



# UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

Jean Ferguson Ruffin, J.D., Ed.D.

Associate Professor

*Updated Fall 2025*

## EDUCATION

### **2018 – University of West Georgia**

Doctor of Education, School Improvement (Educational Leadership)

### **2008 – University of West Georgia**

Educational Specialist, Educational Leadership

### **2001 – Mercer University**

Juris Doctor, Law

### **1998 – Tuskegee University**

Bachelor of Arts, English

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fall 2025–Present Associate Professor, Educational Leadership, University of West Georgia

2019–2025 Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership, University of West Georgia

2017–2019 Associate Superintendent, Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

2015–2017 School Improvement Consultant, Southern Regional Education Board

2013–2015 School Improvement Specialist, Meriwether County Schools

2010–2013 Assistant Principal for Instruction, Meriwether County Schools

2007–2010 Career and Technical Education Director, Meriwether County Schools

2005–2007 Closing Attorney, Law Office of Wright McCleod

2005–2007 English Department Chair, Manchester High School

2003–2007 English Teacher, Meriwether County Schools

2003 Adjunct Professor, Valdosta State University

2002–2003 Municipal Court Solicitor, Valdosta, GA

2001–2002 Staff Attorney, Georgia Legal Services



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## Publications

### Refereed Journals

Ruffin, J. F., & Simon, M. E. (2022). Developing culturally proficient leaders through graduate coursework: Examining student perspectives. *School Leadership Review*, 16(2).

Ruffin, J. F. (2021). A tale of three teachers: Portraits of inequity, education, and perseverance during the COVID-19 pandemic. *American Educational History Journal*, 205-211.

Ruffin, J. F. (2020). Missed opportunities: Reflections and regrets of a brand-new professor. Transformations: *The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy*, 30(2), 141–147.

### Book Chapters

Ruffin, J. F. (2024). Finding fearlessness: A Black professor's quest to develop culturally proficient school leaders. In N. Jordan-Ramsey & A. Crenshaw (Eds.), *Supporting Activist Practices in Education* (pp. 78-103). IGI Global.

Ruffin, J. F. (2023). Teaching from a place of love: Navigating the online diversity course against the backdrop of socio-political chaos. In S. McCarter & D. Davis (Eds.), *Breakthrough: From Pandemic to Promising Practice*, 49. Information Age Publishing.

## Selected Presentations

Ruffin, J. F., & Sansbury, S. (2022, August). The identity sketch: Using personal narratives to build culturally proficient school leaders. International Council of Professors of Educational Leadership Conference, Denver, CO.

Ruffin, J. F., Johnson, K., & Evans, L. (2021, August). From mishaps to magnificence: Supporting school leaders through the pandemic and beyond. International Council of Professors of Educational Leadership Virtual Conference.



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Ruffin, J. F. (2020, October). Stalling with deliberate speed: Southern resistance to school desegregation after Brown v. Board of Education. Organization of Educational Historians Annual Meeting.

Ruffin, J. F. (2019, June). Voting matters: Education, race, and equality in the 21st century. National Civil Rights Conference, Birmingham, AL.

## Courses Taught

EDSI 9923 The Culturally Proficient Leader

EDSI 9901 Doctoral Seminar

EDLE 8329 Leadership for Equity and Excellence

EDLE 7312 School and Community Engagement

EDLE 6341 Using Data to Improve the School

EDLE 6316/7100 School Law, Policy, and Ethics

## Service

Chair and member, multiple Ed.D. dissertation committees (University of West Georgia).  
Faculty Senate, COE Senator (2024–present).

College of Education Diversity Committee, Vice Chair (2022).

Reviewer: *Journal of School Leadership*; *Journal of Teacher Education*; *Education Leadership Review*.

Advisory Board Member, *Supporting Activist Practices in Education* (2023).



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## Professional Affiliations

Organization of Educational Historians (OEH)

Georgia Association of Personnel Administrators (GASPA)

Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL)