Curriculum Vitae

Allison Matulli, Ed.D., J.D., M.Ed.

First Amendment & Education Scholar

Global Fulbright Scholar | *Pre-Law Faculty* | *Founder & Executive Director, The Little Lawyers*
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TEACHING AND RESEARCH POSITIONS

Howard University | Washington, D.C.

Lecturer, Pre-Law Technical Writing (ENGL 010) | *Jan 2026 – Present*

- Design and instruct undergraduate courses in legal writing, legal memoranda, judicial briefs, contract analysis, statutory interpretation, and persuasive oral argument.
- Host and curate the Pre-Law Writing "Ask an Expert" Class Chat Series, connecting pre-law students with legal scholars, prosecutors, judges, and civil rights advocates.
- Develop AI-enhanced pedagogical tools and integrate tier-one legal research platforms (LexisNexis, Westlaw, Bluebook) for training in responsible AI utilization and technical writing precision.
- Mentor pre-law undergraduates, build interdisciplinary partnerships, advise on law school admissions strategies, and cultivate culturally responsive curricula.

Florida International University (FIU) | Miami, FL

Affiliate Faculty (Ferré Civic Leadership Institute) & Adjunct Professor | *Mar 2021 – Present*

- Designed and instructed upper-level undergraduate courses including Comparative Criminal Justice Systems and Criminal Evidence.
- Developed and delivered hybrid curricula on legal literacy, criminology, critical logic, and data systems comprehension.
- Served on the DEI Health and Wellness Council, supporting learner-centric design, equity-based policy, and inclusive programming.

U.S. Department of State & Florida International University | Barranquilla, Colombia

Global Fulbright Scholar — Universidad del Norte (UniNorte) | *2023 – 2024*

- Conducted international research on global speech rights and legal literacy as part of the Global Fulbright Fellowship program.

- Delivered keynote addresses at *Semana de Derecho*, facilitated interdisciplinary legal seminars on constitutional freedoms, and established cross-cultural academic partnerships.

U.S. Department of State & Florida International University | Trinidad & Tobago

Global Fulbright Scholar — Trinidad & Tobago Engagement | *Oct 2024 – Dec 2024*

- Conducted empirical research on youth speech rights and legal literacy in partnership with United Way Trinidad & Tobago (UWTT).
- Delivered civic engagement workshops at the Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute (THTI).
- Featured on *Tobago Updates Mornings* for a national live broadcast on digital citizenship.

U.S. Department of State & Florida International University | Palermo, Italy

Global Fulbright Scholar — University of Palermo (CJLL Project) | *2025 – 2026*

- Presented research at the Climate Justice Living Lab (CJLL) final conference.
- Contributed to the Erasmus+ open-access Training Curriculum, Handbook on Climate Justice, and Guidelines for Replicability published by Palermo University Press.

Freedom Forum | Washington, D.C.

First Black Woman Fellow for the First Amendment | *2025 – Present*

- Serve as a national thought leader on civic engagement, student voice, scholastic press rights, and First Amendment education.
- Publish public scholarship, deliver keynotes, advise on media literacy, and direct nationwide educational programming.

PEN America | National / Regional Chapters

Featured Author, Speaker & Free Expression Partner | *2025 – Present*

- **PEN America Florida & Books & Books Literary Foundation**: Featured Author & Facilitator, *Banned Books Week: Your Freedom, Your Power Hour!*, Coral Gables, FL (October 4, 2026).
- **PEN America Free Expression Programs**: Featured Author & Workshop Leader, *PEN America Event: "We Are Free" Power Hour Series (Sessions I & II)*, Lynx Books, Gainesville, FL (October 3 & October 4, 2026).
- **PEN America Florida**: Lead Presenter & Workshop Leader, *Your Freedom, Your Power Hour! A Family Day of Stories & Creativity*, Literary Lounge, Jacksonville, FL (September 12, 2026).

The Little Lawyers | Miami, FL

Executive Director & Legal Literacy Specialist | *2016 – Present*

- Direct interdisciplinary, experiential curricula centered on Constitutional rights, First Amendment protections, civil rights history, and social justice education.
- Spearheaded nationwide impact initiatives, including sponsored 1A talks at Title 1 schools and nonprofit in-kind workshops, ensuring marginalized youth gain foundational legal literacy and civic awareness.
- Oversee organizational strategy, Title IX compliance, grant management, budgetary execution, external communications, and community partnerships.

EDUCATION

- **Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership: Digital Instruction and Distance Learning |** St. Thomas University, FL, 2026
    - **Academic Performance:** Cumulative GPA: 4.0
    - **Dissertation:** *Free Speech and Digital Citizenship: A Qualitative Case Study*
- **Juris Doctor (J.D.) |** Howard University School of Law, Washington, D.C., 2003
    - **Honors & Awards:** Recipient, Thurgood Marshall Merit Scholarship Award (2002)
- **Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Secondary Education |** Endicott College, MA, 2007
    - **Credential:** American Montessori Society (AMS) Secondary Certified Educator
    - **Practicum Committee:** Houston Montessori Center with Dr. Betsy Coe
- **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Economics |** Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA, 2000
    - **Double Minors:** Sociology & Fine Arts

International & Comparative Legal Studies

- **Loyola Law School - University of Chicago** | Rome, Italy (Summer 2001)
    - *Focus:* Comparative Criminal Procedure & Health Law (EU vs. US Legal Systems)
- **Birkbeck College - University of London** | London, UK (Spring 1999)
    - *Focus:* Media Forms & Institutions; Financial Integration & International Economics

PEER-REVIEWED SCHOLARSHIP & ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles & Book Chapters

- **Matulli, A.** (2026). Freedom to Speak Up: Why It Matters for Climate Action. In N. Gullo (Ed.), *Climate Justice Perspectives in the Age of Global Conflict* (Special Issue 3/2026,

pp. 183–188). *Ambiente Diritto* (Class A Scientific Legal Journal, ISSN: 1974-9562; ISBN: 978-88-3360-022-2).

Academic Curricula & Open-Access Pedagogical Resources

- **Climate Justice Living Lab (CJLL) Educational Framework Contributions** (2026): Collaborated with the CJLL Erasmus+ team at the University of Palermo to develop open-access higher education modules:
    - *Training Curriculum and Syllabus:* 48-hour course framework across climate science, human rights, and climate litigation.
    - *Handbook on Climate Justice:* Published by Palermo University Press.
    - *Guidelines for Replicability:* Model for adapting climate justice education across international academic institutions.

Doctoral Dissertation & Monographs

- **Matulli, A.** (2026). *Free Speech and Digital Citizenship: A Qualitative Case Study* (Doctoral dissertation, St. Thomas University). ProQuest Dissertations & Theses.

SCHOLARLY BOOKS & COMMERCIAL MONOGRAPHS

- **Matulli, A.** (2026). *We Are Free: Our First Amendment Rights*. Illustrated by Edel Rodriguez. Penguin RISE Collection / Penguin Random House. *(Starred Review from Kirkus Reviews; Featured in School Library Journal)*
- **Matulli, A.** (2027). *I Am Because We Are*. Disney Publishing Worldwide.
- **Matulli, A.**, & Castro-Malaspina, C. (2023). *Your Freedom, Your Power: A Kid's Guide to the First Amendment*. Running Press Kids / Hachette Book Group. *(Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection; Starred Review from Booklist; Kirkus Best Book; Sold Out Feature with Mahogany Books)*
- **Matulli, A.** (2016). *Plessy: A Shoemaker Makes His Mark*. CSI Publishing.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP & PROFESSIONAL ESSAYS

- **Matulli, A.** (2026, October). *Banned Books Week 2026: Two Immigrant Stories and the Power of the Public Library.* Publishers Weekly.
- **Matulli, A.** (2026, July). *Misinformation vs. Disinformation: What's the Difference, and Are They Protected Speech?* Freedom Forum.
- **Matulli, A.** (2025, July). *Your Freedom, Your Future: Why Civic Literacy Belongs in Childhood* [Op-Ed]. *Miami Herald*.
- **Matulli, A.** (2023, September). *Kids Have First Amendment Rights, Too. Encourage Them to Use Them to Speak Up!* [Op-Ed]. *Miami Herald*.

- **Matulli, A.** (2020, July). *Why I Showed My Young Children the Video of George Floyd*'s Death [Op-Ed]. *Education Week*.

MEDIA APPEARANCES, PRESS CITATIONS & BROADCASTS

Featured Press & Expert Citations

- **School Library Journal** (2026): Review Feature, *"Power & Wonder: Highly Anticipated Picture Books for Fall 2026"*
- **Kirkus Reviews** (2026): Review Feature, *"We Are Free: Our First Amendment Rights"*
- **NOTUS** (2025): Quoted Legal Expert, *"The Crackdown on Speech After Charlie Kirk's Death Is Alarming First Amendment Groups"*
- **The Daily Texan** (2025): Quoted Expert, *"'That fear is always there': Navigating being an international student under increasing social media surveillance"*
- **Freedom Forum** (2025): Featured Fellow Profile & Q&A, "Five 1A Questions With New Freedom Forum Fellow Allison Matulli."

Broadcast, Radio & Podcast Appearances

- **WLRN / NPR - The Florida Roundup** (Dec 12, 2025): Radio Guest with Host Tom Hudson, featured expert discussing youth speech rights, *Your Freedom, Your Power*, and First Amendment protections in Florida.
- **Tobago Updates News** (Dec 4, 2024): Featured Guest, *"Tobago Updates Mornings: Youth Speech Rights & Disney Cover Reveal"* (Live National Broadcast).
- **UniNorte FM Radio (March 2024)**: Featured Guest, *Radio Talk Show with Professor Maria Auxiliadora Gonzalez Malabet*, Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla, Colombia. Discussion on international speech rights, legal literacy, and Fulbright cross-cultural legal education.
- **Culture Stew Podcast** (Host: Maria Morukian): Featured Guest, *"Reframing Civic Engagement for Children & Caregivers: A Conversation with Allison Matulli, Ed.D., J.D."*
- **Brave Voices in Education Podcast** (Host Craig Aarons-Martin): Featured Guest, "*Teaching Young People their Rights: A Conversation with Attorney and Educator Allison Matulli."*

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES, SPECIAL LECTURES & PUBLIC SYMPOSIA

- **PEN America Florida & Books & Books Literary Foundation:** Featured Author & Facilitator, *Banned Books Week: Your Freedom, Your Power Hour!*, Coral Gables, FL (October 4, 2026).

- **PEN America Free Expression Programs:** Featured Author & Workshop Leader, *PEN America Event: "We Are Free" Power Hour Series (Sessions I & II)*, Lynx Books, Gainesville, FL (October 3 & October 4, 2026).
- **Freedom Forum:** Featured Headliner & Children's Author Keynote Speaker, *1A Fest: A Celebration of Free Expression*, Washington, D.C. (September 26, 2026).
- **PEN America Florida:** Lead Presenter & Workshop Leader, *Your Freedom, Your Power Hour! A Family Day of Stories & Creativity*, Literary Lounge, Jacksonville, FL (September 12, 2026).
- **University of Palermo, Department of Law:** Invited Speaker, *Climate Justice and the New Generation*, Final Conference of the CJLL Project, Palermo, Italy (July 24, 2026).
- **Florida International University (FIU) - Tuesday Times Roundtable:** Co-Host & Panelist with Melba Pearson, Esq., *"Justice Across Borders: Study Criminal Law in Italy This Summer!"*, Global Learning for Global Citizenship (September 16, 2025).
- **Fulbright National Conference:** Invited Keynote Speaker (2025).
- **Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute (THTI):** Guest Speaker & Workshop Leader, *Freedom to Read, Freedom to Write*, Tobago (November 2024).
- **Saint Joseph's University & Gompers Elementary School**: Invited Alumni Author & Guest Speaker, *Youth Speech Rights & Civic Literacy Workshop* (with Dr. Aimee LaPointe Terosky), Philadelphia, PA (September 18, 2024).
- **FIU Gordon Institute**: Keynote Speaker, *Black Women's Law Series*, Miami, FL (May 2024).
- **Universidad del Norte (UniNorte):** Global Keynote Speaker & Moderator, *Semana de Derecho 2024*, Barranquilla, Colombia (March 2024).
- **FIU Gordon Institute:** Keynote Speaker, *Black Women's Law Series*, Miami, FL (May 2024).
- **Florida International University (FIU)**: Keynote Speaker, *"Wear Your Crown: A First Amendment Discussion About Identity and Belonging,"* The Third Annual Miami Black Womxn's Forum, Graham University Center Ballrooms, Miami, FL (March 15, 2023).

HONORS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- **FIU Faculty Excellence Award**, Florida International University (2025)
- **Featured Face of the National Annual Capitol Campaign**, Freedom Forum, Washington, D.C. (Promoted First Amendment freedoms and helped raise over $106,000 in development funds)
- **Global Fulbright Scholar Award** (*"One World, One Voice: Global Speech Rights"*), U.S. Department of State (2023–2026)
- **Most Prominent & Influential Black Business Leader Award**, MIA Media Group (2024)
- **Miami's Most Prominent and Influential Black Women Award**, Legacy Magazine / Miami Herald (2023)

- **Thurgood Marshall Merit Scholarship Awardee**, Howard University School of Law (2000–2003)

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

- **Executive Leadership & Academic Impact:** Over 15 years of progressive leadership advancing student achievement, legal literacy, civil rights education, and institutional effectiveness across complex academic environments.
- **Institutional Governance & Compliance:** Executive administrator skilled in organizational leadership, Title IX compliance, strategic policy development, and cross-departmental collaboration.
- **Global Legal & Speech Research:** First-ever Global Fulbright Scholar at Florida International University, conducting multi-country international speech rights research across South America, the Caribbean, and Europe.
- **National Thought Leadership:** Thought leader on digital governance, First Amendment protections, free expression, and youth civic literacy.
- **Curriculum Innovation & Funding Excellence:** Experience designing technology-enhanced curricula, integrating responsible AI into legal education, and securing over $550,000 in external grants and philanthropic funding.

CERTIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

- **Google Career Launchpad:** Generative AI Leader Certification (Selected for initial faculty cohort in practical AI applications) | 2026 – present
- **Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI):** Active Member | 2023 – present
- **American Montessori Society (AMS):** Secondary Certified Educator | 2007 – present