

KYLE JORDAN SMITH

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EDUCATION

VANDERBILT LAW SCHOOL, Nashville, Tennessee

J.D. Candidate, expected May 2026

Honors: *Vanderbilt Law Review*, Website and Publications Editor (Note Selected for Publication)

Vanderbilt Social Justice Reporter, Digital Editor (Comment Selected for Publication)

Garrison Social Justice Scholar for the Class of 2026 (Public Interest Scholarship)

Chancellor's Law Scholar and Dean's Leadership Award Recipient

Activities: President, Black Law Students Association (2025 – Present)

Street Law Co-Director, Legal Aid Society (Awarded Best Community Service Group) (2024 – 25)

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Atlanta, Georgia

B.S., *highest honors*, in Public Policy, Minor in International Affairs, May 2022

GPA: 3.89

Honors: Stamps President's Scholar (Full-Ride Scholarship Awarded to 40 Incoming Students)

Student Leader Impact Award Recipient; Student Body Vice President, Student Government

EXPERIENCE

BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE AT NYU LAW, New York, New York June – Aug. 2025

Justice Program Legal Intern: Crafted legal arguments to challenge federal administrative funding decisions in support of the Center's Constitutional Crisis Litigation Project. Analyzed state and federal Clean Slate Act legislation. Assisted with the Justice Program's public education and scholarship aimed at reducing mass incarceration, reforming conditions of confinement, and improving public safety.

U.S. SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, Washington, D.C. Apr. – June 2025

Law Clerk: Performed legal research to assist with statutory drafting; engaged key stakeholders to garner feedback on proposed legislation. Prepared questions for the record and background memos for executive branch and judicial nominees. Provided updates to staff on U.S. Sentencing Commission policies.

IMMIGRATION PRACTICE CLINIC, Vanderbilt Law School, Nashville, Tennessee Jan. – Apr. 2025

Student Attorney: Provided legal counsel and strategy to assist clients in navigating federal immigration proceedings. Conducted client interviews and information gathering. Drafted U-Nonimmigrant Status declaration on behalf of client to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

VANDERBILT LAW SCHOOL, Nashville, Tennessee Jan. – Apr. 2025

Research Assistant to Professor Lauren Sudeall: Assisted with research for presentations and academic publications discussing state and municipal court disparities, access to justice issues, and court reforms.

U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, Nashville, Tennessee Aug. – Dec. 2024

Law Clerk: Researched legal questions pertinent to criminal cases including Fourth Amendment issues and Speedy Trial Act requirements. Prepared legal memos, appellate briefs, and motions in limine for criminal cases. Researched federal sentencing factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF KENTUCKY, Louisville, Kentucky June – Aug. 2024

Southern Legal Intern: Conducted legal and policy research on Section 1983 suits, sovereign immunity under Kentucky law, and state felony expungement. Drafted a letter to universities outlining their First Amendment obligations. Reviewed privilege logs and police body camera footage; observed witness depositions.

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming: Kyle Jordan Smith, *When Detention Becomes a Death Sentence: The Urgent Need for Greater Due Process Protections for ICE Detainees*, 76 VAND. L. REV. __ (2026).

Forthcoming: Kyle Jordan Smith, *Inclusive Constitutionalism as a Framework for Remediating Past Discrimination in Higher Education*, __ VAND. SOC. JUSTICE REPORTER __ (2026).

INTERESTS

Congressional Work Experience: Speechwriter (2023) and Staff Assistant (2022) to U.S. Senator Ben Cardin

Personal: hiking, art museums, photography, traveling