

MARU SMITH-OPABOLA

University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of South Carolina Joseph P. Rice School of Law, Columbia, SC

Assistant Professor, 2026-Present

Anticipated Courses: First Amendment; Media Law; Seminar in Private Law, Technology & the First Amendment

Georgetown Law, Georgetown Center for the Constitution, Washington, DC

Non-Resident Research Fellow, 2026-2028

University of Florida, Levin College of Law, Gainesville, FL

Research & Teaching Fellow, 2024-2026

Courses Taught: First Amendment; Media Law; Seminar in Race and the First Amendment

- Commendation for Excellence in Student Course Evaluations (Fall 2024)

EDUCATION

Columbia University, New York, NY

M.S., Journalism, 2012

- Columbia University Association of Black Journalists, Public Relations & Communications Director

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA

J.D., 2008

- *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Journal*, Editorial Staff
- Learning and Mentorship Program (L.A.M.P), Co-Chair
- Trial Advocacy Workshop led by Professor Charles Ogletree, Student-Attorney Finalist
- Research Assistant, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

B.A., *cum laude*, in Political Science, 2005

- Multicultural Student of the Year Award Recipient
- Golden Key International Honor Society

SCHOLARSHIP

- *Student Expressive and Associational Rights* (with C. Thomas & E. Biolchino), in C. Thomas & K. Taksier (Eds.), *LEGAL LITERACY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS* (Education Law Association, 2nd ed.) (in press)
- *A Countermajoritarian Press Clause* (working paper)
- *Recentering Receivers in the Press Clause* (working paper)
- *Processing the First Amendment* (work in progress)
- *Mass Incarceration and Criminal Justice*, Greenhouse Justice Booklet Vol 1: Racial Reconciliation (Feb. 2021)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- **Yale Information Society Project, Ideas Lunch**, Nov. 2026 (scheduled)
- **Seventeenth Annual Constitutional Law Colloquium**, *A Countermajoritarian Press Clause*, Florida State University College of Law, Nov. 2026 (scheduled)
- **Yale Law School, Freedom of Expression Scholars Conference**, Discussant and Selected Workshop Paper, *A Countermajoritarian Press Clause*, New Haven, CT, Mar. 2026
- **Annual Faculty Conference**, Selected Works-in-Progress Workshop: *Receiving Speech in the Press Clause*, New Orleans, LA, Jan. 2026
- **Southeastern Association of Law Schools meeting**, Works-in-Progress Workshop: *Constitutional Law, Processing the First Amendment*, Amelia Island, FL, Jul. 2025

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (continued)

- **University of Milan**, Moderator, Panel on Forthcoming Books in the Field, *Private Law & Multicultural Identities*, Jul. 2025
- **San Diego School of Law, Lutie A. Lytle Conference**, *The Pressing Matter: Recovering the Collective Right of Receivership in the Press Clause*, Jun. 2025
- **Northeastern University School of Law, Junior Scholars Conference**, *Demise of the Fairness Doctrine: Decentering the Public's Interest and the Right to Truth in the Marketplace of Ideas*, Feb. 2025
- **Sheriff's Election Forum**, Forum Host (facilitated public questions and answers with Sheriff candidates), Gainesville, FL, Jun. 2020
- **Greenhouse Leadership Conference**, *Justice, The Bible and the Modern World*, Sep. 2019
- **Greenhouse Leadership Conference**, *Justice and Reconciliation*, Sep. 2018
- **University of Florida Levin College of Law, 2016 Law & Justice Conference**, *The Legal Ramifications of Cyber-bullying*, Gainesville, FL, Feb. 2016
- **Central Florida Urban League Young Professionals**, *How to Effectively Lobby Your Government*, Orlando, FL, Jan. 2016
- **Empowerment Center Oversight Advisory Board**, *Citizen Workgroup Recommendations for Dignity Village*, Gainesville, FL, Mar. 2015

EXPERIENCE

Office of the Public Defender, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Orlando, FL
Assistant Public Defender, Feb. 2022–Jul. 2022

Greenhouse Church, Inc., Gainesville, FL
Justice Director and In-House Counsel, Nov. 2013–Dec. 2021

Gainesville Sun, Gainesville, FL
Politics, Crime and Criminal Justice Contributor, Aug. 2012–Nov. 2013

Bilzin Sumberg LLP, Miami, FL
Complex Commercial Litigation Associate, Jun 2009–Jun. 2010; *Summer Associate*, 2006 & 2007

Vinson and Elkins LLP, Dallas, TX
Commercial Litigation Associate, Aug. 2008–Jun. 2009; *Summer Associate*, 2007

AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Bar Admissions

- Texas
- Florida

Professional Associations

AALS Section on Constitutional Law

- Executive Subcommittee member, 2026-2027

AALS Section on Race and Private Law

- Executive Committee member, 2026-2027

