

Clarence Robertson II started his legal career as a temporary FDVH FOHUN IRU D VPDOO “UP LQ Dallas. It was supposed to be a two-week gig, but after being released from the position he received a phone call later that evening letting him know another position had opened that they thought would be D JRRG “W IRU KLP ,W WXUQHG out the law librarian at the “UP +XJKHV /XFH //3 needed help, so they hired me DV WKH OLEUDU\ DVVLVWDQW VDLG 5REHUWVRQ 7KDW V KRZ P\ career got started, and I have EHHQ LQ WKH OLEUDU\ HYHU VLQFH



QUICK HITS WITH CLARENCE ROBERTSON II

Q&A

Words to live by?

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Favorite way to unwind after a long day?

Lately I have been using the Calm app to unwind. It really has been a game changer for me. Learning to meditate and decompress from the day has been so helpful.

Current TV show you recently binged?

I recently binged Amazon Prime's The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power and The Mandalorian on Disney+. I'm a big Lord of the Rings fan.

Favorite movie?

The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power.

Favorite time of the year, and why?

I love the fall because the weather is just perfect right now.

Favorite thing about where you live?

The weather—when it's not hot or too cold.

Guilty pleasure?

I love watching college football and the NFL and NBA. But along with the guilty pleasures of

But as with any job, there are challenges. My library team are rock stars to me because they help take care of the things that I really can't handle when I'm working through other issues. They handle it for me, and I always want to give them my kudos every time I get a chance to talk about them.

Diversity and inclusion continue to be important topics in law librarianship. What positive changes have you seen within the profession and in your own firm? Recently our firm has had this big push to do more for diversity and inclusion, and I have seen a lot more African Americans in law librarianship than I ever have before. When I first started out, I could probably count on one hand how many Black students were working toward this profession.

It's great for minorities to see something outside of their box that they may not have even thought about. There are opportunities out there for minorities in terms of scholarships and grants, and we need to encourage these students to take advantage of them.

At my firm, we have had many luncheons where we have speakers come in and talk about diversity within the work environment, and how to be inclusive with your teams, with clients, and with people you meet.

Do you have any suggestions for how diversity and inclusion efforts could be improved in law librarianship?

If we were able to recruit at universities to talk about this profession, I think that would be a good place to start. Law schools go to career fairs and hold recruiting sessions, so law librarians should be able to do this as well and highlight the benefits of this profession. If we had an opportunity to create that environment for minorities or just in general, it could make a huge difference.

We need to put ourselves out there in the students' environment and show them who we are and what the advantages are to becoming a law librarian.

I had no knowledge of law librarianship until I was 28. If I had known this was a career option, I think that could have made a big difference when I was just starting out.

everyone within that group. It's an exciting role where we can give people a chance to grow their careers and expand their own skills.

I have enjoyed being treasurer. I like meeting people and being part of the conversations we have when we meet. I'm going to miss it once my time is up. I think everyone should have the opportunity to serve on a board because it gives you the inside perspective of being a part of a professional group where you can see where you actually fit in and what you have to give—what value you can offer.

How do you see your current position?

It's been a stepping-stone each time, and each library manager has given me pearls of wisdom. My past managers have helped me get to this point in my career where I now oversee two different departments. One team may be frustrated about how work is going, and I am able to use the skills I have learned to help mediate any issues that arise.

One of the goals of the 2022-2024 AALL strategic plan is Pipeline to the Profession. Do you have any suggestions or thoughts on how law librarians can continue to recruit the next generation of law librarians into the profession?

We must stay on top of social media because that's where the next generation is; they are online and connected. We need to find ways to present and promote the profession through these avenues. We need to

be better at connecting with students in law schools, library schools, grad schools, and even high schools, especially when students show an interest in librarian-