

## Biography

Jason Ray attended the University of Maryland, College Park, where he majored in English Language and Literature and graduated in 2003 with an Honors citation for successful completion of the University Honors Program. After college, Mr. Ray worked in a law office before beginning law school at The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law in Washington, D.C. He earned his Juris Doctorate in 2008. After law school, Mr. Ray chose to pursue his dream of becoming a teacher. He taught Special Education for one year and English for 10 years. He now serves as an Academic Resource Teacher.

# JASON D. RAY, J.D.

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## ***SUMMARY***

Dynamic, proven, and committed educator seeks opportunities to promote best practices learned in diverse school settings to improve equity and outcomes for all students

## ***EXPERIENCE***

**Academic Resource Teacher, Academy of Health Sciences @ Prince George's Community College, Largo, MD**  
**07/19 – Present**

### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Support English, Social Studies, and World Languages faculty in meeting their instructional and professional responsibilities
- Design and lead professional development for faculty
- Coordinate resources between and among departments
- Serve on School Performance Planning Team (SPPT) to develop and monitor progress towards school goals
- Act as liaison between administration and faculty
- Teach weekly Writing Seminar for all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students and daily Enrichment course

**Administrative Intern, Trinity Washington University, Washington, DC**

**01/19 – 07/19**

### **Accomplishments:**

- Demonstrated proficiency in the requisite competencies of school leaders as reflected in the Educational Leadership Constituent Council (ELCC) standards under the direction of on-site mentor, the principal of the Academy of Health Sciences @ Prince George's Community College, the highest-ranked public school in the Maryland Public Schools Report Card

**English Teacher, Academy of Health Sciences @ Prince George's Community College, Largo, MD**

**08/13 – 06/19**

### **Accomplishments:**

- Designed 11<sup>th</sup> grade English curriculum in innovative, successful early college program comprised of 50% high risk students who earn their Associate degree and high school diploma simultaneously after four years
- Supported department with 99% pass rate on the MCAP ELA exam and English ACCUPLACER series
- Earned "Highly Effective" rating three times under new teacher evaluation framework
- Selected by principal to receive inaugural "MENofPGCPS Award" for consistent leadership and service to students – 2015

**English Teacher, Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School, Washington, DC**

**08/12 – 07/13**

### **Accomplishments:**

- Implemented rigorous 9<sup>th</sup> grade English curriculum at high-performing, law-themed charter school in underserved community
- Taught SAT Preparation course

**English Teacher, DuVal High School, Lanham, MD**

**08/09 – 06/12**

### **Accomplishments:**

- Taught 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade English to culturally diverse, predominately high-needs population
- Cited by Local Instructional Superintendent as a "model instructor" during a school-wide instructional audit – 2011
- Served as English Department Co-Chair – 2010/2011
- Designed and implemented regular professional development activities for English teachers to improve all aspects of instruction
- Reported to school-based and district administrators regarding departmental compliance with local and state initiatives
- Collaborated with administrative team to screen, interview, and select prospective English teachers
- Re-wrote DuVal High School Mission Statement and Statement of Beliefs, and chaired corresponding faculty committee, in preparation for school reaccreditation process – 2010/2011
- Voted "Rookie of the Year" by school staff – 2010

**Teaching Fellow, Prince George's County Teaching Fellows (The New Teacher Project) 06/09 – 08/09**

**Accomplishments:**

- Completed intensive training in research-based instructional strategies to reduce the achievement gap in high-needs schools
- Selected by cohort to deliver keynote address at graduation ceremony
- Selected by program staff to represent teaching fellows at Maryland State Department of Education program review
- Selected by program staff to address 2010 cohort at welcoming ceremony

**Special Education Teacher, Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School, Washington, DC 12/08 – 06/09**

**Accomplishments:**

- Developed and implemented Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students on caseload
- Supported students across all content areas

**Law Clerk, The Cochran Firm, Washington, DC 05/07 – 01/08**

**Accomplishments:**

- Drafted and analyzed client letters, discovery, pleadings, motions, and other documents for busy and sophisticated personal injury practice
- Conducted extensive legal research and prepared memoranda on a variety of personal injury issues
- Assisted with variety of litigation tasks, including preparing exhibits, finding experts, and preparing filings

**Law Clerk, Hudson Cook, LLP, Hanover, MD 05/06 – 08/06**

**Accomplishments:**

- Conducted extensive legal research and prepared memoranda on a variety of consumer credit issues for lender clients
- Prepared case summaries for submission to a monthly publication

***EDUCATION***

**The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, Washington, DC, Juris Doctor, May 2008**

**Accomplishments:**

- President, Black Law Students Association – 2007-2008
- Winner, “Dean’s Award” for service to the law school community – April 2008
- Winner, “Extra Mile Award” for leadership in the law school community – April 2008
- Earned grade of “A-” in Education Law course with B/B+ curve

**University of Maryland, College Park, MD, Bachelor of Arts, English Language and Literature, May 2003**

**Accomplishments:**

- University Honors Citation – October 2002
- Concentration in Language, Writing and Rhetoric

***CERTIFICATIONS***

- Maryland Administrator I
- Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate (APC), English 7 - 12

## Personal Statement

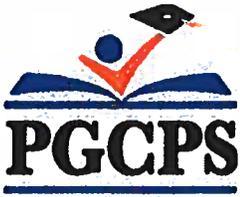
Now is an exciting time to be a Maryland educator. With our ongoing implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and the pending legislation stemming from the Kirwan Commission's recently-released report, Maryland schools are operating within a complex and dynamic regulatory environment. Maryland teachers deserve a representative on the State Board of Education (SBOE) who approaches the work with urgency and who is able to understand and speak the language of both education and law. I am that person, and I would be honored to serve as your Teacher Member.

During my time in law school, I had a revelation that changed my life: the battle for justice and equality is better fought in the classroom than in the courtroom. As I immersed myself in legal solutions to social problems, I began to suspect that most people's life trajectories were already set by the time they needed a lawyer. Lawyers seemed to exist primarily to save people from the predictable negative outcomes of entrenched injustices, or, unfortunately, to protect the very systems, people, and interests that perpetuated these injustices. I felt strongly that if I were serious about justice, particularly for disempowered minority populations, then I needed to fight on a different front. So, I decided to teach. Since then, there has never been a time when I regretted my decision. Being an educator is, indeed, my calling, and it is my gift.

My experience at three very different schools – a high-needs comprehensive high school, a high-profile public charter high school in an underserved neighborhood, and the first middle college program in Maryland – has given me some powerful insights into best practices and added nuance to my understanding of the obstacles that educators face. I no longer believe that individual teachers can or should shoulder the primary responsibility for accountability and closing the achievement gap. We need broad support and resources to do the work that needs to be done for our students. We must elevate the status of our profession with better compensation

and a real career ladder. We must invest in high-quality early childhood education and more college-and-career-readiness options for our high school students. And, of course, we must direct more resources to our students who need them the most. But we must be careful about the details, and we must give our school districts a reasonable amount of autonomy to meet the needs of their populations. Maryland is too large and diverse to use blunt instruments for such important work.

As a Teacher Member on the SBOE, I would do whatever I could to listen to you and to guard against regulations that are unfair, unproductive, or unreasonably burdensome on teachers in this time of change. I am a proud Maryland public school graduate and teacher, my wife is a proud Maryland public school teacher, and my son is a proud Maryland public school student. It would be my privilege to advocate for us and for you.



**Academy of Health Sciences @  
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301-546-7247 Main Office 301-546-5241 Fax



October 4, 2019

Dear Maryland Teachers:

I am delighted to recommend Dr. Jason Ray, an Academic Resource Teacher on my faculty, for the Teacher Member position on the Maryland State Board of Education (SBOE). Based on the traits that I have observed in Dr. Ray during the years that I have supervised his work, I am certain that he would make an exceptional board member. I recommend him highly for this opportunity.

Dr. Ray demonstrates a remarkably high level of professionalism in all aspects of his responsibilities as a teacher. He has earned consistently superior ratings on our district's teacher evaluation framework and, perhaps most importantly, he is very well-regarded by our current and former students for his tireless and effective work on their behalf. He generously shares his instructional expertise with his colleagues, who have come to view him as a trusted mentor and one of the lead teachers in our building. Dr. Ray genuinely enjoys supporting his colleagues in all areas of their work, and it excites me to consider the impact that his voice could have on student achievement as your representative on the SBOE.

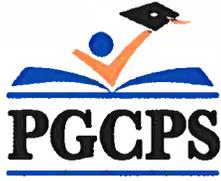
Outside of the classroom, Dr. Ray has become an integral part of our leadership team over the years due to his excellent communication, organizational, and analytical skills. He exhibits an intuitive understanding of how the parts of a school function together to serve students effectively, and I trust that his highly-developed judgment and professional ethics would lead him, in a public service role, to make decisions that benefit all of our stakeholders, especially our children. His interpersonal skills, particularly his ability to maintain his decorum and discipline in the face of hard work and ambitious goals, would assist him in being an effective advocate for you. He truly believes in the importance of your work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information about this strong candidate. You would be fortunate to have him as your representative.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kathy Richard Andrews  
Principal



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October 1, 2019

Dear Maryland Educators:

I have had the pleasure to work with Dr. Jason Ray in several roles for Prince George's County Public Schools. The first time was at DuVal High School and now at the Academy of Health Sciences @ Prince George's Community College. In the time that I have known him, he has proved to be a dedicated, focused, multi-talented, goal-oriented, organized, and knowledgeable educator with a strong character and excellent interpersonal skills.

I first met Dr. Ray in 2010 when he was an English teacher and ninth grade team leader at DuVal High School. In my capacity as a Regional Resource Teacher for the High School Consortium my purpose was to provide instructional supports to increase student achievement. During my informal observations I was able to see Dr. Ray deliver well-planned, engaging, and rigorous lessons to his students. It was evident that Dr. Ray prepared his lessons using our curriculum guides, state standards, and other resources to best meet students' needs. In addition, he led organized and meaningful team meetings that included collaborative planning, examining data, and exploring best practices to reach all learners. He mentored general educators, special educators and English Language Learner teachers at his school. I was extremely impressed by his accomplishments with his students and his team.

In 2013, Dr. Ray joined the Academy of Health Sciences @ PGCC faculty to teach Year 3 (eleventh grade) English. Over these years, I have been able to witness the warm and inviting classroom environment he creates that promotes learning. He supports this by his excellent knowledge of the subject, various techniques for facilitating learning, and a good rapport with students. He has high expectations, utilizes higher order questioning techniques, implements cooperative learning strategies, and infuses technology into his lessons. Students have shared with me that they feel he is consistent, fair, reliable, and a strong role model. Dr. Ray is well-versed in the college expectations for English, as well as, many of the other courses our students take and he incorporates it in all the work he does for our students to ensure they are college ready. Dr. Ray has been very active in making sure our students are successful on the college placement test, ACCUPLACER, by learning the assessment expectations and providing excellent instruction.

Currently, Dr. Ray is an Academic Resource Teacher at our school. In his new position he is able to continue to support the mission of our school both in and out of the classroom. He has always assisted his colleagues through meaningful collaboration and now he has been able to extend his talents into his new instructional responsibilities. He is a vital asset to our team and he brings a valued perspective and vast knowledge to each task he is assigned. Both the students and staff know that Dr. Ray is someone who will listen, provide sound guidance, and take action, when necessary.

Therefore, I am honored to recommend Dr. Jason Ray, a highly skilled educator and professional leader, to the Maryland Educators for the Teacher Member position on the Maryland State Board of Education. I believe he will be an excellent advocate for all teachers and students in the state of Maryland.

Respectfully,

Andria Nungesser, M.Ed.  
Instructional Specialist - Academics  
Academy of Health Sciences @ Prince George's Community College

September 26, 2019

To the Maryland State Board of Education:

It is my pleasure to confidently recommend Dr. Jason Ray to serve as a Teacher Member of the Maryland State Board of Education.

Dr. Ray served as my daughter's 11th grade English instructor at the Academy of Health Sciences at Prince Georges Community College. Dr. Ray took the time to assess the strengths of his students and recognize how each student learned best. He also challenged his students to dig deeper to realize their fullest potential. Dr. Ray has a rare ability to connect with students and motivate them to push past their comfort zones. My daughter often mentioned Dr. Ray's sincere interest in his students' success both inside and outside of the classroom, always encouraging students to strive towards their future careers and personal goals.

As a parent, I found Dr. Ray to communicate respectfully and effectively to both parents and students. It is no surprise that he now serves as a Resource Teacher at the Academy of Health Sciences. In this position, he has the opportunity to impact even more students, as well as his colleagues. His insights as an educator with a middle college program would be a valuable contribution to the Board.

I have partnered with many teachers in the education of my children, in both public and private schools. Dr. Ray is an educator who stands above the rest with his humble manner, competence, professionalism, and passion for helping students achieve more.

Dr. Jason Ray is indeed an exceptional educator. I have no doubt that he would serve as an exceptional Teacher Member of the Maryland State Board of Education.

Nicole B. Barnett