

# Rachel Schwartz

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## EDUCATION

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**Rutgers University, Graduate School of Education, PhD in Higher Education** **2019 – Oct 2024**  
Dissertation Title: Understanding the experiences of women with multiple roles in online social work education programs  
Dissertation Chair: Dr. Richard Edwards  
Dissertation Committee: Drs. Karen Stubaus, Sandra Tomlinson-Clarke, Allison Zippay

**Rutgers University, School of Social Work, Master of Social Work** **May 2008**  
*Nonprofit & Public Management Concentration*  
*Honors: Phi Alpha Honor Society; Dean's List*

**Rutgers University, Bachelor of Science (with honors)** **May 2001**  
*Administration of Justice and English Major, Sociology Minor*  
*Honors: Graduated with Honors; Dean's List*

## TEACHING AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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**University of Connecticut, School of Social Work** **July 2024 - Present**  
**MSW Program Director**

*Major responsibilities include:*

- Oversee and administer all aspects of the MSW program, including teaching, curriculum development, adjunct faculty hiring and support, recruitment of MSW students, and liaison with departments across the University.
- Administration of the newly implemented online program (Fall 2024), including serving as the academic advisor for online program students.
- Work closely with the Practicum Education Department and Office of Student and Academic Services to support student experience.
- Responsible for ensuring all aspects of the program meet CSWE accreditation standards.

**University of Connecticut, School of Social Work** **July 2024 - Present**  
**Associate Professor in Residence**

- Courses taught:
  - Analysis of Social Welfare Policy (Fall 2024, Spring 2026)
  - Macro Foundation Practice (Fall 2025)

**Rutgers University, School of Social Work**  
**Assistant Dean of Innovative Learning Technologies** **July 2021 – June 2024**  
**Director, Online MSW Programs** **July 2015 – June 2024**  
**Assistant Director, Online MSW Programs** **September 2013 – June 2015**

*Major responsibilities included:*

- Program management of all aspects of the online MSW programs (100% online and Blended programs)
- Academic advisor for online and blended program students (approx. 800 students).
- Development of online courses and curriculum; Provided online pedagogical expertise and support to faculty teaching and developing online courses each semester
- Development of field education program for the online MSW program. Coordinated all aspects of field education for online students, including development of field procedures, identifying field agencies, placing students in appropriate field settings, and working directly with field instructors and liaisons across the country.

**Rutgers University, School of Social Work**  
**Associate Professor of Teaching** **July 2023 – June 2024**  
**Assistant Professor of Teaching** **July 2017 – June 2023**  
**Instructor of Teaching** **September 2013 – June 2016**  
**Part Time Lecturer** **January 2013 – August 2013, July 2024 - present**

- Courses taught:
  - Human Behavior in the Social Environment
  - Gender, Women and Intersectional Social Justice (formerly Women's Issues)

- Understanding Violence and Abuse in Adulthood
- Teaching Online (DSW program module)

**Rutgers University, School of Social Work**

**Center for Research on Ending Violence (formerly VAWC) – Program Coordinator**      **May 2008 – October 2012**

*Major responsibilities included:*

- Coordinated several aspects of the Center, including the Violence Against Women Continuing Education program, MSW Certificate Program, research project management, event coordination, communications and administrative duties/daily office management

**PUBLICATIONS – ARTICLES**

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**Schwartz, R.**, Cuevas, S., Oceanak, N. & Rehman, H. (2024). Developing and supporting virtual social work practicum placements. *Field Educator*, 14.2. <https://fielddeducator.simmons.edu/article/developing-and-supporting-virtual-social-work-practicum-placements/>

**Schwartz, R.** & Curran, L. (2022). Technical standards: What they are and why they matter. *Advances in Social Work*, 22(1), 163-177. <https://doi.org/10.18060/25210>

**Schwartz, R.**, Curran, L. & Diksies, M. (2020). Online social work education and the disinhibition effect. *Advances in Social Work and Welfare Education*, 21(1), 107-122.

Sanchez Mayers, R., **Schwartz, R.**, Curran, L. & Fulghum, F. H. (2019). Using a virtual agency to teach research. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 39(4-5), 477-488.

Johnson, L., Postmus, J. L., Khetarpal, R., **Schwartz, R.**, Butner, C. & McMahon, S. (2018). The Center on Violence Against Women and Children at Rutgers University. *Research on Social Work Practice*. doi: 10.1177/1049731518798698

**Schwartz, R.**, McMahon, S. & Broadnax, J. (2015). A review of sexual assault information on college websites. *Health and Social Work*. Advance Access published August 26, 2015, doi: 10.1093/hsw/hlv064

McMahon, S., Postmus, J.L., Warrenner, C., Plummer, S. & **Schwartz, R.** (2013). Evaluating the impact of a specialized MSW course on violence against women. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 49(2), 307-320.

McMahon, S. & **Schwartz, R.** (2011). A review of rape in the social work literature: A call to action. *Affilia*, 26(3), 250-263.

**PUBLICATIONS – CHAPTERS**

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Sanchez Mayers, R., **Schwartz, R.**, Curran, L. & Fulghum, F. (2020). Using a virtual agency to teach research. In Kurzman, P. & Littlefield, M. (Eds). *Online and Distance Social Work Education: Current Practice and Future Trends* (2020). New York & London: Routledge.

**Schwartz, R.** (2012). Response of secondary schools and colleges. In J.L. Postmus (Ed), *Sexual Violence and Abuse: An Encyclopedia of Prevention, Impacts and Recovery*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

**Schwartz, R.** (2012). STDs and HIV/AIDS. In J.L. Postmus (Ed), *Sexual Violence and Abuse: An Encyclopedia of Prevention, Impacts and Recovery*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

**Schwartz, R.** (2012). Overview – ethnic groups. In J.L. Postmus (Ed), *Sexual Violence and Abuse: An Encyclopedia of Prevention, Impacts and Recovery*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

**Schwartz, R.** (2012). Overview – sex industry. In J.L. Postmus (Ed), *Sexual Violence and Abuse: An Encyclopedia of Prevention, Impacts and Recovery*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

**Schwartz, R.** (2012). Overview – literature and media. In J.L. Postmus (Ed), *Sexual Violence and Abuse: An Encyclopedia of Prevention, Impacts and Recovery*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

## **PUBLICATIONS - RESEARCH REPORTS**

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**Schwartz, R. & McMahon, S.** (2012). Artists Mentoring Against Racism, Drugs & Violence Summer Camp 2012: Final Evaluation Report. New Brunswick, NJ: Center for Latino Arts and Culture, Rutgers University.

**Schwartz, R. & McMahon, S.** (2011). Artists Mentoring Against Racism, Drugs & Violence Summer Camp 2011: Final Evaluation Report. New Brunswick, NJ: Center for Latino Arts and Culture, Rutgers University.

**Schwartz, R., McMahon, S., Postmus, J. L., & Koenick, R. A.** (2010) Improving Sexual Assault and Dating Violence Data Collection Procedures at New Jersey College Campuses. Division of Criminal Justice

**Schwartz, R. & McMahon, S.** (2010). Artists Mentoring Against Racism, Drugs & Violence Summer Camp 2010: Final Evaluation Report. New Brunswick, NJ: Center for Latino Arts and Culture, Rutgers University.

**Schwartz, R., McMahon, S., & Postmus, J.** (2009). The Sexually Exploitative Industry and Sexual Violence. New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault. New Jersey.

**Schwartz, R. & McMahon, S.** (2009). Artists Mentoring Against Racism, Drugs & Violence Summer Camp 2009: Final Evaluation Report. New Brunswick, NJ: Center for Latino Arts and Culture, Rutgers University.

**Schwartz, R. & McMahon, S.** (2008). Artists Mentoring Against Racism, Drugs & Violence Summer Camp 2008: Final Evaluation Report. New Brunswick, NJ: Center for Latino Arts and Culture, Rutgers University.

**Schwartz, R. & McMahon, S.** (2008). Domestic violence has no place in our community: Evaluation of the New Brunswick Domestic Violence Awareness Coalition program. New Brunswick, NJ: New Brunswick Domestic Violence Awareness Coalition.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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**Schwartz, R. & Lussier Smith, L.** (April 2026). *Embracing a wrap-around approach to assess practicum problem resolution and promote student success.* Social Work Distance Education Conference. Virtual conference.

Cummings, S. & **Schwartz, R.** (April 2026). *Adjunct Instructors on the Frontlines: Providing support through the intersections of AI, current politics, and classroom management.* Social Work Distance Education Conference. Virtual conference

**Schwartz, R., Curran, L. & Sanchez Mayers, R.** (January 2026). *The role of adjunct faculty in schools of social work.* SSWR Annual Conference. Washington, DC.

Cummings, S. & **Schwartz, R.** (April 2025). *Kindness in online program design: In providing student care, the details matter.* Social Work Distance Education Conference. Virtual conference.

**Schwartz, R.** (April 2025). *Supporting the experiences of online MSW students: Recognizing the importance of community, engagement and student feedback.* Social Work Distance Education Conference. Virtual conference

**Schwartz, R.** (October 2024). *Understanding the experiences of women with multiple roles in online MSW programs.* Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Kansas City, MO.

Cummings, S. & **Schwartz, R.** (April 2024). *Live, asynchronous and AI: Assessing the future of the online landscape.* Social Work Distance Education Conference. Virtual conference.

Rehman, H., Oceanak, N., Augustin, S. & **Schwartz, R.** (April 2024). *The elephant in the zoom: Navigating difficult conversations from a distance.* Social Work Distance Education Conference. Virtual conference.

**Schwartz, R. & Belle-Durant, L.** (March 2024). *Using a student support coach for online student success.* Rutgers Online Learning Conference. Virtual conference

- Schwartz, R.** (October 2023). *Reflecting on pandemic (and beyond) teaching practices: Maintaining academic rigor with compassion*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Atlanta, GA.
- Cummings, S., **Schwartz, R.**, & Cox, T. (October 2023). *Facing the digital doppelgänger: Designing meaningful discussion boards in an AI world*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Atlanta, GA.
- Schwartz, R.**, Belle-Durant, L. & Rehman, H. (April 2023). *Approach the coach! Using a student support coach to grow student success*. Social Work Distance Education Conference. Virtual conference.
- Gatten, A. & **Schwartz, R.** (April 2023). *Discussing discussions: Increasing student engagement in online social work courses*. Social Work Distance Education Conference. Virtual conference.
- Schwartz, R.**, Gatten, A., & Hennessy, K. (March 2023). *A full house: In-house instructional design and assessment*. Rutgers Online Learning Conference.
- Gatten, A. & **Schwartz, R.** (March 2023). *Discussing discussions*. Rutgers Online Learning Conference. Virtual conference.
- Schwartz, R.** & Khetarpal, R. (November 2022). *“A day in the life” of a survivor: Experiential teaching intimate partner violence online*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Anaheim, CA.
- Schwartz, R.** & Cummings, S. (November 2022). *Virtual mentoring of faculty: Effective best practices for online MSW programs*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Anaheim, CA.
- Schwartz, R.** (April 2022). *Understanding the experiences of online social work program administrators: A pandemic response*. Social Work Distance Education Conference. Virtual Conference.
- Cummings, S. & **Schwartz, R.** (April 2022). *Shifting priorities: Creating a space for informal connections in an uncertain environment*. Social Work Distance Education Conference. Virtual Conference.
- Cuevas, S. & **Schwartz, R.**, Oceanak, N. & Rehman, H. (April 2022). *Building innovative and sustainable virtual field placements for online MSW students*. Social Work Distance Education Conference. Virtual Conference.
- Oceanak, N., **Schwartz, R.**, Rehman, H. & Cuevas, S. (April 2022). *Set the silos aside! Working together to support online MSW students*. Social Work Distance Education Conference. Virtual Conference.
- Warrener, C. & **Schwartz, R.** (2021). *Women's relationship dissolution and economic disparities in the time of the pandemic*. [Presentation canceled]. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting.
- Kleinschmit, J., Littlefield, M., **Schwartz, R.** & Cox, T. (2021). *Online social work educators league: Providing support and maximizing best practices*. Social Work Distance Education Conference. Virtual Conference.
- Schwartz, R.** & Diksies, M. (2021). *Identifying and managing graduate student academic entitlement*. 2021 NACADA Region 1 and 2 Conference. Virtual Conference.
- Schwartz, R.** & Curran, L. (2020). *Technical standards: What they are and why we need them*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Virtual Conference.
- Schwartz, R.**, Schley, N. & Strickler, A. (2020). *Managing challenges in field education: A collaborative model for student success*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Virtual Conference.
- Schwartz, R.**, Gunther, L. & Bakelaar, B. (2020) *Consistency, not chaos: An online program's approach to course management*. [Presentation canceled]. Rutgers Online Learning Conference. New Brunswick, NJ.

**Schwartz, R.** & Diksies, M. (2020). *Identifying and managing graduate student academic entitlement*. 2020 NACADA Region 2 Conference. Norfolk, VA. (Conference canceled).

**Schwartz, R.** & Oceanak, N. (2019). *Creating meaningful engagement within field education in online programs*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Denver, CO.

Strickler, A. & **Schwartz, R.** (2019). *Less is more: Enhancing field education to meet the needs of students*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Denver, CO.

Sanchez Mayers, R. Curran, L. & **Schwartz, R.** (2019). *Using a virtual agency in social work education*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Denver, CO.

**Schwartz, R.** (April 2019). *“Evenings and weekends only” – Managing student academic entitlement in field*. Social Work Distance Education Conference. San Antonio, TX.

**Schwartz, R.**, Gunther, L. & Mitchell, K. (2019). *Creating a sense of community in and out of online courses*. Rutgers Online Learning Conference. New Brunswick, NJ.

**Schwartz, R.** & Diksies, M. (2018). *Addressing the impact of student academic entitlement*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Orlando, FL.

**Schwartz, R.** & Cox, T. (April 2018). *Responding to and coping with the death of an online student*. Social Work Distance Education Conference. San Antonio, TX.

Cox, T., Marquart, M. & **Schwartz, R.** (April 2018). *All, some or none: Synchronous or asynchronous: Creating a climate to meet your student's needs*. Social Work Distance Education Conference. San Antonio, TX.

**Schwartz, R.** & Gaughan, L. (2018). *Creating engagement in an asynchronous program*. Rutgers Online Learning Conference. New Brunswick, NJ.

**Schwartz, R.** & Diksies, M. (2017). *I deserve an A...an extension...special accommodations...”: Managing student entitlement*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Dallas, TX.

Oceanak, N., **Schwartz, R.**, & Khetarpal, R. (2017). *Integrating innovative ways for teaching interpersonal trauma online*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Dallas, TX.

**Schwartz, R.** (2017). *Incorporating synchronous elements into an asynchronous program*. Social Work Distance Education Conference. San Antonio, TX.

**Schwartz, R.** & Gaughan, L. (2017). *Building faculty community in online programs*. Rutgers Online Learning Conference. New Brunswick, NJ.

**Schwartz, R.**, Curran, L. & Diksies, M. (2016). *Managing faculty-student interactions in a virtual context*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Atlanta, GA.

**Schwartz, R.**, Cox, T., Hart Tennen, L. & Horton, A. (2016). *Small, medium and large: Advising best practices for programs of any size*. Social Work Distance Education Conference. Indianapolis, IN.

Horton, A., Hart Tennen, L., **Schwartz, R.** & Cox, T. (2016). *Academic advising: The personal is academic*. Social Work Distance Education Conference. Indianapolis, IN.

Beckman, C., Belzer, A., Bittman, A., **Schwartz, R.**, Schiavor, J. & Raza, S. (2016). *Fully online degree programs: Meeting challenges and opportunities with a partner (panel)*. Rutgers Online Learning Conference Mid-Atlantic Region. New Brunswick, NJ.

**Schwartz, R.**, Alessi, E. & Anderson, R. (2016). *Using virtual worlds to teach clinical social work skills in online courses*. Rutgers Online Learning Conference Mid-Atlantic Region. New Brunswick, NJ.

**Schwartz, R.**, Lamar, M. & Curran, L. (2015) *Field agency perceptions of online program and students*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Denver, CO.

Curran, L. & **Schwartz, R.** (2015). *Facing attrition head on: Talking about attrition in online MSW programs*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Denver, CO.

Bittman, A., Geller, J., King, A., **Schwartz, R.** & Spak, G. (2015). *Going online (panel)*. RU Online and Hybrid Learning Conference. East Brunswick, NJ.

Troost, P., Mattaliano, P. & **Schwartz, R.** (2015). *Video, audio and multimedia applications for education*. RU Online and Hybrid Learning Conference. East Brunswick, NJ.

Curran, L. & **Schwartz, R.** (2014). *Developing an online MSW program: A case study*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Tampa, FL.

Hoffman, M. L., Plummer, S., & **Schwartz, R.** (2012) *Enhancing social workers' education: A certificate program on violence against women and their children*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Washington, DC.

**Schwartz, R.**, McMahon, S., & McMahon, S. (2011). *Addressing sexual violence in social work research and education*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Atlanta, GA.

Warrener, C., McMahon, S. & **Schwartz, R.** (2011). *Preparing students to work with survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence*. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. Atlanta, GA.

Guest lecturer (Spring 2010 and 2011), *Pornography and sexual violence*. Violence and Abuse in Adulthood class, Rutgers University School of Social Work

**Schwartz, R.** & Postmus, J. L. (2009). *Stand up against violence*. Rutgers Day, New Brunswick, NJ.

## **GRANTS**

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McMahon, S., **Schwartz, R.** & Khetarpal, R.M. (2020) Innovations in Education and Teaching Pilot Grant, Teaching Intimate Partner Violence through an interactive online case studies module. \$10,000

## **SUPERVISED RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY**

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- Supervise social work graduate students for non-credit research assistantship, including development of literature review, curriculum updates, data collection (satisfaction surveys), and program development, 2015-2016, 2017-2018, 2021-2022, 2023-2024
- Faculty advisor to undergraduate student, Institute for Women's Leadership, Leadership Scholars Program, 2021

## **SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**

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### **University of Connecticut Level Service**

- President's Council on Combatting Sexual Violence and Harassment, Steering Committee Member and Community Accountability and Organizational Transformation Sub-Committee Member, 2025 – present
- Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research (CIMER) training facilitator, 2025 – present
- Provost's Library Advisory Committee, Fall 2025

### **University of Connecticut School of Social Work Service**

- CIRE PT Committee, Member, 2026 - present
- Educational Policy Committee, Co-Chair, 2024 – present
- Educational Review Committee, Chair, 2024-present
- Academic Affairs, Member, 2024 - present
- Ad-Hoc Committee on Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness, 2025-2026

- Search Committee Member for Academic Advisor, Fall 2025
- Search Committee Member for Practicum Coordinator, Fall 2024

### **Rutgers University Level Service**

- New Brunswick Online Degree Committee, Spring 2024
- Social Sciences Librarian Search Committee Member, Spring 2022
- Learning Management Systems Committee, 2017-2018
- Rutgers Managed Program Directors Group, 2013 – 2024
- Selected participant, OASIS program, Spring 2019

### **Rutgers School of Social Work Service**

- Search Committee Member for Dean, Fall 2023 – Spring 2024
- Academic Leadership Meetings, 2022 - present
- Search Committee Member for Assistant Director of Student Affairs, Spring 2023
- Curriculum Committee, Member, 2019 - 2021
- Non-Tenure Track Faculty Standards Committee, Member, 2018 - 2020
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Taskforce, Member, 2018 – 2020
- Special Events Committee, 2016-2017
- Writing Subcommittee, Member, 2015-2016
- VAWC Certificate Steering Committee, 2014-2016
- MSW Scholarship Review Committee, 2013-2014
- Course Coordinator for MSW courses:
  - HBSE (co-coordinator, online), 2013 - 2022
  - Violence and Abuse in Adulthood (co-coordinator, online), 2015 - present
  - Gender, Women and Intersectional Social Justice (formerly Women’s Issues) – 2019 - present

### **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY**

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- Association of MSW Program Directors, Leadership Council Member, 2026 - present
- Council on Leadership Development, Council on Social Work Education, appointed member, 2025 - present
- Social Work Distance Education Conference, Advisory Council Member, 2025 -present
- Technology and Social Work Practice Track, Council on Social Work Education, Co-Chair, 2022 - 2025
- Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education, Council on Social Work Education, appointed member, 2018 – 2024
  - Feminist networking breakfast, mentor recognition and professional collaborations subcommittees
- Social Work Distance Education Field Consortium, Member, 2016 - present
- Abstract reviewer for Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education, 2016 - present
- Abstract reviewer for Social Work Distance Education Conference, 2018 - present
- Abstract reviewer for Online Learning Consortium, Innovate Conference, Student Support, Success, and Empowerment track - 2023
- Abstract reviewer for NACADA Annual Conference, 2020 - 2021
- Burlington County Child Placement Review Board, Volunteer, 2005-2010

### **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

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Member, Distance Education Field Consortium  
 Member, National Association of Social Workers  
 Member, Council on Social Work Education  
 Member, National Academic Advising Association  
 State of New Jersey Licensed Social Worker (LSW), December 2008  
 Field Supervisor, Completed Seminar in Field Instruction May 2011  
 Human Subjects Certification, Rutgers University Institutional Review Board  
 Completed 40 Hour Domestic Violence training, December 2011

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services – Grants Manager** **January 2013 – August 2013**

- Oversight of the process of awarding and monitoring state and federal grants to a wide range of subgrantees
- Prepared federal grant applications and program performance reports for all grants

- Maintained working relationships with over 50 subgrantees and provided information on all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and rules pertaining to grant award

**University of Vermont – Project Planner**

**October 2012 – January 2013**

- Supported online continuing education programming and course offerings throughout the university

**Steininger Behavioral Care Services – MSW Intern**

**August 2007 – May 2008**

- Assisted in the development and implementation of organization-wide compliance training. Performed research on cultural competency issues and working with diverse populations in clinical treatment. Developed an internet-based Diversity Resource Center to be used by staff.
- Conducted needs assessment and organized a resource directory for the Intensive Family Support Services program.

**Family Advocacy Program, McGuire AFB – MSW Intern**

**September 2006 - May 2007**

- Worked in collaboration with the Outreach Manager, Treatment Manager and Family Advocacy Nurse in various tasks such as assisting with group coordination (play group, parenting classes and prevention programs), organizing client files, observing client intakes and counseling sessions, and coordinating prevention month activities.

**Archer & Greiner, P.C. – Paralegal**

**July 2004 - August 2007**

- Reviewed and organized documents produced by plaintiffs and defendants (electronic database and hard-copy). Paralegal member of the Electronic Discovery Committee. Assembled and created deposition and trial materials submitted to the court.

**Martindale-Hubbell – Associate Editor**

**June 2002 - July 2004**

- Responsible for proofreading and updating lawyer, law firm, and law school directory listings. Compiled and created advertisements, listings, and front matter for law directory and digests.