

# Christopher Charles Ross

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Akron, Ohio

## Education

### UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SCHOOL OF LAW

Juris Doctor – May 2001

- Academics: Dean's List – Spring 2000  
Top Grade – Fair Housing / Landlord Tenant Law – *CALI Award* 2001
- Honors: Saul Lefkowitz Intellectual Property Moot Court Competition – *participant* 2000  
American Bar Association Regional Negotiation Competition – *participant* 2000
- Awards: Samuel Reese Willis Foundation Public Interest Fellowship – *recipient* 2000
- Activities: Black Law Students Association – *Recording Secretary*  
Student Bar Association – *Class Representative & Parliamentarian*  
Phi Delta Phi International Law Fraternity – *Clerk*

### WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

Morgantown, West Virginia

Bachelor of Arts *Cum Laude* with *University Honors* – May 1996

Major: Psychology

- Academics: University Honors Program graduate  
Dean's List – Fall 92, Spring 93, Fall 93, Spring 94, Fall 94, Fall 95, Spring 96
- Honors: Finalist – 1995 Mr. Mountaineer (selected upon scholarship, leadership, and service)  
Student Lecturer – 1994 West Virginia Political Science Assoc. Convention on major paper
- Scholarship: University Presidential Scholarship (four year tuition and fees) – *recipient*
- Awards: Eberly College of Arts and Sciences Academic Award – *recipient* 1995 & 1996
- Activities: "The Pride of West Virginia" Marching Band – *Rank Leader*  
Kappa Kappa Psi National Band Honorary Service Fraternity – *Vice President*

## Professional Experience

### SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

AKRON, OHIO

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney – Tax Division

April 2002 – Present

- Duties: legal representation for the Summit County Treasurer, Auditor, Recorder and other county offices in areas of taxation litigation; appeals to the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals and the Ohio Courts; representation of county interests in Federal Bankruptcy Court; research, writing & advisement.
- Areas of legal work and responsibility: municipal taxation law areas (real property, personal property, hotel/motel, appropriations, tax lien certificates, foreclosure, excise & specials); real property law (bankruptcy & foreclosure); municipal law (assessment & collection); miscellaneous areas.
- Other: coordinated the division's transition to electronic case filing (ECF) in bankruptcy court; assisted in the selection and transition to an office-wide WestLaw legal research plan.

### THE HOUSING ADVOCATES, INC.

CLEVELAND, OHIO

Associate Director for Technical Assistance and Membership / Staff Attorney

May 2001 – April 2002

- Duties: general litigation assistance and administrative duties; planned and coordinated Fair Housing Act tests in home owner's insurance; supervised agency telephone advice and referral line; assisted as Staff Attorney with Fair Housing Law Clinic associated with the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; was responsible for most computer and other technical assistance, support and development; assisted with HAI's Home Ownership Assistance Program; administered HUD projects and other grants; attended regional housing task force meetings and served as liaison; legal research, writing and drafting; assisted with HAI newsletters and publications; assisted in planning the 2002 Northeast Ohio Fair Housing Alliance annual conference.
- Areas of legal work and responsibility: Fair Housing Act issues; landlord-tenant disputes; predatory lending; various aspects of other civil rights statutes.

### COMMUNITY LEGAL AID SERVICES INC. / STARK COUNTY LEGAL AID SOCIETY

CANTON, OHIO

Certified Legal Intern – Housing Unit

May 2000 – May 2001

- Duties: engaged in the limited practice of law pursuant to Supreme Court of Ohio Legal Intern Certificate; litigated and appeared in court with minimal supervision; represented clients in negotiation, settlement and preparation of judgment entries; prepared pleadings and discovery; researched and wrote briefs and memoranda; conducted client intake and interviews; provided legal advice and counsel; attended regional

- housing task force meetings; performed on-line legal research and assistance.
- Areas of legal work and responsibility: evictions; landlord–tenant disputes; public housing grievance hearings; utility disputes and terminations; fair housing; foreclosure; land contract; section 8 issues.

**WEST GROUP**

AKRON, OHIO

Student West Representative

May 1999 – June 2001

- Duties: trained and assisted students and faculty in WestLaw on-line computer legal research; managed administrative tasks; promoted West products and programs.

**GREEN & FARINACCI, ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

CHARDON, OHIO

Law Clerk

May 1999 – May 2000

- Duties: legal research and writing; client interaction and interviews; drafted attorney-client contract agreements; web page consulting/design; computer training and assistance.
- Areas of legal work and responsibility: debt collection; closely held corporations; civil procedure; condominium development; landlord-tenant issues; miscellaneous issues.

**WEST VIRGINIA ATTORNEY GENERAL**

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

Webmaster – Consumer Protection Division

July – August 1998

- Designed and implemented the first WVAG homepage; created a Consumer Protection Division web page; created a temporary web page for the Civil Rights Division; trained the future webmaster.

**WEST VIRGINIA ATTORNEY GENERAL**

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

Law Clerk – Civil Rights Division

May – October 1997 & April – July 1998

- Duties: reviewed and made recommendations on probable cause determinations appealed from the West Virginia Human Rights Commission (WVHRC); legal research and writing; client interaction and interviews; computer assistance and on-line legal research.
- Areas of legal work and responsibility: West Virginia Human Rights Act (WVHRA) (employment discrimination, public accommodation & fair housing).
- Wrote the West Virginia Human Rights Commission final order in Voyle v. Fairmont Specialty Serv. establishing the standard for the proper calculation of attorney fees for private litigators who pursue claims in the WVHRC administrative forum. The West Virginia Supreme Court upheld the order in Fairmont Specialty Serv. v. West Virginia Human Rights Comm'n, 522 S.E.2d 180 (W.Va. 1999) and recognized ancestry based hostile work environment as a cause of action of first impression in West Virginia.
- Co-wrote an *Amicus Curiae* brief to the Fourth Circuit United States Court of Appeals in Price v. Goals Coal Co., 1998 WL 536371, No. 97-1710 (4th Cir. 1997) *recognized in Mixer v. M. K. Ferguson Co.*, 17 F. Supp. 2d 569 (S.D.W.Va. 1998).
- Co-drafted and submitted to the 1998 West Virginia Legislature a new “Class Action” cause of action subsection for inclusion with the Rules of Practice and Procedure Before the West Virginia Human Rights Commission (Title 77-2-3.15).
- Drafted and submitted to the 1998 West Virginia Legislature amended definition of “employee” for inclusion with the Legislative Rules regarding the West Virginia Human Rights Act (Title 77-10-2).

**WEST VIRGINIA ATTORNEY GENERAL**

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

Paralegal – Employment Programs Litigation Unit

October 1997 – April 1998

- Duties: legal research; began a comparative study of West Virginia Workers’ Compensation statute across four legislative revisions; coordinated and conducted computer and WestLaw training sessions for staff and attorneys; computer troubleshooting.
- Worked in aspects of revenue recovery regarding the West Virginia workers’ compensation system including issues regarding new subrogation legislation.

**Publications**

Understanding The Real Estate Tax Appraisal Process, Summit County Prosecutor’s Civil Division Newsletter (Winter 2003) *available at* <http://www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor/civil.htm> (on file with author).

The Pitfalls of Electronic Discovery: What You Don’t Know Can Hurt You, Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA) Employment Rights Section Newsletter (Fall 2003) (on file with author).

Deference To The EEOC: Whether English-Only Policies In The Workplace Evince Title VII Disparate Impact On The Basis Of National Origin (Dec. 1999), *available at* National Fair Housing Advocate, <http://www.fairhousing.com/> (on file with author).

## Bar Status

- Licensed to practice in Ohio since 2001
- Admitted to the Federal Court for the Northern District of Ohio since 2002
- Admitted to the Federal Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio since 2002

## Professional Associations

- Scanlon Inn of Court – (Pupil) 2002 to present
- Akron Bar Association – 1998 to present
  - Committees – Government Law; Law Office Technology
- Ohio State Bar Association – 1998 to present
  - Sections – Labor & Employment Law
  - Committees – Taxation Law; Government, Education, & Construction Law; Computer Law; Alternative Dispute Resolution

## Other Areas of Interest

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Served as co-coach for the University of Akron School of Law Negotiations Team – 2002-04
  - Attended the 2002 and 2003 American Bar Association Regional Negotiation Competition
- Cuyahoga County Fair Housing Consortium – Member 2001 to 2002
- Cuyahoga County Predatory Lending Task Force – Member 2001 to 2002
- Northeast Ohio Fair Housing Alliance – Member 2001 to 2002
- Stark County Fair Housing Task Force – Member 2000 to 2001

### COMPUTER PROFICIENCY

- WestLaw & Lexis trained.
- Formal training across multiple versions of Corel WordPerfect & Microsoft Word.
- Experience in utilizing multiple operating systems (Dos & Windows 3.11, 95, 98, ME, 2000, & XP).
- Skilled in utilizing various forms of word processing documents across multiple programs and applications.
- Proficient in email, internet browsers, FTP & other internet applications.
- Experienced in data compression utilities and back-up devices.
- Web design experience (WYSIWYG and basic HTML).
- Experienced using scanner technology including OCR and graphics editing software.
- Experience working with multiple forms of graphic files and photo editors.
- Some basic network experience.
- Proficient in Palm computing.
- Able to effectively utilize most Windows and Dos based applications.
- Able to troubleshoot most common software and hardware issues.
- Able to effectively and quickly learn new technology for most software/hardware issues or products either in a formal setting or independently.

### RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- Employment Related:
  - AIDS Law; Disability Law; Employment Law; Equal Opportunity Law; Immigration Law; Labor Law & Collective Bargaining; Workers' Compensation Law
- Intellectual Property:
  - Computer Law; Cyberspace and Telecommunications Law
- Miscellaneous Civil Rights:
  - Fair Housing/Landlord -Tenant Law; School Law
- Advocacy:
  - Trial Advocacy I & II; Negotiation Team; Moot Court.

### HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

- Reading; music; theater; ballroom dance; web page design; family history; Tae Kwon Do.
- National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians – inactive

