

**O. JAMES PURNELL, III**  
BERRY LAW, LLC  
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**RESUME**

**Education:** J.D. General Law, 1981  
Western New England College School of Law  
Springfield, MA

M.S. Library Science, 1976  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cleveland, OH

A.B. Biology, 1972  
Middlebury College  
Middlebury, VT

A.A. General Studies, 1969  
University of Hartford  
West Hartford, CT

**Admitted to practice:**

Connecticut Bar, 1982  
U. S. District Court, Connecticut, 1982

**Professional Experience:**

**November 1999 to 2019**

Judge of Probate  
Ellington District Probate Court  
14 Park Place, P.O. Box 268  
Rockville, CT 06066

Responsibilities include full administrative and judicial duties for the Ellington District Probate Court covering the towns of Vernon and Ellington, Connecticut. Appointed by the Connecticut Chief Justice to serve on the Law Library Committee and on the Committee to improve public access to the Courts.

### **May 1998 to July 1999**

#### **Regional Information Manager**

Lexis-Nexis  
P.O. Box 933  
Dayton, OH 45401

Responsibilities included representing the concerns and interests of law librarians and acting as their advocate to Lexis-Nexis; providing specialized seminars and individualized consultation in areas such as database usage, library marketing strategies and electronic information retrieval; acting as a consultant to assess individual law librarian usage of Lexis-Nexis and computer assisted legal research skill levels in an effort to optimize usage and improve skills; serving as a resource, providing insight into the research demands and internal issues facing law librarians to the sales force and to Lexis-Nexis; acting as a consultant with whom other law library issues may be discussed; being a colleague. My region covered all of New England and upstate New York, and law schools in New York City.

### **October 1992 to May 1998**

#### **Reference Librarian**

University of Connecticut  
Law School Library  
39 Elizabeth Street  
Hartford, CT 06105-2213

Responsible for the Reference services of the School of Law Library; provided reference desk services and scheduled desk coverage; conducted student and faculty orientation and training programs; prepared and edited research guides, handouts and bibliographies; provided instruction on various aspects and formats of legal research and bibliography, including CD-ROM products, Internet resources, LEXIS-NEXIS, WESTLAW, CaseBase, WordPerfect and LAN resources; supervised computer laboratory and teaching assistants; taught the Advanced Legal Research course; selected library materials in all formats; engaged in troubleshooting and testing the computer network; served as head of the reference committee, member of the computer committee, member of the promotion committee, member of the selection committee, member of the Committee on Merit Raises; served as a faculty liaison; responsible for directing the move of the reference collection and computer labs into a new library building.

### **October 1992 to Present**

#### **Solo Practitioner**

Berry Law, LLC  
107 Old Windsor Road  
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Engaged in a practice of law limited to probate, wills, real estate and title searching; member of Berry Law, LLC, Bloomfield, Connecticut, for real estate matters.

**February 1989 to September 1992**

Solo Practitioner

One Ellington Avenue  
Rockville, CT 06066

Engaged in the General Practice of law. Primary areas of practice included family, juvenile and divorce law, criminal, motor vehicle violations, personal injury, real estate, title searching, probate, wills, bankruptcies. Responsibilities included total office and case management, negotiations, advice and counseling, and civil and criminal trial work. Awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. (Legal Aid) for providing public interest pro bono legal services.

**September 1987 - January 1989**

Associate

Howard, Kohn, Sprague & Fitzgerald  
237 Buckingham Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Responsible for work of the firm of a general practice nature, including family, probate, criminal and real estate law. The other members of the firm were engaged primarily in insurance defense work.

**September 1984 - September 1987**

Associate

DuBeau & Ryan, P.C.  
38 Park Street  
Rockville, CT 06066

Engaged in the general practice of law. Primary areas of practice included family law, probate, wills, personal injury, real estate, title searching, criminal law, bankruptcies, collections and employment discrimination. Responsibilities included total case management, negotiations, advice and counseling, and trial work.

**September 1981 - August 1984**

Associate

Lavitt, Hutchinson, Kaplan & Ford  
One Ellington Avenue  
Rockville, CT 06066

Responsibilities included case work and total case management in various areas of general law practice. Assigned to handle all of the firm's work in probate and divorce matters. Additional areas of responsibility included criminal and motor vehicle violations, real estate, wills, legal counseling, bankruptcies, collections, corporate matters, condominium associations and personal injury.

## August 1977 - September 1981

Director, Information Services  
School of Pharmacy  
University of Connecticut  
Storrs, CT 06268

Responsibilities included directing the information services of the School of Pharmacy, including management of a specialized pharmaceutical library and media center; writing annual budgets; hiring, firing, training and evaluating personnel; performing reference services; selecting print and non-print materials for reference and general collections; performing computerized literature searches for University faculty, staff and students on various data bases; acquiring materials through document delivery and interlibrary loan systems; teaching segments of one team-taught undergraduate and two graduate courses; acting as Course Coordinator for an upper level course in pathobiology; participating on the following committees:

- a. Subcommittee on Non-traditional Instructional Modes: to study implementation of computer assisted instruction into the Pharmacy curriculum.
- b. Re-accreditation Committee: Chairman of the Library Section, to aid the School of Pharmacy re-accreditation by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education.
- c. Faculty Library Committee, Chairman: to advise the Pharmacy Library and Learning Center.
- d. Advisory Committee on Promotion and Reappointment: to advise the University Librarian on these subjects with regard to specific candidates.

## September 1976 - August 1977

Medical Reference Librarian  
Boston University School of Medicine  
Boston, MA

Responsible for general medical reference work supporting Boston University Medical School and hospital, and Boston City Hospital; MEDLARS data base literature searching including MEDLINE, TOXLINE, CHEMLINE, AVLINE and other data bases in the MEDLARS system; supervise photoreproduction services and student workers; interlibrary loan services; compile statistical reports concerning these services; acquisition of materials for reference and general collections.

### Published Decisions:

In Re: Estate of Emma Pottinger, 18 *Quinn. Prob. Law Jour.* 232 (2005).

In the Matter of the Estate of Cleopatra Matlis, 19 *Quinn. Prob. Law Jour.* 8 (2005).

In Re: Estate of Gladys Prell, 22 *Quinn. Prob. Law Jour.* 98 (2009).

In the Matter of Edwin A. Jarmoc, 29 *Quinn. Prob. Law Jour.* 443 (2016)

## **Publications:**

Purnell, O. James, III, "The Next Decade of Lawyering", *Trends in Law Library Management and Technology* 5(8):6, April, 1993.

Purnell, O. James, III, "U.S. State & Local Tax Bibliography", *State Tax Notes* 5(5):267, August 2, 1993.

Purnell, O. James, III, "The Internet, A Step in the Right Direction", *Connecticut Lawyer* 8(2):12, October, 1997.

Purnell, O. James, III, "The Full Fabric of the Web; Useful Sites for the Legal Community", *The Connecticut Law Tribune*, 23(49):8A, December 8, 1997.

## **Seminars and Workshops:**

Purnell, O. James, III & Louise Lindsey, *Hardcopy Legal Research "Teach In"*, University of Connecticut Law School, Hartford, CT, April 16, 1994.

Purnell, O. James, III & David Matthewson, *Internet Workshop*, Southern New England Law Library Association, University of Connecticut Law School, Hartford, CT, December 5, 1994.

Panel Member, *Net Gain: Learning to Bank on the Internet*, American Association of Law Libraries 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, July 16, 1995.

Purnell, O. James, III, *Judicial Decisions on the Internet, Storage, Retrieval, Copyright and Vendor-neutral Citations*, Association of Reporters of Judicial Decisions, Annual Meeting, Mystic, CT, August 4, 1995.

Purnell, O. James, III, *Using the Internet in Your Law Office*, Tolland County Bar Association, Meeting, Vernon, CT, January 11, 1996.

Purnell, O. James, III, *A Night at the Internet*, Hartford County Bar Association, Continuing Legal Education, Hartford, CT, December 11, 1996; *Part II*, June 9, 1997.

Purnell, O. James, III, *Using the Internet in the Law Office*, Connecticut Bar Association, Annual Meeting, Cromwell, CT, June 16, 1997.

Panel Member, *Around the World in Eighty Minutes; Foreign and International Law Sources on the Internet*, American Association of Law Libraries 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, July 21, 1997.

Purnell, O. James, III, *Cool Sites for Lawyers (and Other Cool Sites)*, Connecticut Bar Association, Legal Tech Expo/Midyear Meeting, Cromwell, CT, November 18, 1997.

Member of TRIALL, *Teaching Research in Academic Law Libraries*. A group of six

academic law librarians, chosen and funded by LEXIS-NEXIS, delivered a two-day pre-conference session on teaching legal research, given in conjunction with the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries, Anaheim, California, July 9-10, 1998.

Member of the Teaching Team for the 1999 AALL Workshop, Basic Legal Reference.  
Lecture titled: "*The Importance of Legal Research in the Practice of Law*", also assisted in team teaching client interview techniques and citation checking. Given in conjunction with the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries, Washington, D.C., July 15-17, 1999.

Purnell, O. James, III, *ADOPTION: The Final Hearing*, Connecticut Probate Assembly, Meeting and Seminar, Plainville, CT, January 10, 2002.

### **Teaching:**

Instructor, Rockville High School evening program; Course titled *Law for Personal Use*, (1981-1987)

Instructor, Newington School System in-service course on teacher and student rights (1990-1992)

Instructor, *Online Research*, Southern New England Law Library Association Legal Research Course, Spring, 1994 and Spring, 1995.

Co-instructor, *Advanced Legal Research*, University of Connecticut Law School, Spring Semester, 1994, 1995; Guest instructor for segments about Internet Research Techniques and Connecticut Law Research, Spring, 1998.

*Teaching the TA's to Teach*, University of Connecticut Law School, Fall Semester, Co-instructor 1994 & 1995, Sole instructor, 1996.

*Introduction to Computer-based Literature Searching*, A segment of the 1st year Lawyering Process course, Spring semester, Co-instructor 1994 & 1995, Sole instructor 1996 & 1997.

*Legal Research on the Internet; An Introduction for the Legal Assistant*, A segment of the Paralegal Studies Program, Manchester Community Technical College, Spring Semester 1997, Fall Semester 1998.

*International Environmental Research on the Internet and in Print*, A segment of the Environmental Law course, Spring semester, 1998.

Adjunct Professor, University of Hartford, courses titled *Legal Research and Writing*, and *Probate Practice and Procedure*, and *Legal Ethics*, beginning 2003.

**Related:** Training and experience in: LEXIS/NEXIS, WESTLAW/DIALOG, PEGASUS, NOVELL, WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, Power Point, Print Shop, DaVINCI, First Search, OCLC, MEDLARS, Internet, Netscape, Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, Windows.

Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity.

Grant Recipient, funded by Lawyers Cooperative Publishing Co., now part of West Group, through the American Association of Law Libraries, 1994.

Member, Committee to choose delegates to the National Conference on Legal Information Issues, Law Librarians of New England (LLNE), Spring, 1995.

Reference Services Liaison, and Computer Services Liaison to the New England Law Library Consortium (NELLCO), 1994-1998.

Member of the Special Steering Committee of the New England Law Library Consortium (NELLCO), 1996-1998.

Member of the Intranet Content Committee for the New England Law Library Consortium (NELLCO), 1996-1998.

Medical Library Association, Class I certification, 1976-1987.

Marquis Who's Who Top Lawyers, awarded January 11, 2019.

Included in Marquis publications: Who's Who in American Law, Who's Who in the World, and Who's Who in America.

**Professional Affiliations: Current and former**

Tolland County Bar Association

President 1995-96, Library Committee Chairman, 1998 to 2005

Connecticut Bar Association

Council of Bar Presidents 1995-96

American Bar Association

Association of Trial Lawyers of America

Connecticut Probate Assembly

Member, Working Group in Response to the Recommendations of the  
Legislative Program Review & Investigations Committee.

Tolland County Representative to the Executive Board.

Public Relations Committee, Chairman

Connecticut Probate Judges Association, Vice President

National College of Probate Judges

Connecticut State Representative 2015 -

Executive Committee, 2017 -

Connecticut Judicial Department, Subcommittee on Access to the Courts

Connecticut Judicial Department, Law Library Advisory Committee  
American Association of Law Libraries  
Southern New England Law Librarians Association  
Internet Committee, 1994-1997, President, 1998-1999  
Hartford Area Law Librarians

**Community:**

Scoutmaster, Troop 92, Boy Scouts of America, Rockville, CT  
Eagle Scout, awarded 1964  
School Band & Chorus of America, 1966 European Concert Tour  
Choir and Bell Choir member, Union Congregational Church, Rockville, CT  
Past Master, 50 year member, Fayette Lodge #69 AF & AM, Ellington, CT  
(currently Organist)  
Organist, Hartford Evergreen Lodge #88 AF & AM, South Windsor, CT  
Church Organist (Intentional Substitute for area churches) 1961 - currently  
Board of Trustees, Rockville Public Library, Rockville, CT.  
Personnel mediator  
Corporator, Eastern Connecticut Health Network  
University of Hartford Alumni Council  
Anchor Award recipient  
Hillyer College Board of Visitors (University of Hartford), Emeritus  
University of Hartford Mortensen Library Board of Visitors  
Read Across America, Program Reader  
Vernon (CT) Republican Town Committee  
Town of Vernon (CT) Social Services Advisory Committee