

Jamila Coleman, MA, MSW Candidate, LAAC, CC, LMHCA, HT, MHP, CMHS
Forensic Behavioral Health Expert | Beyond Damages™ Model Counselor

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Jamila Coleman is a forensic behavioral health expert and psycholegal consultant who partners with attorneys across Washington State to strengthen litigation involving psychological injury, trauma exposure, institutional harm, disability, and complex psychosocial damages. Her work is grounded in the Beyond Damages™ Model — a structured forensic framework that translates lived experience into legally defensible evidence. Her role is non-therapeutic and focused on case strategy, evidentiary clarity, and expert positioning.

With over 15 years of experience across behavioral health, legal systems, and public institutions, Jamila brings a dual lens—clinical and legal—to case strategy. She is known for bridging the gap between what clients have experienced and what can be effectively demonstrated in a legal context, ensuring that damages are not only described, but understood.

THE BEYOND DAMAGES™ MODEL

The Beyond Damages™ Model addresses a critical gap in litigation: the ability to demonstrate not just what happened, but what that harm did. This model centers on functional impact, systems interaction, and lived experience to produce clear, defensible narratives for court.

Core Components:

- Evidence of Experience™ – translating lived experience into structured, admissible insights
- Functional Impact Analysis – demonstrating disruption across life domains
- Systems Context Mapping – identifying institutional influence and failures
- Causation Framing – connecting events to outcomes in a legally relevant structure
- Strategic Narrative Development – aligning findings with litigation strategy

FORENSIC AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Psychological Injury & Trauma Analysis
- Institutional & System-Based Harm

- Psychosocial Damages Assessment
- Disability & Functional Impact
- Behavioral Health Record Interpretation
- Clinical Timeline Reconstruction
- Causation & Damages Narrative Development
- Expert Report Development & Testimony

LITIGATION SUPPORT & CONSULTING SERVICES

- Early Case Framing & Strategy
- Medical, Educational & Behavioral Health Record Review
- Trauma-Informed Timeline Reconstruction
- Forensic Evaluations (Non-Treatment Scope)
- Mediation & Settlement Preparation
- Expert Report Development, Deposition & Trial Support

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder & Executive Director — You Grow Girl!

Washington State Licensed Behavioral Health Agency

Leads a multidisciplinary behavioral health organization providing outpatient, wraparound, and integrated care services. Oversees compliance, clinical programming, and interdisciplinary coordination.

Forensic Behavioral Health Strategist — Legal Consulting (Freelance)

Partners with attorneys to analyze psychosocial damages, strengthen case narratives, and support litigation strategy.

Psycholegal Counselor – Private Practice

Provided psycholegal counseling to individuals and families, integrating trauma-informed and culturally responsive approaches to address identity development, anxiety, life transitions, and relational dynamics. Specialized in supporting clients navigating racial, institutional, and intergenerational trauma, while bridging behavioral health needs with legal systems navigation and case management.

Legal Intern — Tacomaprobono Community Lawyers

Conducted client intake and interviews for civil legal aid matters while supporting attorneys with document preparation, filings, and case organization. Worked closely with underserved populations navigating complex legal and social barriers, ensuring clear communication and organized case support.

SYSTEMS & SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE

- Washington State Behavioral Health System (HCA, MCOs, WISe)
- Foster Care & Child Welfare Systems
- Juvenile Justice System
- Public Education Systems
- Trauma-Informed Care & Cultural Responsiveness
- Clinical Documentation Standards & Compliance
- Interdisciplinary Case Coordination
- Multi-area Litigation Expertise

LIVED SYSTEMS INSIGHT

Jamila brings lived experience navigating foster care, education, behavioral health, and justice systems. This perspective strengthens her ability to identify patterns of institutional harm, contextualize trauma, and articulate the real-world impact of systemic failures within legal proceedings.

PROFESSIONAL APPROACH

Jamila's work is grounded in one core principle:

If the impact is not clearly translated, it is not fully seen.

She approaches each case with a balance of clinical depth, legal awareness, and strategic clarity—ensuring that psychological harm is not minimized, misinterpreted, or left underdeveloped in litigation.

EDUCATION

Master of Social Work (In Progress; Spring 2027) — University of Washington
Focus: Administration, Policy Practice & Law

Master of Arts, Social Justice Counseling — Antioch University
Focus: Advanced Clinical & Systems Advocacy

Paralegal Certification

CREDENTIALS & DESIGNATIONS

Mental Health Professional (WA)

Child Mental Health Specialist (WA)

Certified Psycholegal Counselor (WA, CCC.CL.61314714)

Counselor Agency Affiliated License (WA, CAAL.CU.61633085)

Hypnotherapist (WA, HYPN.HP.61226561)

Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate (WA, MHCA.MC.61283316)