

Carlotta Lepingwell
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Professional Experience

Tulane University School of Law, New Orleans, LA June 2020 to present
Clinical Assistant Professor, Women's Prison Project; Represent intimate partner survivors in pretrial and post-conviction cases. Supervise Rule XX student attorneys in the Domestic Violence and Criminal Justice Clinics. Co-lead case rounds and assist in teaching seminars for Domestic Violence and Criminal Justice Clinics. Forensic science lecturer for Criminal Justice Clinic. Consult with trial teams representing criminalized.

Office of Capital and Forensic Writs, Austin, TX April 2017-August 2020
Deputy Director (Nov. 2019 to August 2020); Responsible for the administration and management of the office, including the creation of performance standards and an evaluation program for staff. Advise on budget issues and funding allocation. Contribute on all executive leadership decisions related to external operations. Supervise five post-conviction attorneys in all aspects of their practice. Supervise the office training coordinator in the development and execution of office training. Maintain duties as lead counsel in state capital post-conviction proceedings.

Training Director and Hearings Supervisor (April 2018-Oct. 2019); Established the first attorney and non-attorney training program. Was responsible for continued office training. Supervised attorneys in capital post-conviction practice including hearing preparation and in-court supervision. Contributed on all executive leadership decisions. Maintained duties as lead counsel on cases.

Litigation & Hearings Specialist; Lead counsel in all aspects of state capital post-conviction cases. Worked with expert witnesses in preparation for client evaluations, drafting reports, and testifying in court. Investigated and developed mitigation evidence, and prosecutorial misconduct claims. Presented mitigation evidence through lay and expert witnesses in post-conviction hearings. Litigated *Brady*, false testimony and forensic science claims.

The Bronx Defenders, Bronx, NY Jan. 2014-March 2017
Supervising Attorney and Sex Crimes Specialist (August 2016-March 2017); Supervised eight attorneys including in felony training, arraignments, in-court supervision, trial preparation, and trial supervision. Advised attorneys on pre-trial and trial litigation of sex offenses.

Staff Attorney; Practiced client-centered representation of indigent clients charged with misdemeanors and felonies in all aspects of pretrial litigation. Conducted hearings and tried cases on behalf of clients. Prepared clients and witnesses to testify before the Grand Jury. Worked closely with a team of attorneys, investigators and social workers to provide holistic defense.

Committee for Public Counsel Services, Framingham, MA Feb. 2013-Jan. 2014
Staff Attorney; Practiced client-centered representation of indigent clients charged with misdemeanors and felonies in all aspects of pre-trial litigation. Worked closely with expert witnesses in competency hearings and sentencing.

Orleans Public Defenders, New Orleans, LA August 2009-Feb. 2013
Staff Attorney; Practiced client-centered representation of indigent clients in all aspects of trial litigation in Orleans Parish Criminal Court. Conducted 100s of hearings and 12 jury trials on behalf of clients charged with indicted felonies, including armed robbery, arson, firearm possession, sex offenses and other felony charges. Worked closely with investigators and social workers.

Levy, Koziembrocki, Fishbayn and Xynnis, Toronto, Ontario August 2008-June 2009
Articling Clerk; Practicum requirement for attorney licensing process in Canada. Conducted legal research, wrote appellate briefs, represented clients in pretrial litigation and negotiations.

Lectures, Presentations and Teaching Engagements

Webinar Instructor, “Nuts and Bolts of Article 11.073 Junk Science Claims: An Overview of the Legal Landscape and Practice Tips for Litigants,” Habeas Assistance and Training project of the Administrative Office of the United States Court May 2020

Instructor, Anthony G. Amsterdam Capital Post-Conviction Skills Seminar, Habeas Assistance and Training project of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Defender Services, Durham, NC July 2019

Plenary Lecturer, “Fundamentals of Effective Direct Examination,” ND Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents Annual Training, Grand Forks, ND June 2019

Webinar Instructor, “Fundamentals of Effective Direct Examination,” and “Theories and Themes,” National Association for Public Defense (NAPD) June & Sept. 2018

Plenary Speaker, “Post-Conviction Challenges to Junk Science,” Cook County Public Defender Forensic Conference, Chicago, IL May 2018

Instructor and Plenary Lecturer, Louisiana Defender Training Institute Sept. 2014 & Feb. 2018

Education

University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, LL.B., J.D. May 2008

McGill University, Joint Honors B.A. in Political Science and Classics Oct. 2004
HONORS: Dean’s Honor List
Sir Edward Beatty Classics Scholarship (2003)
Charles Alexander Classics Scholarship (2002)

Additional Training

NAPD Executive Leadership Institute, Austin, TX Oct. 2019

NAPD Executive Leadership Institute and Train-the-Trainer, Kentucky May 2018

Defender’s Academy (The Bronx Defenders), Bronx, NY May 2014

National Criminal Defense College, Macon, GA June 2011

Southern Public Defenders Training Center (now Gideon’s Promise) August 2009

Bar Admissions: Louisiana (2009), Texas (2015) and New York (2017)

Additional Language: Italian