

# LAURA WATKINS JORDAN

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## BAR LICENSES

5/2012 – current South Carolina State Bar

9/2000 – current Alabama State Bar

## EMPLOYMENT

8/2024 – current **JOSEPH F. RICE SCHOOL OF LAW, THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**Legal Writing Instructor: Columbia, South Carolina**  
[https://sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/law/faculty\\_and\\_staff/directory/jordan\\_laura.php](https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/law/faculty_and_staff/directory/jordan_laura.php)  
• Teach Legal Research, Analysis & Writing I and II for first-year law students.

8/2011-5/2024 **GALLIVAN, WHITE & BOYD**  
**Of Counsel Attorney (reduced hours): Columbia, South Carolina**  
• Advocated for numerous North American and European clients in a variety of civil litigation, employment, and appellate matters  
• Focused on complex, high-stakes legal matters that require unique or extensive risk management, research, analysis, and strategy  
• Served as brief-writer and editor for several practice groups  
• Mentored and trained new attorneys in legal writing and litigation skills  
• Authored litigation-related materials, including an article in a defense counsel training manual utilized by many of the top law firms in the country  
• Awarded “Legal Elite” of the Midlands for Appellate Advocacy and Employment-Defendant

6/2008-1/2010 **THE HONORABLE JAMES H. HANCOCK & THE HONORABLE R. DAVID PROCTOR**  
**Staff Attorney (part-time, telecommuting from Columbia): Federal Court, N. District Alabama**  
• Offered one-of-a-kind, remote working arrangement upon move to South Carolina  
• Drafted substantive opinions for two judges of the court in a variety of civil matters  
• Voluntarily resigned position to focus for a season on full-time motherhood and home management

9/2003-6/2008 **THE HONORABLE R. DAVID PROCTOR**  
**Permanent Clerk/Staff Attorney: Federal Court, Northern District of Alabama in Birmingham**  
• Drafted all substantive court opinions & recommended action on motions in 150+ civil cases  
• Authored numerous court opinions selected for publication in Federal Supplement  
• Prepared Judge Proctor to sit as a visiting panel judge on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals  
• Drafted two opinions for Circuit panel decisions that were published in Federal Reporter 3d  
• Drafted and/or edited Judge Proctor’s seminar presentations and speeches  
• Communicated on behalf of the court with attorneys and media  
• Advised and prepared Judge Proctor for dockets, hearings, trials, and settlement conferences  
• Trained and supervised rotating law clerks and externs

9/2001-9/2003 **BRADLEY ARANT BOULT CUMMINGS**  
**Associate: Birmingham, Alabama**  
• Practiced at a nationally-ranked law firm in the Litigation and Labor & Employment groups  
• Voluntarily resigned position as top-ranked associate to return to government service  
• Successfully tried cases before judges and juries in federal and state court  
• Awarded rare year-end bonuses reserved for superior performance  
• Drafted numerous dispositive and appellate briefs resulting in court rulings in clients’ favor  
• Completed prestigious Trial Academy (intensive trial advocacy training course)

8/2000-8/2001 **THE HONORABLE JAMES H. HANCOCK**  
**One-Year Term Law Clerk: Federal Court, Northern District of Alabama in Birmingham**

## EDUCATION

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW Tuscaloosa, AL**

**Juris Doctor, May 2000: *summa cum laude***

**GPA: 3.80/4.00, Top 5%**

- ALABAMA LAW REVIEW, Developmental Editor
- Order of the Coif
- National Moot Court Team, Swing Advocate
- Best Oral Advocate and Finalist, Moot Court Competition
- Order of the Barristers
- M. Leigh Harrison Award; Hugo Black Scholar
- Best Papers: Secured Transactions, Contracts, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Employee Rights
- Moot Court Board (teaching assistant for first year students)
- Research Assistant, Professor Scott Hughes
- Recipient of three academic scholarships

### **VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY Nashville, TN**

**Bachelor of Arts, May 1997: *cum laude*, High Honors in English**

**Majors: English and Philosophy; Minor: Communication Studies**

**Major GPA: 3.60/4.00 and 3.40/4.00, respectively; Overall GPA: 3.32/4.00**

- Dean's List, five semesters (requires GPA of 3.50)
- Mortar Board (national honor society for distinguished scholarship, leadership, and service)
- Vanderbilt Debate Team, ranked 12th speaker nationally, received four first-place awards
- Vanderbilt Honor Council, Vice-President (governing body of Honor Code)
- English Honors Program, High Honors (drafted and defended thesis)
- Lambda Pi Eta, Vice-President (national honor society for communication studies)
- Samford University Summer Debate Institute, Instructor and Lecturer
- Recipient of three academic scholarships
- Work-Study Program (personally financed four years of education)
- Chi Omega Sorority, Rush Committee Chair
- Freshman Orientation Leader, VUcept Organization

## SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

- Board Member: Will For Hope (nonprofit dedicated to destigmatizing mental illness)
- President: A.C. Flora High School Parent-Teacher-Student Organization
- Certified Master Naturalist, Midlands of South Carolina
- Weekly Volunteer: Oliver Gospel Toby's Place (shelter for women and children)
- Member and Volunteer: First Presbyterian Church of Columbia