

Dr. Shelina M. Warren, Ed.D, NBCT

EDUCATION

- Ed.D., Urban Leadership – Johns Hopkins University, 2023
- M.Ed., EdTech/History – Univ. of Arkansas at Monticello, 2006
- B.S., Social Science Education (Cum Laude) – Univ. of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, 2003

CORE STRENGTHS

- Law-Related Education Program Design
- Civic Engagement & Rights Education
- Instructional Coaching & Leadership
- Legal Community Partnership Building

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director, Eleanor Holmes Norton Law & Public Policy Academy

Instructional Coach & Law Academy Educator

Dunbar High School, DC Public Schools | 2016–Present

- Developed and taught law-based curricula (Law & Public Policy, Constitutional Law), encouraging student exploration of rights, responsibilities, and justice systems.
- Designed and facilitated student programming connecting youth with judges, lawyers, and law enforcement professionals to demystify legal careers and institutions.
- Led professional development for educators on civic education and democratic classrooms.
- Organized events including “Justice in Action Week” to promote courtroom-to-classroom dialogue.

RECOGNITION & LEADERSHIP

- Street Law Classroom Champion Award, 2023
- DC Teacher of the Year Runner-Up, 2021
- Anna Julia Cooper Award, 2020 – Civic Action & Social Change

SELECT PROJECTS

- Classroom Guide Teacher Advisory Author, Mock Trial & Moot Court – Street Law, Inc.
- Legal Timelines Pilot Participant, Street Law, Inc.
- Film Contributor, iCivics PD Video Series
- Council Member, RetroReport Educators Network
- Panelist, The Nation’s Report Card Release on Civics

Dr. Shelina Warren's Law-Related Education Journey

Focus:

- Furthering understanding of the courts, law enforcement, and the legal profession
 - Helping students recognize their rights and responsibilities
 - Encouraging law-related education in schools and communities
 - Increasing communication among students, educators, and legal professionals
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Key Highlights (2016–2025)

Teaching & Student Engagement

- Taught *Street Law*, *Constitutional Law*, and *Law & Justice Advocacy*, integrating simulations like mock trials, voir dire, and legal research.
- Hosted annual cohorts of **law students from American and Georgetown Universities** as student teachers in law-based courses.
- Led students in **mock trial competitions** in partnership with **Georgetown Law School**; reached the finals in 2023.
- Created and sustained the **Eleanor Holmes Norton Law & Public Policy Academy** at Dunbar High School (2016–present).
- Developed **“Know Your Rights” campaigns** in response to police brutality concerns in Washington, DC, and engaged students in civic action projects such as *peer court programs*, *student-created documentaries*, and *student-led civic issue campaigns*.
- Partnered with organizations like **Paul Weiss, Williams & Connolly**, and the ATF’s **“ATF in the Community” program** for field trips, mentoring, and career development.
- Street Law, Inc. observed and videoed me teaching one of the mock trial guide lessons on Voir Dire in 2024 as part of a video-series for teacher support.
- Participated in the American Constitution Society’s Constitution in the Classroom at the **DC Bar** choosing to hear from lawyers on the issue of **voting rights**.
- Provided opportunities for my students to participate in Georgetown Law School’s Early Outreach initiative, in which students learn about scholarships, law school, and spend a day on campus attending law school classes.

Law-Related Program Leadership

- Served as **Independent Contractor for Street Law, Inc.**, developing their *Classroom Guide to Mock Trial and Moot Court* (2022).
- Participated in the **Legal Diversity Pipeline Program** (2018 - present) in which corporate lawyers from the Paul Weiss law firm (DC) teach lessons on contract law and the 4th Amendment and then host my students at their law firm for a legal education conference, courtesy of Street Law, Inc.
- I served as a participant in the **Legal Timelines curriculum pilot** with Street Law, Inc. in 2023 and was fortunate to present at the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) Conference to promote the resource.
- Co-presented at **NCSS national conferences** on law-related education topics such as *Constitutional Democracy*, *Legal Timelines*, Human Rights Education Culture, and *Student Civic Empowerment*.
- Served as a **Springpoint Content Expert/Think Tank Participant** for their Transformational Learning Experience (TLE) Focus Group for their **Students and the Law curriculum unit** in 2022.

- I worked with Mikva Challenge & Youth Justice, Inc., to help my students respond to our school's discipline problem by creating the **peer court** program. In this program, students facing discipline challenges are seen by their peers and given consequences based on **restorative and transformational justice**.
- Curriculum writer for Mikva Challenge's curriculum **Issues to Action** in 2018.
- Created the **Dunbar Student Lawyer Club**, a club dedicated to exposing students to law-related people, places, and opportunities in 2024.
- Using Mikva Challenge DC support, I facilitated the **1st Parade to the Polls** event to help our 18-year-olds be **educated on the election process and vote at an early voting** location. The event included recruiting students and voter registration in 2024.
- Due to my support and encouragement via emails, social media, and flyers, 36 students from our school signed up and were trained to serve as **student election workers** for the November 2024 election.
- Created a gun-violence memorial in our school museum to honor the students who have been victims of gun violence within our school community, and held a community event the first year to debut the memorial; 2021
- Hosted **Justice in Action Week**, the need was based on student survey results and centered around Law Day, May 1. Created the theme of connecting classrooms to courtrooms – each day was focused on a specific event – April 28: **Networking luncheon with legal professionals** like lawyers, law students, Dept of Justice personnel, law professors, and a sitting judge. April 29: **Field Trip to DC Court of Appeals and DC Superior Court** to watch an actual trial/hearing and meet with the DC Court of Appeals Chief Justice and other judges. April 30: **Movie Screening and Panel Discussion of Juror #2** in which we had a defense attorney and a legal scholar from Georgetown watch the movie with students and discuss the jurors' responsibilities, the movie's realism, and other questions students had. May 1: **Law Career Exploration Fair** for students to meet professionals from the FBI, DEA, U.S. Marshals, DC Forensics, Metropolitan Police Department, and Court Reporters to explore various careers. May 2: We visited a **local law firm**, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, a corporate law firm, to network and tour.

Professional Partnerships & Public Platforms

- Guest speaker and panelist on law and civic education at **The Atlantic's Civics & the Future of Democracy**, **Education Writers Association**, and **Soledad O'Brien's Matter of Fact**.
- Guest on **National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' podcast**, sharing best practices in law-related teaching.
- Featured in the article *"Civics in the Shadow of Capitol Hill: Letter from a D.C. High School"*.
- Contributed content and commentary for **My School Votes**, advocating for student and parent voter engagement.
- Solidified a partnership with the ATF in DC for their **ATF in the Community program**, exposing my students to workshops taught by ATF personnel on resume building, interview skill support, and a culminating mock trial in 2023 – present.
- Participated in **Street Law's Leadership Circle** since 2020.
- In 2019, my students and I appeared on Soledad O'Brien's television show, **Matter of Fact**, to present my student-initiated peer court program.
- My students participated in the **Facebook Community Action Challenge** competition, a nationwide contest, and two groups won a trip to Facebook HQ in Menlo Park, CA for their projects on **Sexual Health Issues Among DC Teens & Freedom for Felons: Voting Rights Reinstated** in 2019.
- Partnered with the **National African American Museum for History and Culture** to create a unit of lessons on **Henrietta Lacks, tying in history and law**. I also presented at NCSS in 2018 for the session, **The Henrietta Lacks Education Project: So Much More than Science**.
- In 2024 and 2025, I hosted students from **Howard University's (DC) Mock Trial and debate Teams**, as well as student lawyers from **Howard University's Law School and NAACP chapter**, to help students watch a collegiate mock trial/debate and teach them about their rights.

- Invited to be a facilitator in Street Law's Legal Careers Pathway Workshop called **Classroom Insights: Maximizing the Impact of Legal Professionals in Student Learning**, April 2025.
- Partnered with students from Penn State and Georgetown Law for their Advocacy & Social Justice program for our students after the mock trial competition each year to learn how the law impacts our everyday lives, since 2019.
- Two of my academy students interned at DC Superior Court with Judge Faruqui for their Senior year, 2024-2025.
- Served as the host for the Center for Civic Education 60-Minute Civics Webinar: Meet the 2024 ACETA Winners; September 2024
- Served as a panel presenter for the National Forum for Civic Learning Week for Educating for American Democracy (EAD), March 2025

Grants, Media & Technology Integration

- Authored numerous **DonorsChoose** grants to fund law education materials and experiences.
- Created a dedicated academy website – www.dunbarlpp.org – to showcase student work and promote academy goals.
- Produced professional development video content for **iCivics**, showcasing best practices in law-related instruction.
- Created a Twitter and Instagram page, @dunbarlpp, for our law academy to showcase academy events and student achievements, run by academy officers
- Received the Roberts Award grant from the New Leaders organization for the project, *City of Dreams, Voices of Change: A Social Justice Exploration*. Students recently completed a skill survey, revealing deficits in social connection, responsibility, activism, political aspirations, and civic efficacy. Only 59% of students feel they matter to people in their city. This project, anchored by **Justice in Action Week and culminating in an NYC-based advocacy trip, offers transformative experiences through site visits, guest speakers, and hands-on workshops**. These activities foster equity, advocacy, and civic engagement, aligning with the strategic goal of preparing students as informed and empowered citizens. This initiative directly impacts 40+ students and staff while inspiring systemic change across the broader community.

Nubia Gerima-Rogers

Assistant Principal, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School
3722 CJ Barney Dr., NE
Washington, DC 20018

May 25, 2025

To the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee,

It is with great pride and sincere admiration that I recommend Dr. Shelina Warren for the Teacher of the Year Award. I have had the privilege of working alongside Dr. Warren for over seven years at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, and in that time, she has continually set the bar for what it means to be a transformative educator. Her most recent achievement—the design and execution of the *City of Dreams, Voices of Change* initiative, funded through the prestigious Roberts Award—stands as a testament to her visionary leadership and profound impact on students' lives.

In a school community where nearly 90% of students identify as African American and 75% qualify for free or reduced lunch, Dr. Warren has committed herself to dismantling systems of disconnection and disempowerment. Through the *City of Dreams* project, she addressed a clear and urgent need: only 59% of students felt they mattered to people in their city. By building a robust, week-long Justice in Action experience, she brought students out of the classroom and into courtrooms, law firms, and community spaces where they were not just observers—but participants, questioners, and visionaries. Students engaged with judges, attorneys, and activists; attended legal workshops and film screenings; and explored the justice system from multiple perspectives. The result? A measurable shift in student confidence, civic efficacy, and self-worth. More than 90% of students reported feeling more connected to their city and its institutions by the end of the program.

But this kind of transformation does not happen by chance—it is the result of Dr. Warren's intentional, equity-driven pedagogy. She is a master at blending rigor and relevance, infusing her Constitutional Law and Public Service Issues courses with project-based learning that is both academically challenging and deeply rooted in the real world. Her leadership extends beyond the classroom: as the founding director of the Eleanor Holmes

Norton Law and Public Policy Academy, she has created a pipeline of student leaders equipped to pursue justice in all its forms. From student-led “Know Your Rights” campaigns to oral history projects and podcast productions, Dr. Warren empowers her students to understand that their voices matter—and then shows them how to use them.

What distinguishes Dr. Warren most is her relentless pursuit of growth, not just for herself but for every learner and educator around her. A National Board Certified Teacher, she recently completed her doctorate in Urban Educational Leadership at Johns Hopkins University, focusing on civic education’s impact in underrepresented communities. She is a cornerstone of our Academic Leadership Team, the former Social Studies Department Chair, and a catalyst for staff-wide growth and collaboration. Her success in securing grant funding, building partnerships, and leading interdisciplinary initiatives has elevated both student outcomes and school-wide morale.

Dr. Warren is more than deserving of the title Teacher of the Year—she is the teacher of every year. Her work models what it means to teach with purpose, lead with integrity, and believe in every student’s potential to change the world.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if further information is needed.

With great respect,

Nubia Gerima-Rogers, M.Ed.

Assistant Principal, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

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Dr. DeMarcus McMillan

**Assistant Principal
101 N. Street NW
Washington, DC 20001**

March 23, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Shelina Warren for this prestigious award. For four years, I was the dean of students and, most recently, as assistant principal and Shelina taught social studies electives at our Law and Public Policy Academy at Dunbar High School. In addition to her role as a teacher, she serves as the Social Studies Teacher Leader, constantly seeking opportunities to improve her approach and that of her colleagues. Dr. Warren is a graduate of New Leaders, a program designed to recruit and train school leaders focused on improving educational outcomes for students in under-resourced communities, specifically those from minority backgrounds.

Under Dr. Warren's leadership, our Social Studies department has made significant strides in pedagogy and student engagement. As a testament to her impact, all our Social Studies teachers have seen growth in their instructional skills, reflected in their evaluation scores. Here are just a few comments from her team members based on her leadership:

- School Culture:**
"She works incredibly hard to promote a positive learning environment despite the lack of school morale. Effective school leader in this area as she does a lot of activities outside of the school day with students."
- Teacher Practice:**
"Dr. Warren is always pushing me to be my best and provides awesome advice to practice in my classroom regardless of if we are planning together or she is observing."
- Student Achievement:**
"Dr. Warren constantly provides ways we can assist our students and push their achievement. She provides graphic organizers for writing, rubrics, charts, and will design anything we need to support our students."
- Overall Response:**
"Dr. Warren is the glue that holds the department together. Through her leadership, I have not only improved my instructional delivery, but she has exposed me to district leadership opportunities. She embodies the leadership education needs: Innovation + Patience + Rigor + Structure + Emotional Intelligence."

Dr. Warren has a proven track record of promoting college and career readiness for her students. One notable achievement was her work in raising students' scores on the CommonLit writing assessment, where only 1% of students scored in the 3.0–3.5 range in October 2018. By April 2019, she set a smart goal for 25% of students to achieve a 3.0–3.5, and by February 2019, 54% of students had met this target. She achieved this by tailoring her instruction to address student weaknesses and motivating them through goal-setting conferences and celebratory ceremonies.

Her leadership in the Law and Public Policy Academy is particularly notable. Shelina incorporates civics and social justice into every lesson. Her students have engaged in meaningful projects such as raising awareness of police brutality through a “Know Your Rights” campaign, and addressing the long-neglected history of Dunbar High School by creating a Dunbar History elective. Most notably, her students have worked to improve school culture by establishing a Peer Court that empowers students to resolve conflicts and reduce misbehavior in a way that fosters peer accountability that fits perfectly within her law academy.

In 2021, her students also created a gun violence memorial to honor those lost to violence, showing her deep commitment to addressing critical social issues. This initiative aligns perfectly with her approach in the academy, where students don’t just learn about law and public policy—they actively engage with issues affecting their community, making their education both relevant and impactful.

Dr. Warren is a dynamic and innovative educator whose passion for social justice and commitment to her students’ success are evident in every aspect of her work. Her approach to teaching and leadership has made her an invaluable member of our school community, and I am confident that she will continue to inspire and uplift those around her. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly recommend her for this award.

**Sincerely,
Dr. DeMarcus McMillan
Assistant Principal, 11th Grade/Social Studies
Dunbar High School
202-698-3762**

Relevant Supportive Evidence

1. <https://mikvachallenge.org/blog/converted-students-silent-sitters-social-speakers/>
 - July 19, 2017 from Mikva Challenge DC
 - Showcasing how I used the resources from iCivics and Mikva Challenge to meet the needs of my students in combating a community issue, while infusing student leadership.
2. <https://streetlaw.org/shelina-warren-to-receive-street-laws-2023-classroom-champion-award/>
 - April 3, 2023
 - Discusses why I was selected as Street Law, Inc. Classroom Champion awardee
3. <https://pattillmanfoundation.org/meet-our-scholars/shelina-warren/>
 - I was selected as a Tillman Scholar from the Pat Tillman Foundation in 2021, which helped me to be the teacher I am today within my law academy.
4. <https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Education/2023/0112/Civics-in-the-shadow-of-Capitol-Hill-Letter-from-a-D.C.-high-school>
 - January 12, 2023
 - Opportunity for me to preview how I teach my classes and shine the spotlight on some of my class leaders
5. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKn3A4nLymQ>
 - February 19, 2025
 - News story from a Howard University Journalism student discussing education in 2025
6. <https://hunewsservice.com/variety/education/in-the-wake-of-election-results-dunbar-high-students-find-hope-and-empowerment-through-voting/>
 - November 8, 2024
 - News story from a Howard University Journalism student
7. <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DJE36kEpPGV/?igsh=MTgwcXVsZ3JkOGJmdw==>
 - April 29, 2025
 - Justice In Action Week (Robert Awards grant) Courthouse Visit Field Trip Spotlight
8. https://www.dunbarhsdc.org/dunbar_academies/academy_for_law_and_public_policy
 - Our law academy page from our school website – We had a Georgetown Law School professor assist with creating our mission and vision.
9. <https://civiclearningweek.org/event/national-forum-for-civic-learning-week-break-out-session/>
 - March 13, 2025
 - Spoke about the events and opportunities created within my law academy
10. <https://www.teachingforchange.org/teaching-truth-curriculum-fair-centering-black-lives-art-and-resistance>
 - January 25, 2025
 - Facilitated a workshop entitled Empowering Change: Educators as Architects of Justice and Democracy
11. <https://bsky.app/profile/msjingold.bsky.social/post/3lmphhekyc2q>
 - May 1, 2025
 - Was the Facilitator of a session on Voicing the Youth Vote, based on what I did for the November 2024 election