The Gift of Fear

The next book in the 2021 Alternative Reading List is The Gift of Fear, by Gavin de Becker. This book was first published in 1997 and is published by Dell Publishing.

In The Gift of Fear, the author introduces us to the problem of violent behavior, and in particular violent behavior directed by men against women, and shows us ways we can predict such behavior and protect against it. While it might be disturbing to read some of the descriptions of this behavior, it is an important topic and one none of us should take lightly. An additional benefit of this book is the way it shows lawyers how they can observe behavior and predict whether someone is telling the truth or not. This is an invaluable skill for anyone who has to deal with litigants and their attorneys, for whom disguising the truth might be to their advantage.

This book was selected by Sarah Collins, the College of Law’s Director of Student Affairs. As Director of Student Affairs, Sarah serves as the primary point of contact for College of Law students, as the liaison between the College administration and student organizations, and coordinates and oversees student services.

With a background in student-centered education, Sarah came to the College of Law from St. John Fisher College at Onondaga Community College (OCC), where she helped coordinate the Ed.D. program, recruiting and assisting students, liaising with alumni, and organizing dissertation and other critical committees. Before working for the St. John Fisher program, Sarah was Director of OCC’s Office of Student Leadership and Engagement with oversight of student leaders campus-wide, including leaders in student government and student organizations. In that capacity, she was responsible for training the Student Association Executive Committee, overseeing the Student Association By-Laws, and assisting the delivery of educational and entertainment programs for the entire student body.

Sarah began her career at OCC in student services, focused on community college student success with an emphasis on low income students and students of color. She also assisted in adjudication and due process for alleged student code and disciplinary procedures violations. She holds a B.A. in Sociology from Wells College and a J.D. from Albany Law School.

A list of focus questions designed to help you get the most out of “The Gift of Fear” is available as a separate document.