

Georgia Southern University

Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

Georgia Association for Positive Behavior
Support Conference

Finding Your Zen: Mindfulness in the Classroom

Stephen Fusco

Georgia State University, sfusco1@student.gsu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/gapbs>

Recommended Citation

Fusco, Stephen, "Finding Your Zen: Mindfulness in the Classroom" (2017). *Georgia Association for Positive Behavior Support Conference*. 4.

<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/gapbs/2017/2017/4>

This event is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences & Events at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Association for Positive Behavior Support Conference by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

Stephen F. Fusco
120 Ralph McGill Blvd, NE, Unit 110
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
404.493.3219 • sfusco1@student.gsu.edu

EDUCATION

Georgia State University College of Education, Atlanta, GA

M.Ed., Behavioral and Learning Disabilities, May 2016

EdD, Educational Leadership, In Progress

Honors: Kappa Delta Phi International Honor Society for Educators; Reading Endorsement

Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, GA

Juris Doctor Degree, May 2001

Activities: Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic; Dean's Fellow; Project Open Hand; Urban Debate League; Emory Gay and Lesbian Advocates (EGALA) President.

Honors: Order of the Advocates; Dean's Outstanding Public Interest Award; Georgia Civil Justice Foundation Scholar; Commendation for Outstanding Performance: Kessler-Eidson Program for Trial Techniques; Lamar Inn of American Courts; Moot Court Society; Semi-Finalist, Fall 1999 Moot Court Inter-school Competition; Top 10% Oralist: LWRAP Appellate Oral Argument Competition, Spring 1999; Human Rights Campaign Scholarship.

Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, cum laude, May 1998

Activities: Barkley Forum Debate Team; Theater Emory; Ad Hoc Musical Theater Company; Speakers Bureau; AID Atlanta; Urban Debate League Program; Freshman Seminar Leader; Project Open Hand; Residence Hall Advisor (RA); Arts for AIDS Volunteer; NYAC (National Youth Advocacy Coalition) presenter.

Honors: Dean's List 8 out of 8 semesters; ODK National Leadership Honor Society; Alpha Psi Omega National Theater Honor Society; Phi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society; Honors Thesis Program; Outstanding First Year Debater; GLOBE scholarship winner.

EXPERIENCE

Leadership/Management

Hillside Conant School, Atlanta, GA

Special Education Lead Instructor, Math Department Chair, 6-12 Mathematics Instructor, Student Teacher

January 2014-Present

- Manage a team of 10 educators related to special education and mathematics matters in a residential treatment facility for children with severe emotional and behavioral issues.
- Liaison with Atlanta Public Schools related to compliance issues under federal and state special education laws.
- Participate in audits and compliance reviews related to student records with the Georgia Department of Education, Atlanta Public Schools and other regulatory/compliance agencies.
- Provide monthly professional development seminars related to special education/mathematics.
- Serve as a mentor to new teachers and aid seasoned teachers in special education/mathematics content area.
- Provide job coaching to students using task analysis and applied behavioral programming strategies.

- Collaborate with students, parents, special education teachers, para educators, and administrators to help students prepare to become independently functioning adults.
- Lead team special education meetings and math department meetings.
- Adapt middle and high school curriculum to teach Mathematics and Science to students with emotional and behavioral disabilities in an in-patient psychiatric treatment facility
- Develop and manage Individual Education Plans (“IEP”) and 504 Plans for students with disabilities
- Collaborate with general education teachers to ensure that materials taught align with Common Core Standards
- Work with students individually and in groups to promote full academic functioning
- Lead group therapy sessions designed to teach students Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (“DBT”) skills
- Assist with the implementation and training of teachers to use the IEP Online Technology to streamline the review process.

LabMD, Inc., Atlanta, GA

Chief Compliance Officer, General Counsel, February 2010-November 2014

Equifax, Inc., Atlanta, GA

Attorney, December 2009- July 2010

- Managed outside counsel and litigation matters and review all invoices and expenses from outside counsel.
- Advised client on compliance issues with various governmental agencies, including the Federal Trade Commission, the Georgia Department of Human Resources, OSHA, Georgia Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Labor.
- Responded to human resource and employment issues within the organization.
- Reviewed company policies/procedures to determine risk exposure, monitor compliance issues and ensure that the company complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws.
- Conducted annual compliance audits under federal, state and local law.
- Successfully secured renewal of GSA contract for multiple entities within the corporation.
- Trained and managed paralegal, including education, regarding unique legal and business challenges of operating a national medical laboratory.
- Counseled sales representatives, contract administrators and senior management on federal contracts and opportunities with government organizations.
- Responded to requests for proposals and requests for information for government opportunities and prepare teaming agreements.
- Worked with Equifax lobbyists to draft legislation and suggest rules/regulations for various federal agencies.
- Drafted, reviewed, commented and negotiated operating agreements, complex contracts, service provider agreements, independent contractor agreements, non-disclosure agreements, termination agreements, settlement agreements and other complex agreements.
- First Chaired complex litigation matters in Federal and State Court, brief and argue issues before Georgia Appellate Courts and Federal Appellate Courts (5th & 11th Circuit).

Balch & Bingham, LLP, Atlanta, GA

Partner, August 2006-March 2009

Epstein Becker & Green, P.C., Atlanta, GA

Senior Attorney, July 2004-August 2006.

Smith Gambrell Russell, LLP, Atlanta, GA

Associate, May 2000-July 2004.

- Lobbied at the state and local level regarding real estate matters and necessary legislative changes to assist commercial real estate clients in successfully completing for-profit ventures.
- Researched federal, state and local bid laws for national waste hauling company and secured federal contracts for the collection of solid waste for a federal agency.
- Prepared RFPs for the collection of solid waste from state and local governments.

- Reviewed and counseled clients on zoning compliance issues and appeared at public hearings before local governments related to zoning/land use issues.
- Reviewed agreements from third party providers for major health care system in Florida and determined compliance with federal regulations, including HIPPA and medicare/medicaid.
- Advised local governments on code revisions.
- Analyzed title reports and surveys for complex real estate transactions and closed multiple commercial real estate transactions in excess of \$ 5,000,000.00.
- Drafted, reviewed and negotiated complex contracts, service delivery strategy agreements, franchise agreements, asset-purchase agreements and other corporate/securities documents.
- Drafted and prepared articles of incorporation, corporate charters, by-laws, minutes, resolutions and other corporate documents.

Research/Education

Dr. Natsu Saito, Georgia State University School of Law, Atlanta, GA

Graduate Research Assistant, March 2016-Present

- Assist in the editing publications (books, journal articles, classroom instructional materials) related to international law and post-colonial settler theory.
- Research legal issues and assist in the development of legal problems for moot court competition.
- Prepare extensive manuscripts for judges to use in analyzing legal issues.
- Consider legal issues related to international law and first amendment rights.

Dr. Dashaunda Patterson, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Graduate Research Assistant, August 2015-December 2015

- Research and test innovative technological solutions for graduate school classes in the Behavioral and Learning Disabilities Program.
- Assist in the development and implementation of an interactive interface for a graduate school class related to characteristics of disabilities.
- Provide resources for the improvement of Dr. Patterson's graduate level classes.
- Collaborate with Dr. Patterson regarding the existing curriculum and effective strategies to improve classroom instruction.

FixMySwim, Atlanta, GA

Adaptive Swim Coach, July 2012-Present

- Develop adaptive swim program for children with autism, physical disabilities, behavioral issues and other disabilities.
- Provide one-on-one swim instruction for children with special needs.
- Educate FixMySwim instructors regarding effective techniques for the education of students with special needs.
- Prepare students for Special Olympics local, regional and national competitions.
- Speak at local and regional seminars regarding effective adaptive swimming techniques for students with special needs.

Center for Leadership in Disability, Georgia State University

Graduate Research Assistant, September 2013-May 2014

- Prepared IRB submissions for members of the Center for various research projects throughout the GSU campus and greater communities.
- Assisted with development of research project related to bullying of individuals with hearing loss and presented materials at annual Center conference for Georgia educators and policy makers.
- Collaborated with leadership committee members to plan and coordinate an annual conference with over 500 attendees at GSU.

- Conducted extensive literature review for research projects conducted by faculty.
- Coded and reviewed data for projects conducted by various faculty members.
- Researched autism legislation at the Center for Disease Control to determine impact of autism insurance laws on rates of autism across the United States.

The Paideia School, Atlanta, GA

Tutor, February 2014-May 2014

- Worked with two English Language Learners (ELL) to develop effective strategies to master English and mathematics in a private school.
- Facilitated meetings between parents, students and school personnel regarding progress monitoring.
- Assisted students in the development and implementation of effective organizational skills.
- Increased reading fluency and mathematics fluency for two ELL students.

COMMITTEES/MEMBERSHIPS

- Cold Case Project – Administrative Office of the Courts of Georgia/Georgia Office of the Child Advocate – 2014-Present
- Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic – Advisory Board – 2000-Present
- Stonewall Bar Association – 2001-2012
- OutLaw – Alumni Advisory Board – 2008-2012
- State Bar of Georgia Diversity Committee – Officer – 2008-2009
- City of Atlanta Zoning Ordinance Review and Rewriting Committee – 2005-2008
- Stakeholder's Group – Mayor Shirley Franklin's Committee to review and rewrite the City of Atlanta permitting process – 2005 – 2008

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Special Olympics – 2008-Present
- Emory University School of Law Mentor Program – 2001-Present
- Kids in Need of Dreams (Truancy Intervention Project) – 2001-2010
- OurSong – Board of Director's Member at Large – 2004-2008

PRESENTATIONS

- Yoga for Regulation of Emotions – Georgia Association for Positive Behavioral Support Annual Conference – 2015
- EdTalk – Yoga for Students With Severe Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities – KDP Annual Conference – 2015
- Keynote Speaker – Kappa Delta Phi International Honor Society for Educators Induction Ceremony – 2015
- Bullying and Children with Hearing Loss – Georgia Association for Positive Behavior Support Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA – 2013
- Zoning 101 – Lorman Educational Services – 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
- Out in the Workplace – Emory University – 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009
- The Balancing Act – A Panel Discussion – The Large Urban Caucus of the Urban Land Institute – 2006
- Legal Aspects Of Condominium, Planned Unit Developments And Mixed-Use Communities – Lorman Educational Services – 2005, 2006
- Problem Solving For Condominium And Homeowners' Associations – Lorman Educational Services – 2005
- Urban Development And Redevelopment – Lorman Educational Services – 2005
- What to Know About the Development of Regional Impact Process – 2005

- Zoning 101 – Lorman Educational Services – 2005, 2006, 2007
- Municipal Code Violations: A Slap On The Wrist vs. Off With Their Heads – Land Use Seminar – Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP – 2003
- The Development of Regional Impact Process as it Applies to ARC and GRTA – State Bar of Georgia Real Property Section Annual Meeting – 2003
- Understanding the Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) Process – Professional Educational Services, Inc. – 2002
- DRI Reviews – Land Use 101 – Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP – 2002
- Adoption and Safe Family Act: An Overview – The Georgia Indigent Defense Council - 2001
- Understanding “Reasonable Efforts” under State and Federal Law – The Georgia Indigent Defense Council – 2000
- The Automated Case Plan: An Overview of Georgia’s New Program – The Georgia Indigent Defense Council - 2000

PUBLICATIONS

- Yoga for Students With Severe Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities (*in progress*)
- Zoning 101 – Lorman Educational Services – 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
- In A State of Flux: Finding Your Way Through Zoning and Land Use Issues in Newly Formed Municipalities – State Bar of Georgia Real Property Section Newsletter – 2006
- Legal Aspects Of Condominium, Planned Unit Developments And Mixed-Use Communities – Lorman Educational Services – 2005, 2006
- Taliaferro County Zoning Ordinance – 2004, 2005
- What to Know About the Development of Regional Impact Process – Lorman Educational Services – 2005
- Permitting and Land-Use Regulations – Lorman Educational Services – 2005
- Municipal Code Violations: Off With Their Heads or a Slap on the Wrist – Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP – 2004
- The Development of Regional Impact Review Process - BOMA magazine – 2003
- Large Scale Developments – Leaders Magazine – 2002
- Quasi-Judicial Proceedings – Institute of Legal Education – 2002
- Understanding the Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) Process – Professional Educational Services, Inc. – 2002
- Comparison of Pending Legislation Addressing Pimping and Pandering of Minors – Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic – 2001
- Strengthen Georgia’s Child Protective Services’ Capacity to Protect Children From Abuse and Neglect – Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic – 2001
- Road Creation – National Business Institute – 2000
- Agenda Setting and Policy Entrepreneurs: A Case Study of DOMA and ENDA. – Emory University – 1998