

## ***Ovita F. Williams, LCSW-R***

Ovita Williams is an Associate Director of Field Education for Family, Youth and Children Services at Columbia University School of Social Work. She also served as Interim Dean and Director of Field Education for two years. Her responsibilities include developing placement sites, and collaborating with field advisors, professionals and agency representatives to ensure educationally sound internship experiences for CUSSW students. Ms. Williams has taught the Social Work Practice and Domestic Violence course at CUSSW and the Social Work Practice Lab on Anti-Oppression practice at Hunter College School of Social Work.

Ms. Williams is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker specializing in domestic violence and forensic social work practice. Prior to her work at CUSSW, she was the Director of Clinical Services in the Counseling Services Unit at the Kings County District Attorney's Office where she coordinated the domestic violence program providing survivors with crisis counseling, legal advocacy and coordination of services. She has presented papers at various institutions on the topic of family violence and the criminal justice response. Prior to her ten year social work career in the District Attorney's Office, Ms. Williams was a therapist at the Children's Aid Society.

Currently, Ms. Williams has developed and facilitated interactive workshops for social workers, faculty, managers, and practitioners at various organizations on facilitating challenging dialogues around race, class, gender and intersecting identities.

A graduate of Vassar College ('90) and Columbia University ('93), Ms. Williams is presently a doctoral student at Hunter College/Silberman School of Social Welfare in New York City. She is completing work on her dissertation exploring forensic social workers' experiences with vicarious trauma counseling intimate partner violence survivors in a criminal legal setting.