

JOHN J. EDWARDS, JD, MSS

323 Haverford Ave., #A2 / Narberth, PA 19072 • (312) 371-7598 • jjedwards@brynmawr.edu
www.linkedin.com/in/john-j-edwards • www.brynmawr.edu/socialwork/john-edwards

PROFILE: Social Work PhD candidate with dual degrees and career tracks in social work and the law as well as experience teaching, researching, and managing nonprofit programs. Seeking to combine these unique skills into an engaging and productive career as a teacher and researcher at the college/university level. More than 8 years of experience as a practicing litigator offers a unique perspective on social work and how a basic understanding of the law can significantly improve people's lives. Equally comfortable arguing before a full courtroom, lecturing to small classes, mentoring, and working 1-on-1, believing that each venue addresses a different aspect of learning and teaching. Employs a student-centered pedagogy where learners play an active role in the teaching/learning process, driving academic achievement, social and emotional development, skill acquisition, and general ability to contribute to the discipline of social work. Interested in teaching foundational/introductory courses and theoretical courses, with a specialty in Social Work Research. More than 20 years of experience working with, both professionally and personally, people from diverse backgrounds; this provides a unique and empathetic approach to all students that results in motivated and engaged learners.

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS: Social Work Research/Research Methods, Sexual Health, HIV Prevention and Treatment, Mental Health and Substance Abuse in LBGTQ+ Populations, Intersection of Law and Social Work, Social Work Education, Marginalized Populations

SKILLS & INTERESTS: Social Work Research, Course Development, Student Engagement, Collaborative Learning, Student-Centered Teaching, Lesson Planning, Civil Litigation, Appellate Advocacy, Courtroom Procedures, Project Management, Oral and Written Communication, Curriculum Development, Social Work/Business Integration, Online Learning, Social Services

EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.) CANDIDATE, SOCIAL WORK • Bryn Mawr College, Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, Bryn Mawr, PA • Expected Completion May 2025

- Currently enrolled in final semester of coursework
- **Graduate Assistantships:**
 - Research Assistant for Professor Tamarah Moss (June 2020-Present): Year-long project to develop online primers for students enrolled in graduate-level social work research courses that seek to enhance diversity and inclusivity and address research anxiety and reluctance;
 - Research Assistant for Professor Emerita Leslie Alexander (June 2021-Present): Project examining the policies of Institutional Review Board (IRBs) regarding quality assurance/quality improvement projects
 - Teaching Assistant, Research Informed Practice I and II (September 2019-May 2021)
- **Leadership:**
 - Ph.D. Student Representative, Social Work Faculty Search Committee (Fall 2021-Present; Fall 2019-Spring 2020)
 - Adjunct Faculty Representative; Field Education Advisory Committee (Fall 2021-Present)
 - Student Representative, Bryn Mawr College Budget Committee (Fall 2020-Present)
 - Ph.D. Student Representative, Bryn Mawr College Graduate Council (Fall 2019)
- **Honors & Awards:**
 - McPherson Award for Excellence (Spring 2021)
 - L. Diane Bernard Award for LGBT and Human Sexuality Projects (Spring 2021)
 - Smacchi Award for LGBT and Human Sexuality Projects (Spring 2020)
 - Joyce Lewis Memorial Scholar (2019-2020 Academic Year)

MASTER OF SOCIAL SERVICE (M.S.S.) • Bryn Mawr College, Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, Bryn Mawr, PA • May 2010

- **Graduate Assistantship:**
 - Teaching Assistant, Social Work Research and Evaluation (Fall 2009) and Data Analysis (Spring 2010)
 - Research Assistant for Professor Cynthia Bisman (May-August 2009): Performed literature for proposed textbook on international social work
- **Leadership:**

JOHN J. EDWARDS, JD, MSS

323 Haverford Ave., #A2 / Narberth, PA 19072 • (312) 371-7598
jjedwards@brynmawr.edu • www.brynmawr.edu/socialwork/john-edwards

Student Representative, Bryn Mawr College Board of Trustees (2009-2010)

- **Honors & Awards:**

Shahbanu Goldberg Award for Service to the School (May 2010)

Patricia Burland Award for Best Clinical Case Conceptualization Essay (May 2010)

JURIS DOCTOR (J.D.) • Howard University School of Law, Washington, DC • May 1998

- Graduated *cum laude*

- **Honors & Awards:**

Howard Law Journal, Member of Editorial Board (Associate Editor, Notes and Comments)

Recipient of 5 Dean's Awards (Highest Grade in Class: Criminal Law; Education and the Law; Jurisprudence; Gender and the Law; Will, Estates, and Trusts)

BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.), LAW, LETTERS & SOCIETY • University of Chicago, Chicago, IL • June 1995

- **Honors & Awards:**

Dean's List, 1993-1994 and 1994-1995

HIGHLIGHTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CAREER NOTE: Currently attending graduate school full time for Ph.D. in Social Work; started September 2019.

Bryn Mawr College, Graduate School of Social Work & Social Research • Bryn Mawr, PA

LECTURER • September 2021-Present

- Selected to teach two sections of "Foundation Practice I", the first course in the foundation practice sequence required of all Master's-level students in the first year of field placement. This course covers the core knowledge, values, and skills applicable to practice with individuals, families, small groups, organizations, and communities.
- Successfully managing two classes with 34 students (total); one section in-person and one section taught virtually in synchronous format. Have gained proficiency in a variety of pedagogical strategies including lecture and facilitation of small and large group discussions and activities.
- Received excellent mid-term evaluations from students.
- Scheduled to teach two sections of "Foundation Practice II" in Spring 2022.

Tolip Properties, Inc. • East Aurora, NY

CONSULTANT • March 2018 – August 2019

- Part-time employee using legal knowledge to drive revenue and operational success of property management company.
- Drafted and/or reviewed contracts, leases, deeds, titles, business proposals, investment opportunities, and other documents, including researching property issues and recommending potential solutions.

Bryn Mawr College, Graduate School of Social Work & Social Research • Bryn Mawr, PA

LECTURER • January 2012 – May 2012

- Selected to teach "Advocacy and Negotiation," a Master's level class that examined settings where social work and law converge. Course was part of the Master of Law and Social Policy (MLSP) Program that has been discontinued.
- Capitalized on legal background to help students understand what it means to be an advocate and how that is different from being a lawyer or needing to know "the law." Demonstrated how social workers can use basic legal knowledge and negotiation skills to help their clients obtain public benefits or other necessary services. Class had 2 parts:
 - Studying advocacy opportunities in courts, legislatures, and regulatory/administrative agencies; for each, explored skill requirements and implications for legal reform.

JOHN J. EDWARDS, JD, MSS

323 Haverford Ave., #A2 / Narberth, PA 19072 • (312) 371-7598
jjedwards@brynmawr.edu • www.brynmawr.edu/socialwork/john-edwards

- Examining negotiation and civil processes with attention to theory and tactics associated with different forms of alternative dispute resolution.
- Successfully managed class of 16 students as a first-time lecturer and learned to effectively evaluate students based on oral and written testimony assignments, final group projects, and class participation.
- Received excellent reviews from students for both pedagogical abilities and class management.

Mazzoni Center • Philadelphia, PA

PROGRAM MANAGER • March 2010 – July 2013

- Overlapping with internship and extending beyond graduation with Master's degree, administered REACH (Recovery Empowerment and Community Health) Program that offered peer counseling and support to sexual minority men and transgender individuals with substance abuse/dependence, mental health disorders, and/or risk of HIV infection or transmission.
- Consulted with clinical social workers, case managers, and medical providers to ensure appropriate services and referrals were offered, including mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, case management, housing, and HIV/STI screening and counseling.
- Designed/participated in community outreach and social events to promote the program, acting as the face of the program.
- Supervised staff of 3 peer engagement specialists, providing clinical oversight at individual and group levels.
- Handled various other assignments within agency, including serving a substitute facilitator of group for individuals living with HIV/AIDS as well as a group for individuals with substance abuse disorders.

Mazzoni Center • Philadelphia, PA

SOCIAL WORK INTERN • August 2009 – May 2010

- Secured competitive internship that was required for graduation and focused on providing individual psychotherapy services to LGBT-identified individuals.
- Conducted therapeutic intake interviews via phone and in-person, completing comprehensive biopsychosocial, drug and alcohol, couples therapy, and level of care assessments.
- Documented therapy sessions with detailed case notes and individualized treatment plans, providing referrals for people who needed more intensive outpatient services.
- Assisted with departmental projects and assignments, including occasionally facilitating support groups.

Central Montgomery MH/MR Center (Currently Central Behavioral Health) • Norristown, PA

SOCIAL WORK INTERN • August 2008 – May 2009

- Additional internship-required for graduation. Worked with clients who had serious mental health issues as well as alcohol and drug addiction in an intensive outpatient setting, providing counseling to 6 individuals and facilitating/co-facilitating as many as 4 group therapy sessions daily. Sessions covered topics such as substance abuse, trauma, art therapy, and grief and loss.
- Completed detailed case notes, completed individualized treatment plans, and assisted with various other departmental projects and assignments.
- Gained important experience in dealing with a diverse group of individuals in an often challenging environment.

Catholic Charities • Chicago, IL

STAFF ATTORNEY • April 2007 – February 2008

- Assigned to the Legal Assistance and Resource Center, training volunteer attorneys and law students to work a dedicated legal hotline and providing legal advice and assistance to underprivileged people from the 2-county community.
- Worked with agency social workers who reached out on behalf of clients for advice. Identified possible solutions to clients' legal issues and made recommendations to attorneys.
- Created and managed partnerships with law firms and solo practitioners willing to provide pro bono legal representation to agency clients, matching clients with the right attorney for their needs.

JOHN J. EDWARDS, JD, MSS

323 Haverford Ave., #A2 / Narberth, PA 19072 • (312) 371-7598
jjedwards@brynmawr.edu • www.brynmawr.edu/socialwork/john-edwards

- Organized monthly seminars for agency clients on a variety of issues, including landlord-tenant disputes, juvenile court proceedings, and creditor-debtor issues. Conducted regular sessions at senior centers on advanced planning, wills, and directives. Helped at a house for abused women on laws regarding custody and other issues.

Cook County State's Attorney's Office • Chicago, IL

ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY • November 1998 – March 2006

- Assigned to Criminal Appeals Division for Criminal Prosecutions Bureau for first 6 months of employment, drafting appellate briefs and motions in criminal appeals matters. Argued and won 3 cases before Illinois Appellate Court.
- Appointed to Child Protection Division of Juvenile Justice Bureau (1999-2006) working on child protection cases. Member of litigation team for prosecution of child abuse, neglect, and dependency cases.
- Managed cases through all phases of discovery and trial, including drafting and presenting motions, drafting and answering complaints and production requests, conducting discovery and evidence depositions with medical experts and other witnesses, and chairing trials with direct and cross examination of witnesses.
- Gained experience reviewing medical/psychological records while working with social workers and mental health professionals.
- Recruited for Family Law Track designed to retain junior attorneys with pay increases and extensive courtroom exposure.
- Served on Training Committee that planned trainings for junior attorneys, including arranging for guest speakers and developing workshops on core skills.
- Selected for 6-month assignment with Screening Unit, deciding if cases presented by child protection investigators needed more investigation or were ready to take to court.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- Member, Council on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression (CSWE); July 2021-Present
- Ad Hoc Reviewer, *Perspectives on Social Work*; September 2020-Present
- Abstract Reviewer, Council on Social Work Education, Annual Program Meeting; March 2021

VOLUNTEER WORK

Ronald McDonald House • Driver • Philadelphia, PA • January 2019 – Present
Provide transportation for families staying at residence.

PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION

Alexander, L., Solomon, P., & **Edwards, J.J.** (in process). The role of Institutional Review Board review for quality assurance and quality improvement projects.

Moss, T. & **Edwards, J.J.** (in process). Diverse and inclusive graduate social work education: A primer for teaching research to Masters-level students.

Moss, T. & **Edwards, J.J.** (in process). Mentorship and collaboration between social work faculty and PhD students.

JOHN J. EDWARDS, JD, MSS

323 Haverford Ave., #A2 / Narberth, PA 19072 • (312) 371-7598
jjedwards@brynmawr.edu • www.brynmawr.edu/socialwork/john-edwards

PRESENTATIONS

Moss, T. & **Edwards, J.J.** (poster). Diverse and inclusive graduate social work education: A primer for teaching research to Masters-level students. Council on Social Work Education, Annual Meeting, November 2021 (accepted through peer review; not able to attend due to COVID-19 concerns).