

## **Alumna attorney exhibits passion for justice**

Khalifah L. Shabazz is an alumna of Concordia College. While here, she was on a full basketball scholarship, pursuing her bachelor's degree. Her life now has taken her to places she never expected and she could not be happier. Concordia set the foundation for her success and her experience there created countless memories.

Khalifah was born in Paterson, New Jersey and attended Paramus Catholic High School. She was recruited to play for the women's basketball team at Concordia College. After graduating, Khalifah went to the City University of New York School of Law, where she received a Juris Doctorate degree, which allows her to practice in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

While Khalifah was in law school, she was heavily involved in public service. She volunteered in Queens, New York at the Main Street Legal Defense Service, a place where lower-income people are provided with legal defense. Khalifah also volunteered at the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, which was another organization providing free legal defense for less privileged residents of the area.

Khalifah has developed a passion for informing people of their legal rights throughout her education. Along with her volunteer work as a grad student, she did legal research, collecting statistics for DonDiva Magazine. She also wrote an article for the magazine entitled, "Shut Up, You Can't Save Yourself", which was written to inform people of their Miranda Rights.

Shortly after graduating from law school, Khalifah became an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx. She was successful working in the Trial Bureau, prosecuting misdemeanor and felony cases. Working at this office called for many jury and bench trials, broadening her skills as a criminal trial attorney, while inspiring her to continue learning more elements of Law.

When Khalifah left the Bronx DA's Office, she switched her focus to personal injury affairs. She worked on numerous cases involving injured parties, negotiating significant settlements for victims. One of Khalifah's most remarkable accomplishments was receiving a six-figure verdict for a client who was slashed during an assault at a bar. Among other notable cases, Khalifah also won a monetary settlement for someone who was discriminated against at Burger King because of a hearing disability.

After building this experience, Khalifah graduated from law school, and continued working at a law firm in Newark. There, she was counsel to several urban school districts, municipalities, and public housing authorities throughout the state. This area of legal work called for Khalifah to be responsible for providing defense on behalf of public entities for legal claims such as employment/personnel matters, Laws Against Discrimination, Title 59 claims, collective bargaining agreements, and numerous other legal matters affecting public entities. This led to her current position as Special Counsel to the East Orange, New Jersey Board of Education.

Khalifah's dedication to justice and her ever-growing desire to learn is what defines Khalifah as a professional. She serves as an example of how Concordia College provides unique opportunities while building a strong work ethic and a desire to help the community.