

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 (June 2020 to present); Represent and advocate on behalf of women whose incarceration relates to intimate partner violence or sex trafficking in pretrial and post-conviction cases. Supervise and counsel third year law students in the Domestic Violence and Criminal Justice Clinics. Co-lead case rounds and assist in teaching seminars for Domestic Violence and Criminal Justice Clinics. Consult with trial teams representing criminalized survivors. Provide training and education for criminal legal professionals.

Director of Criminal Litigation Intersession – "Boot Camp" (September 2023 to present); Direct the criminal track for the Tulane Law School's annual Intersession program, which provides intensive skills training experience in pre-trial criminal litigation.

Lecturer (Fall 2023); Developed syllabus and co-taught 3L seminar "Scientific and Expert Evidence," a simulation-based seminar where students conducted mock direct and cross-examinations of real experts.

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 (August 2016-March 2017); Supervised eight felony attorneys and provided advice on investigation, litigation strategy and trial preparation. Provided in-court-supervision in arraignments, hearings and trial.

Staff Attorney; Practiced client-centered representation of clients charged with misdemeanors and felonies in all aspects of pretrial litigation. Conducted hearings and tried multiple jury

and judge trials. Prepared clients 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 proceedings.

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 felonies, including armed robbery, arson, firearm possession and sex offenses. Worked closely with investigators and social workers.

Levy, Koziembrocki, Fishbain 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.

Selected Service, Trainings & Public Appearances

Plenary Instructor, “Investigating Intimate Partner Violence,” National Defense Investigation Association, New Orleans, LA (April 17, 2024)

Webinar Panelist, “Working with Experts to Craft Trauma-Informed Narratives for Incarcerated Survivors of Gender Based Violence”, Cornell Center for Death Penalty Worldwide and Second Look Network (April 16, 2024)

Panelist, “When the Crime is Survival: Fighting the Criminalization of Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence,” Innocence Network Conference, New Orleans, LA (March 22, 2024)

Guest Lecturer, “Forensic Evidence,” Criminal Advocacy Seminar, Tulane University (Each November 2020-2023) (taught by Katherine Mattes)

Legal Instructor, “Litigating Forensic Science in Post-Conviction,” Angola Counsel Substitute Symposium (August 10, 2023)

Guest Speaker, “Invisible Women: The Forgotten Victims of Gender-Based Violence,” Podcast on Crimes Against Women (June 5, 2023)

Panelist, “Tulane Law School’s Women’s Prison Project and the movement to decarcerate criminalized survivors of intimate partner violence in Louisiana,” Tulane University Research, Innovation, and Creativity Summit (March 3, 2023)

Guest Lecturer, “A Forensic Win at the Supremes (and bad labs), Latent Fingerprints, Cellphone Triangulation, and Bias” and “Race and Forensics” and for Scientific Evidence Seminar, Tulane University (February 6 & March 9, 2023) (taught by Janet Hoeffel)

Panelist, “Practitioner Insights from the United States,” Workshop on Successful Strategies for Improving Access to Justice for Women Who Kill Their Abusers, Academy of Social Sciences, Australia (February 13, 2023)

Panelist, “Meet the Tulane Women’s Prison Project: Telling Untold Stories of Incarcerated

Survivors,” ABA Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence Annual Conference (February 2, 2023)

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 (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
ACTIVITY: Student Attorney, Criminal Defense Clinic at Loyola Law School, New Orleans, LA

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

National Forensic College, New York, NY June 2018, 2019, 2023 & 2024
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