

CORTLAN J. WICKLIFF, PH.D., J.D.

Cortlan.Wickliff@gmail.com

Attorney / Engineer / Project Manager / Motivational Speaker / Author

Dr. Cortlan J. Wickliff, Esq. has been the youngest engineer in the nation, the youngest licensed attorney in Texas, and one of the youngest Black graduates in Harvard Law School's history. Barely in his 30s, Dr. Wickliff has brokered multimillion-dollar deals, managed statewide and national projects, and guided companies on every level. Because of this unique journey, Dr. Wickliff has become an internationally known young leader who is quickly becoming a household name. He authored a book titled *Young and Driven: Overdrive*, where he details the exercises, lessons, tools, and life experiences from his journey that have allowed him to achieve such extraordinary milestones at such a young age. Dr. Wickliff has 15+ years of experience as a motivational speaker and has delivered workshops, keynote addresses, and commencement speeches across the country. His audiences have ranged from high school & college students to young attorneys, project managers, & seasoned executives.

EDUCATION

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, Cambridge, MA
Juris Doctor, May 2013

TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY, College Station, TX
Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Engineering, Aug. 2016
Business Certificate from Mays School of Business, May 2014

RICE UNIVERSITY, Houston, TX
B.S. in Bioengineering, May 2010

LICENSES

LICENSED TEXAS ATTORNEY
Nov. 2013

**CERTIFIED COMPLIANCE &
ETHICS PROFESSIONAL**
Sept. 2022

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

RICE UNIVERSITY – <u>Associate Vice Provost of Academic Affairs & Strategic Initiatives</u>	07/18 – Present
<u>Principal Designated School Official and Responsible Officer</u>	07/23 – 05/24
<u>Independent Engineering Researcher & Elect. Eng. Teaching Assistant</u>	08/08 – 05/10
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER – <u>Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurial Law</u>	07/24 – Present
CORTLAN J. WICKLIFF HOLDINGS, LLC – <u>Owner, Lead Consultant, & Lead Counsel</u>	11/13 – Present
LORI GRAY AND ASSOCIATES – <u>Corporate Counsel</u>	03/17 – 10/18
FUJIFILM HOLDINGS AMERICA CORPORATION – <u>Legal Counsel</u>	01/15 – 09/15
KALON BIOTHERAPEUTICS, LLC (Acquired by Fujifilm) – <u>Assistant General Counsel</u>	09/13 – 01/15
TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY – <u>Teaching Assistant / Guest Lecturer</u>	08/13 – 05/16
MCKOOL SMITH L.L.P. – <u>Summer Associate</u>	07/12 – 08/12
PIRKEY BARBER L.L.P. – <u>Summer Associate</u>	05/12 – 06/12
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL CLINIC – <u>Legal Counsel</u>	08/11 – 12/12
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. – <u>Summer Associate</u>	05/11 – 06/11
R.E.A.C.H. PROGRAM – <u>Founder, Presenter & Program Coordinator</u>	07/09 – 05/13
BOSTON SCIENTIFIC – <u>Summer Engineer</u>	05/09 – 08/10
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (Univ. of South Florida) – <u>Researcher</u>	06/08 – 08/08
AUSTIN PRE-ENG. PROGRAM (Huston-Tillotson Univ.) – <u>Lead Summer Program Assistant</u>	06/06 – 08/07

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

MILLENNIAL ADVISORY BOARD OF HOUSTON	05/21 – 05/23
INDEPENDENT POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD OF HOUSTON	07/21 – 07/23
TEXAS STATE SCIENCE FAIR ADVISORY BOARD	02/22 – Present
HOUSTON LAWYERS ASSOCIATION	11/24 – Present

PRESENTATIONS / SPEECHES

Dr. Wickliff has a 15+ year track record of impactful presentations, consulting, educating, and mentorship. He has inspired youth and young professionals across the country to excel academically in some of the most prestigious universities in the world and has given them the tools to jump-start their careers. Additionally, Dr. Wickliff's business clients consistently see improvements in their efficiency, teamwork, and compliance.

COMMUNITY-BASED EVENTS

Dr. Wickliff has a history of community service and community engagement that dates back more than two decades. As part of his outreach efforts, he regularly engages with and speaks to community/educational organizations in an effort to improve the world around him. Some of these presentations have included:

- Presented at numerous universities, including Harvard Law School, Huston-Tillotson University, Lamar University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Prairie View A & M University, Rice University, St. Philip's College, Texas A & M University, Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, University of Houston, University of Houston Law Center, University of North Texas, University of Texas, and West Texas A & M
 - Presentations included – Commencement Ceremonies, Orientation/First-year-experience, Academic Success, Career planning, Black History, Engineering Forum, Intersection of Law & STEM, Intersection of Law & STEAM, and Ethics (engineering & legal)
- Presented at numerous high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools
- Presented at numerous churches, corporate, and community events
 - Presentations included – Youth Sundays/Saturdays, Laity Sundays, Men & Boys Retreats, Back to School Events, Community Outreach/Fundraiser Events, Voter Awareness Events, Voter Registration Events, Community Health Drives, Pre-College Information Sessions, Academic Success Workshops, Pre-Engineering Conferences, Fashion Shows, Black History Events, and Community Awareness Events.

HEADLINED SPEAKING TOURS

Dr. Wickliff has headlined a statewide academic tour of Texas where he spoke to youth and young adults about the steps necessary to plan your future and execute on your plans. This tour garnered significantly media attention and reached tens of thousands of students around the state. The details were as follows:

- Driven To Succeed - Tour of Texas 2019
 - 25+ Cities/Towns in Texas
 - 15+ Independent School Districts, 45+ High School, 2 Colleges, & Several Community Events
 - 50+ speeches and 5,000+ miles in 28 days

GOVERNMENT-RELATED KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

Government entities regularly ask Dr. Wickliff to speak at events pertaining to economic development, education, and civic engagement; some of these events include:

- California Black Student Union Summit
- Hurlburt Field United States Air Force Base – Special Operations Wing
- National Convention for U.S. Census Bureau
- Purvis School Commencement Ceremony – Ministry of Education Bermuda
- Texas Interns Unite Statewide Conference
- Texas State Science Fair High School Competition (2014 & 2022)
- Texas State Science Fair Junior Competition (2014 & 2022)
- Texas Workforce Commission Annual Event
- YTexas Youth Summit

KEYNOTE EDUCATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Dr. Wickliff's extensive experience mentoring and educating youth in school and young adults in the early stages of their career has made him an ideal choice to present at educational and leadership conferences. Some of his prior presentations include:

- 100% College Prep Program
- Association of Independent Schools in New England, Annual Conference
- Austin Pre-Engineering Program
- Boys and Girls Club – College Success Program
- FreshStart Pre-Engineering Conference

- Jack and Jill Civic Engagement Program
- National Society of Black Engineers Leadership Conference
- Phillip Exeter Academy
- San Francisco Steps to College Group
- Southwest Black (College) Student Leadership Conference
- Stanford & Rice University Joint Pre-College Advising Event

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES KEYNOTE PRESENTATION & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Because of Dr. Wickliff's interdisciplinary background in law, engineering, compliance, and business, he is regularly asked to present at professional conferences; some of those conferences include:

- The Association for Capital Projects Engineering & Construction Community Regional Conference
- Hype Magazine NBA All-Star Weekend Event
- Rice University Global Technology Forum
- Rice University Diversity Summit
- National Black Law Student Association Events
- National Society of Black Engineers Events
- NXP Semiconductors' Black Achievement and Leadership Team's Austin, Texas Event
- Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education Annual Conference

PRIOR PRESENTATION TOPICS

Dr. Wickliff has created and hosted numerous workshops/presentations; whenever he presents, his goal is to connect with both the audience and the theme of the event. As such, Dr. Wickliff often times customizes his messaging and presentations to the unique needs of the audience. Because he presents to audiences of all ages and backgrounds, his topics/presentations have to be comparably diverse; a list of Dr. Wickliff's prior presentations/speaking topics includes:

- Academic Success – High School, College, and Grad School
- Add Value – Using Niches to Maintain Relevance and Break Into Corporate Leadership
- Anime Lessons for Success: Applying Lessons from Popular Franchises to Achieve Goals
- Be Young And Driven: How to Make Your Dreams a Reality
- Biblical Lessons for Success: Applying the Bible to Career Advancement
- Breaking Down Knowledge Boundaries: Interdisciplinary Education for Innovative Solutions
- Bridge the Digital Divide – How Baby Boomers, Millennials, Gen X & Z Can Thrive Together
- Build on Belief – Applying Biblical Principles for Academic/Professional & Personal Success
- Build Your Team – How to Get and Maintain the Right Team of Mentors and Sponsors
- Career Advancement for Young Professionals
- Commercializing Intellectual Property in a Federally Regulated Environment (including Higher Ed)
- Communicating to Enhance Compliance: Creating an Excellence-Driven Work Culture
- Do Good for Profit's Sake: How Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Done Right Can Improve Profits
- Dr. Wickliff's Declassified Survival Guide: Tips and Tools to Thrive in Your First Year In College
- Dream, Believe, Plan, Execute, Achieve: The Foolproof Guide to Personal & Corporate Success
- Engineering, The Ultimate Undecided Major: The Wide Variety of Career Options for Engineers
- Engineering with Words: Why Technical People Make Great Lawyers
- Get Involved: How Students Can Become Politically Active
- Innovation & Commercialization in Higher Education & Non-profit Institutions
- Introduction to Non-Disclosure & IP Agreements for Engineers
- JumpStart Your Ambition – The First Steps to Starting a Business
- The Intersection of Music, Law & Science: A Survey of IP Law for Musicians
- The Intersection of STEM and Law
- Lawyers For Innovation: Using Your Legal Expertise to Spur Technological Innovation
- The Legal and Tax Pitfalls That Cause Startups to Fail

- Maximizing Your First Year College/Graduate Experience
- Putting the I in DEI: How Individuals Can Make Work Environments More Inclusive
- Re-tooling Skillsets for Emerging Industries
- The Role of Attorneys in Entrepreneurship
- The Role of Companies in Economic Development
- The Role of Government in Economic Development
- The Role of Universities in Economic Development
- Starting and Growing a Business
- STEM Professionals in the Law: How to Make Life-Saving Medical Breakthroughs in Courtrooms, Boardrooms, and Congress.

PUBLICATIONS**PRIOR INTERVIEWS**

Because of Dr. Wickliff's consistent community outreach and his numerous historic milestones, including being the youngest engineer in the nation (age 19), one of the youngest black people to ever graduate from Harvard Law School in centuries (age 22), and becoming the youngest licensed attorney in the state of Texas (age 23), Dr. Wickliff is regularly interviewed by journalists. Some of those interviews include:

- Featured in numerous publications including Boston Globe, Houston Chronicle, Austin American Statesmen, Austin Villager, the Rice Thresher, News at Harvard Law, Hype Magazine, and Education Magazine
- Interviewed on numerous shows including Fox News, NBC News, ABC News, CW News, ABC Crossroads, Roland Martin Segment, PBS, ESPN Radio Real Deal with Akil, 95.1 with Kelli O'Neil, and Tom Joyner Morning Show

PRIOR AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

- Article: The Constitutional Crisis of Government Officials Ignoring Facts in Policy Creation (2019) [Thurgood Marshall Law Review]
- Book: Young And Driven: Overdrive (Available on Amazon.com & YoungAndDriven.com)
- Book: Young And Driven
- Law School Thesis: Unconstitutionally Drafted Cocaine Related Drug Laws: Proving Legal Injustice with Scientific Analysis
- PhD Dissertation: Study of Feedback Communication in a Technical Organizational Compliance System
- Textbook/Workbook: Problem Solving and Applied Industrial Math

PREVIOUS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**LEGAL RESEARCH**

- Efficiently incorporating scientific knowledge & empirical studies into drafting legal policy/laws
- Methods for in-house counsel to maximize compliance with regulations and standard operating procedures
- Processes for and triggers of creating legal policy in organizations and governments
- Developed a contract and document management system to identify contractually required actions

TECHNICAL/BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

- Applying engineering methods to optimize engineering systems and compliance in an organization
- Developed hearing testing mechanisms for premature babies
- Modified pacemaker leads and casing to detect heart movement and diagnose neurological disorders
- Alternative fuel production – Studied cobalt catalysts for the Fischer-Tropsch Reaction
- Designed, built & tested apparatuses for equipment testing and validation in research & development facilities
- Designed, built & tested medical diagnostic devices for use in developing nations

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT & SYSTEMS ENGINEERING RESEARCH

- Factors that improve employees' responsiveness & willingness to communicate with their employer
- Methods for increasing access to employment opportunities in underserved areas
- Hiring, promotion, and training policies that promote communication within organizations