

## **DEBRA A. MONROE-LAX**

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### **Objective:**

To research, develop and/or evaluate public service projects, programs and/or policy initiatives.

### **Education:**

**Jackson State University**, Jackson, Mississippi; Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration, August 2014- present (expected graduation date: December 2017). *Concentration*: Program Management.

**Indiana State University**, Terre Haute, Indiana; Master of Public Administration, May 1998. *Specialization*: National Public Administration.

**Jackson State University**, Jackson, Mississippi; Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, August 1995. *Concentration*: Legal Studies.

### **Research and Evaluation Interests:**

- Juvenile justice reform policies
- Public education (k-12) reform policies
- At-risk youth violence prevention programs
- Youth development projects

### **Manuscript currently under review:**

Monroe-Lax, D., and J.-Y. Ko. Economic Determinant Analysis of Student Academic Performance in Mississippi Public Schools. *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy*.

### **Conference/Symposium Presentations:**

Monroe-Lax, D., and J.-Y. Ko. 2016. Economic Determinant Analysis of Student Academic Performance in Mississippi Public Schools. The 2016 Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA) National Conference, Jackson, MS, Feb.17-19.

Undensi, K. U., D. Monroe-Lax, and J.-Y. Ko. 2016. A Comparative Study of HIV/AIDS Prevalence Rates and Policy among Barbados, Belize, Mexico and the United States. The 2016 Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA) National Conference, Jackson, MS, Feb.17-19.

Monroe-Lax, D., and J.-Y. Ko. 2015. Economic Determinant Analysis of Student Academic Performance in Mississippi Public Schools. The 2015 JSU Public Policy Student Symposium, Jackson, MS, December, 3 (1st place winner in doctoral competition).

Undensi, U., D. Monroe-Lax, and J.-Y. Ko. 2015. Epidemiology of HIV Infection in the United States and Central America: A Comparison. The 15th Annual Conference Eliminating Health Disparities, Jackson, MS, Oct 8-9 (poster presentation).

### **Conference Attendee:**

- American Evaluation Association (AEA) Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA 2011.
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquent Prevention (OJJDP) Annual Conference, National Harbor, MD 2011.
- Bureau of Justice Statistics and Justice Research and Statistics Association

National Conference (JRSA), St. Louis MO, 2009.

**Experience:**

**Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County, Memphis TN, September 2014- July 2015**  
***Research and Evaluation Consultant (contract position)***

- Analyzed data and reported evaluation findings relative to disparities in management/administrative decision-making process of delinquent youth involved in the juvenile court system as mandated by the U.S. Department of Justice.
- Court liaison to the University of Memphis' criminology department concerning the validation of the juvenile detention risk assessment instrument.
- Performed other research and evaluation functions as assigned.

**Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County: Division of Court Services, Memphis, TN**  
**January 2006 –August 2014**

***Research Specialist/Coordinator of the Office of Outcome Evaluation and Performance Improvement (OEPI)***

- Conducted internal performance measures (i.e. public safety, accountability, and youth development) in an effort to improve upon initial and subsequent staff/management/administrators decisions to appropriately refer juvenile offenders for treatment and/or intervention services based on delinquent behavior.
- Presented evaluation findings to Court personnel and community project partners to advocate for innovative programs and services and/or modifications of existing programs/services to address the needs of juvenile offenders' behavior.
- Generated and disseminated evaluation reports on behalf of the Court to local, state, and federal government entities and non-profit agencies in the community, as deemed appropriate.
- Utilized findings to provide support and advocacy for policy reform in Court Services programs and State funding contract re-negotiations and grant funds.
- Assessed, tracked, and monitored data relative to the juvenile detention alternative initiatives (JDAI) and disproportionate minority contact (DMC).
- Developed, updated, and maintained the Court Services OEPI Training Manual.
- Provided general supervision and guidance to assigned personnel regarding OEPI.
- Collect, input, and analyzed data using SPSS and Access databases.
- Assisted in managing outside data requests from the media, university community, and project partners.
- Researched and analyzed juvenile justice trends on the local, state, and national level.
- Performed various other related duties as assigned by the Director of Court Services and the Chief Administrative Officer of the Court.

**University of Memphis: Center for Community Criminology and Research (C3R)**  
**Memphis, TN, September 2003-January 2006**

***Research Associate/Program Coordinator***

- Coordinated projects and conducted process, outcome, and impact evaluations for various crime-oriented community-based intervention programs (youth and adult projects).
- Developed logic models and data collection plans per evaluation project.
- Collect, input, and analyzed data using SPSS database.
- Prepared and disseminated bi-annual and annual evaluation reports to project partners and funders.
- Supervised graduate assistants and student workers.

- Assisted in preparing grant funded proposals.

**Inquisitor Incorporated, Memphis, TN, February 2001- September 2003**

***Legal Research Investigator***

- Conducted research and investigations relative to murder cases for defense attorneys.

**Tennessee Network for Community Economic Development, Nashville, TN**

**January 1999- February 2001**

***Statewide Program Director***

- Provided quarterly training sessions, and on-site technical assistance to grassroots community- based organizations throughout the State of Tennessee that were operating or forming an Individual Development Account (IDA) Program.
- Advocated at the Tennessee State Legislative level to amend and appropriate funding for the IDA Bill and to extend the program to additional counties in Tennessee.
- Collaboratively identified, secured, administered and managed public and private grant funds.
- Developed partnerships with churches, financial institutions, corporations, foundations, local, state, and federal government to support IDA's.
- Published annual reports and distributed quarterly reports to investors and IDA practitioners.
- Supervised and recruited AmeriCorps/Vista Volunteers.

**Honors/Awards/ Professional Membership Affiliation**

- JSU Public Policy Student Symposium – Fall 2015 (1<sup>st</sup> place winner for doctoral division).
- Alpha Epsilon Lambda Honor Society
- American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)
- ASPA Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA)
- Golden Key International Honor Society
- JSU Public Policy and Administration Student Association
- Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society
- America Evaluation Association (AEA; 2011-14)
- Elected Treasurer of the Tennessee Juvenile Court Services Association (TJCSA), 2010-11
- Member of the local and statewide Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Taskforce, Memphis, TN (2010-2014)
- Certificate of National Service: AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer, 2000
- National Congress for Neighborhood Women: Leadership Support Process and Community Development Award, 1999