

RESUME

LYDIA QUARLES

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PROFILE

Lydia Quarles is a Senior Policy Analyst at the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University. She received her *Juris Doctorate* in 1975 from Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, and her MA and BA from Mississippi University for Women, in 1972 and 1971 respectively, in political science and communication. After over a dozen years in the private practice of law in Alabama and Mississippi, she joined the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission as an Administrative Judge in 1993. Eight years later, in 2001, she was appointed Commissioner of the agency. In 2006, she resigned to join the Stennis Institute. Quarles remains active in bar work. She serves as co-chair of the Mississippi Supreme Court's "Gender Fairness Implementation Study Committee", is a member of the Mississippi Supreme Court's "Rule of Law Committee" and acts as the Chief Operating Officer of the Workers' Compensation Section of the Mississippi Bar. She is a fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation, a recipient of the Mississippi Bar's Distinguished Service Award, and a member of the Mississippi School for Math and Science Foundation Board. Quarles was recently honored by the American Bar Association's Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice Section, receiving the Mary C. Lawton Award for lasting contributions to the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission in the areas of alternative dispute resolution and access for Hispanic workers. She is married to Jim Mazingo, an attorney who specializes in commercial litigation and transactional law.

EARNED DEGREES

Juris Doctorate: Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, 1975.

Master of Arts: Communications; Mississippi University for Women, 1972, *summa cum laude*, with specialization in political rhetoric and public address.

Bachelor of Arts: Political Science and Communications; Mississippi University for Women, 1971, *cum laude*.

POST GRADUATE EDUCATION

Graduate of National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada (administrative hearings curriculum)

Completed class hours toward a Ph.D in Public Administration, Mississippi State University.

Graduate of History of Workers' Compensation Curriculum, University of New Brunswick, Canada

Workers' Compensation Professional Certification, Michigan State University, School of Labor and Industry, Ann Arbor

Completed over 100 hours of mediation training; certified by the Mississippi State Supreme Court, the United States District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi, and the Workers' Compensation of the Mississippi Bar as an approved mediator

Roster member: NASD Arbitration Roster

Roster membership pending: AAA Arbitration Roster

Project Manager Professional Designation (pending); completion of 12 hours of project management training.

COMPETENCIES

Political Policy and Strategy Analyst: Provides technical research to legislators, state agencies, county and municipal government.

Management: Former Commissioner of a state agency employing approximately 100 individuals.

Co-owner and co-manager of commercial and residential real estate and commercial and residential real estate management company in Starkville, Mississippi, managing property valued at in excess of \$8,000,000.00.

Oral Communications: Experienced and versatile public speaker with national

and international experience. Oral communications lecturer at the college level.

Fluency in foreign languages: Relatively fluent in reading, writing, speaking and understanding Spanish.

Written Communications: Experienced writer in the areas of (1) legal briefing (2) case notes (3) law journal articles (4) judicial opinions (5) scholarly publication articles, (6) newsletters and house organs, (7) policy and procedure manuals; (8) grants.

Alternative Dispute Resolution: Recognized by the Mississippi Supreme Court as a civil trial mediator, and qualified by the United States District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi as a mediator. Implemented a workers' compensation mediation project for workers' compensation claims in Mississippi and am certified as an approved mediator by the Workers' Compensation Section of The Mississippi Bar. Member/Manager of WPF, LLC, a company dedicated to civil mediation practice and training.

Administrative Hearings: Experienced hearings officer with over 1,000 on-the-record administrative hearings and literally thousands of administrative hearings facilitated without record requirements.

Computer Literacy: Trained in Microsoft Office (including Microsoft Word, Word Excel, Power Point, Microsoft Publisher, and other Office components), Corel Word Perfect Office Suite, Quik Books. Able on-line researcher.

Facilitation & Problem Solving: Certified by both the Kettering Foundation and the Kellogg Foundation as a facilitator/problem solver.

Educator: Teacher of graduate course in Administrative Law, Mississippi State University; teacher of oral communications courses in the Mississippi Community College System; teacher of over 100 continuing education hours approved by the Mississippi Bar and the Mississippi Insurance Commission in the last decade.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND HONORS

Member/Co-chair of Chief Justice Jim Smith's Gender Fairness Implementation Study Committee, tasked with identifying primary issues in gender fairness in Mississippi Courts,

recommending remedial measures, and establishing implementation of training in remediation, 2006-2008.

Member of Chief Justice Jim Smith's "Rule of Law Committee".

Recipient of the American Bar Association's Mary Lawton Award, given by the Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice Section for outstanding service in the field of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice, 2006.

Initiated as a Bar Fellow, Mississippi Bar Foundation, 2005.

Regent, International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions, 2005.

Finalist, Mississippi's 50 Leading Business Women, 2004.

Recipient of Distinguished Service Award from The Mississippi Bar, 2003.

Member, Foundation Board of the Mississippi School for Math and Science, 2002 to present.

Member, Mississippi University for Women Alumni Board, 2002 to present; currently serving as Parliamentarian for the Board.

Member, Southern Association of Workers' Compensation Administrators, 2001 to 2002; co-chair, Administration & Procedures Committee, 2002-2004; chair, Administration & Procedures Committee, 2004 to present: chair, Adjudication Committee.

Member, International Association of Industrial Boards and Commissions, 2001 to present; member, Nominating Committee, 2003-2004; member, By-laws and Constitutions Committee, 2004-2005.

Member, Executive Committee of Workers' Compensation Section of the Mississippi Bar, July 1998 to present; vice chair from July 2000 to 2001; chair July 2001 to 2002; *ex officio* July 2002 to 2003; Chief Operating Officer July 2003 for an indefinite term.

Member, Women in the Profession Committee of The Mississippi Bar, 2000 to 2004; co-chair, Gandy Lecture Series, 2004 and 2005; co-chair, Gandy-Phillips Mentoring Project, 2004 to 2005; committee chair, 2005-2007 bar years.

Selected as keynote speaker to North American Federation of Chiropractic Networks Annual Convention, 2001, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Selected to participate in Phase III of the Western Nations' Advisory Seminar on environmental problems of the eastern European Countries in Kyoto, Japan, November, 1991, as a guest of the American delegation from Mississippi State University.

Selected to present a professional paper (published in conference proceedings) at the First International Chemical and Environmental Engineering Conference, Guangzhou (formerly Canton), People's Republic of China, with additional speaking engagements at universities in

Beijing, Shanghai, and Nanjing, People's Republic of China, June, 1992.

Selected to present a professional paper at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Social Sciences Association, April, 1991.

Selected to attend the Fifth Circuit Judicial Conference as the Guest of the Chief Judge, Northern District of Mississippi, 1987 and 1993.

Selected as Mississippi's representative to attend the National Security Forum sponsored by the Air War University and the Pentagon Air Force Staff, 1982.

Selected as one of 30 outstanding young leaders in Mississippi by the Mississippi Economic Council, 1981.

Graduate of Leadership Mississippi, Leadership Starkville, and Operation Tomorrow (Columbus, MS).

Named an outstanding woman in America, 1975.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Policy Analyst, John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University. October 2006 to present. Provides technical support for legislators, state agencies, city and county government.

Commissioner, Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission, (attorney appointment) for a 6 year term commencing January 2, 2001. Responsibilities include: legislative interaction; in-service training; hearing appeals from administrative judge hearings; drafting orders; marshaling and overseeing all self-insured funds and self-insured employers in the state; marshaling and overseeing all carriers licensed to sell workers' compensation coverage in the state; human resource and personnel issues; budgetary issues; liaison to The Mississippi Bar, the Mississippi Bar Foundation, and the Board of Bar Commissioners of the State of Mississippi; representing State of Mississippi in regional and national workers' compensation organizations; providing instruction for the public at speaking engagements denominated to instruct labor, management, human resources, adjusters, third party administrators and attorneys about relevant workers' compensation considerations.

Administrative Law Judge, Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission, managing a docket of 550 cases. June 1993 to January 2001.

McAlpin & Quarles, A Professional Association, December, 1982 to June 1993. Responsibilities included management of a civil case load of approximately 100 cases, specializing in administrative and agency law, banking, domestic law, personnel policy, and Title VII issues. Ms. Quarles also served as managing partner of the firm.

Attorney for the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Starkville, Mississippi, 1985 to 1990.

Responsibilities included attending all meetings of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, advice regarding all legal issues before the board, drafting legislation, including planning and zoning ordinances, serving as municipal attorney on bond issues, defining and executing personnel policy grievance procedures. Also, the attorney for the Mayor and Board of Aldermen provided defenses and initiated all litigation in which the Mayor and Board were parties, including Title VII defense, equal protection and section 1983 defense, and initiation of eminent domain litigation to extend municipal boundaries (annexation).

Municipal Prosecutor, City of Starkville, 1982 to 1986. Responsibilities included management of a criminal docket including misdemeanors and felonies of approximately 800 charges per month, providing assistance for in-service training for the Starkville Police Department, and seminars for local citizenry on such topics as shoplifting, check fraud, etc.

Associate of Charles T. Yoste, January through December, 1982. Responsibilities included management of a civil case load, research and writing responsibilities for defense of the City of Starkville.

Director of Paralegal Studies, Mississippi University for Women, June 1979 through May 1983. Responsibilities included development of paralegal curriculum on campus to achieve ABA accreditation, development of syllabi for 13 courses, selection of adjunct faculty and review of lesson plans, counseling approximately 45 advisees, teaching a minimum of 6 hours per 12 month contract period, directing internship for graduating senior students.

Associate of Gholson, Hicks & Nichols, A Professional Association, November 1977 through December 1981. Responsibilities included management of a civil case load (primarily federal court litigation) of approximately 75 cases, generally dealing with insurance defense and defense of the City of Columbus, relieving the city attorney at recess board meetings as board attorney.

Associate of Emond & Vines, January through October, 1977. Responsibilities included appellate practice before the Alabama Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, monitoring discovery of approximately 40 products liability and personal injury matters being litigated in state and federal courts.

Law Clerk to Senior Justice Pelham J. Merrill, Alabama Supreme Court, October 1975 through December 1976. Responsibilities included researching and writing legal opinions, monitoring docket and case flow.

Assistant Debate Coach, Mississippi University for Women, 1971-1972. Responsibilities included traveling with intercollegiate teams, making lodging and entry arrangements, budgeting for travel, directing district and regional meets of the high school aged competitors, serving as assistant director and tabulations chairman of the annual Magnolia High School Tournament and Magnolia College Tournament.