chi, paralegal honor society, and the American Association for Paralegal Education
2009-Present:	Faculty liaison to professional paralegal organizations: American Alliance of Professional Paralegals, Inc., and Montgomery Association of Legal Secretaries
2009-2010:	Organized, conducted, and recorded Criminal Justice Faculty Meetings, including Legal Studies Faculty Meetings
2010-Present:	Organize, conduct, and record Legal Studies Faculty Meetings
2011:	Faculty Marshal, Spring Semester Graduation, 2011
2010 - 2013:	Judge, National Christian Forensics and Communications Association Region VII Qualifying Speech and Debate Tournament, Montgomery

Teaching and Director of Legal Studies

- Completed YUJA training, May and June, 2025.
- Completed grant training, series of meetings, Fall Semester 2024.
- Completed FDI-1000, Blackboard Ultra Training, online teaching recertified through October 2024
- Graduate teaching status through December 31, 2025
- Completed continuing legal education approved by the Alabama State Bar, a minimum of 12 hours, annually, including one hour of ethics, 2004-present
- Completed American Bar Association Approval Academy Webinar, June 2016, June 2020, June 2021, March 2022, June 2022
- Completed American Bar Association Online Training, June 2012
- Completed American Bar Association Approval Academy, June 2011, June 2014
- Completed American Association for Paralegal Education Training, Oct. 2018, Oct. 2020, March 2023, Aug. 2024, July 2025.
- Completed American Bar Association Monthly Meet-up Training, 2023, 2024
- Completed Writing across the Curriculum Training, 2010-2012
- Developed and taught Writing Intensive Course beginning 2012-2017
- Developed Minor in Legal Studies, 2011
- Completed Canvas training, March 2024
- Developed Canvas courses, 2024
- Completed extensive Blackboard training and completed online teaching certification, 2010, and complete annually additional Faculty Development Institute training sessions and maintain online teaching certification
- Developed and continue to teach online courses, 2009-present
- Attended AUM and ACHE OER Workshop, 2018
- Organized and completed all work required for ABA Site Team on-site visit, 2016.
- Researched, composed, and submitted the American Bar Association Reapplication required for continued ABA approval of AUM Legal Studies Paralegal Programs, 2014, 2021
- Researched, composed, and submitted the American Bar Association Interim Report required for continued ABA approval of AUM Legal Studies Paralegal Programs, 2011, 2018
- Completed extensive work on the American Bar Association Site Team visit, a part of ABA re-approval of paralegal education programs, 2009, 2016, 2022
- Implemented and completed corrective action and communicated extensively with the American Bar Association post Site Visit, which included researched analyses, regarding program compliance issues, which resulted in ABA re-approval of our programs, 2009 – 2010

- Complete Legal Studies Programs evaluation with Institutional Effectiveness to ensure SACS accreditation compliance; Programs serving as test cases for upcoming AUM SACS review, 2012 – present compliance
- Routinely evaluate and implement corrective action required in Legal Studies Programs to ensure continued American Bar Association approval of all Legal Studies Programs changes, as well as implement all corrective action Necessary in Legal Studies Programs, thereby ensuring continued that Programs comply with ABA standards
- Attended Graduation Marshals' Dinner, Spring Semester 2013
- Served as Faculty Marshall, CPPJ, Orientation, Fall Semester 2015 and Fall Semester 2016

Courses

- Introduction to the American Legal System (Summer Semester 2018, Fall Semester 2018, Spring Semester 2019, Summer Semester 2019, and Fall Semester 2019, Spring Semester 2020, Summer Semester 2020, and Fall Semester 2020, Spring Semester 2021, Summer Semester 2021, Fall Semester 2021, Spring Semester 2022, Summer Semester 2022, Fall Semester 2022, Spring Semester 2023 [2 sections], Summer Semester 2023, Fall Semester 2023, Spring Semester 2024 [2 sections], Summer 2024, Fall Semester 2024, Spring Semester 2025 [2 sections], Fall Semester 2025)
- Legal Writing, Undergraduate and Graduate Sections (Fall Semester 2009, Spring Semester 2010, Spring Semester 2011, Spring Semester 2012, Spring Semester 2014, Spring Semester 2015, Spring Semester 2016, Spring Semester 2017 and Spring Semester 2018, Spring Semester 2020, Spring Semester 2021)
- Legal Research, Undergraduate and Graduate Sections (Fall Semester 2009, Spring Semester 2010, Fall Semester 2010, Fall Semester 2011, Fall Semester 2014, Fall Semester 2015, Fall Semester 2016, Fall Semester 2017, and Fall Semester 2018)
- Alternative Dispute Resolution, Undergraduate and Graduate Sections (Spring Semester 2010, Summer Semester 2010, Fall Semester 2010, Spring Semester 2011, Fall Semester 2011, Spring Semester 2012, WI Fall Semester 2012, WI Spring Semester 2013, WI Fall Semester 2013, WI Summer Semester 2014, WI Fall Semester 2014, WI Spring Semester 2015, WI Summer Semester 2015, and WI Fall Semester 2015, Summer Semester 2016, Fall Semester 2016, Spring Semester 2017, Fall Semester 2017, Spring Semester 2018, Fall Semester 2018, Spring Semester 2019, Fall Semester 2019, Fall Semester 2020, and Fall Semester 2021, Fall Semester 2022, Fall Semester 2023, Fall Semester 2024, Fall Semester 2025)
- Court and Judicial Administration, Undergraduate and Graduate Sections (Spring Semester 2009, Summer Semester 2010, Summer Semester 2011, Summer Semester 2012, Summer 2013, Summer Semester 2014, Summer Semester 2015, Spring Semester 2017, Fall Semester 2019, Fall Semester 2020, and Fall Semester 2021, Fall Semester 2023, Fall Semester 2025)
- Civil Litigation, Undergraduate and Graduate Sections (Fall Semester 2012)
- Criminal Justice Ethics, (Summer Semester 2025)
- Juvenile Justice Law, Undergraduate Section (Summer Semester 2015, Summer Semester 2016, Summer Semester 2017, Summer Semester 2018, Summer Semester 2019, Summer Semester 2020, and Summer Semester 2021, Summer Semester 2022, Summer 2023, Summer 2024)
- Paralegal Studies/Legal Ethics, Undergraduate and Graduate Sections, (Spring Semester, 2009)
- Real Estate Law, Undergraduate Section (Summer Semester 2011 and Summer Semester 2013)
- Family Law, Undergraduate Section (Summer Semester 2012)
- Probate, Wills, Estates & Trusts, Undergraduate Section (Fall Semester 2009 and Spring Semester 2016)
- Internship, Undergraduates and Graduates (Spring Semester 2010, Fall Semester 2011, Spring Semester 2012, and Fall Semester 2013)

**Additional
Professional
Experience**

2006 – 2007	Shumaker & Associates Centre, Alabama
Attorney at Law	
1979 and 1980	Burns, Shumaker & Davis Centre, Alabama
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Practice of Law with an Emphasis on Estate Planning, Probate, and Property Transactions ▪ Worked Daily with Paralegals 	
1986 – 1992	V. Lee Pelfrey, Jr., Attorney at Law
Law Clerk Troy, Alabama <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paralegal Work ▪ Secretarial Duties and Supervision Including Computer Entry, Legal Budgeting, And Accounting 	
1984 – 1997	Pike County Department of Human Resources Troy, Alabama
1981 – 1984	Barbour County Department of Human Resources
Social Worker Clayton, Alabama <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resource Development Coordinator ▪ Quality Assurance Coordinator ▪ Caseworker: Service Intake, Child Support, AFDC, Medicaid, Food Stamps 	
1976 – 1977	Burns, Shumaker & Davis
Office Manager Centre, Alabama <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supervised Secretarial and Support Staff ▪ Paralegal Work ▪ Clerical and General Bookkeeping Duties 	
1980 – 1981	First United Methodist Church
Secretary Troy, Alabama <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Typing and General Administrative Duties in Scheduling Church Affairs 	
1973	McElrath Construction Company
Office Manager Cedar Bluff, Alabama <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supervised Secretarial and Support Staff ▪ General Bookkeeping and Clerical Duties 	