

**Carlotta Lepingwell**  
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Tulane Law School  
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## EDUCATION

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**University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, LL.B., J.D.** May 2008  
ACTIVITIES: Student Attorney, Criminal Defense Clinic at Loyola Law School, New Orleans (Fall 2008 semester); Orleans Public Defenders externship; South Ottawa Community Legal Services externship; student appointee to Faculty Appointments Committee

**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)

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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**Tulane University School of Law, New Orleans, LA**  
*Interim Director, Criminal Justice Clinic* January 2025-present  
Teach Criminal Advocacy Seminar and lead case rounds. Supervise third year law students in the representation of criminal defendants in pre-trial, appellate and post-conviction litigation. Engage in systemic advocacy through strategic planning, litigation, legislation and community education.

*Clinical Assistant Professor, Women's Prison Project* June 2021-present  
*Clinical Instructor, Women's Prison Project* June 2020-May 2021  
Represent intimate partner and sexual trafficking survivors in pretrial and post-conviction cases. Supervise student attorneys in the Domestic Violence and Criminal Justice Clinics. Consult with trial teams representing criminalized survivors.

*Director of Criminal Litigation Intersession* September 2023-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.

Additional Courses taught: Scientific and Expert Evidence

## ADDITIONAL LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Texas Habeas Assistance and Training Project ("Texas HAT")** June 2024 to present  
*11.073 Project Subcontractor*; Prepare litigation guide and resource materials for litigating junk science and new science claims in capital postconviction cases in Texas and the Fifth Circuit.

**Mexican Capital Legal Assistance Project** July 2021-April 2023  
*Legal Services Expert*; Worked with DNA experts to develop evidence for additional pleadings. Drafted expert affidavits and supplemental pleadings in state court. Reviewed and drafted claims for federal habeas petition.

**Office of Capital and Forensic Writs, Austin, TX** April 2017-Dec. 2020  
*Deputy Director* (Nov. 2019 to August 2020); Was responsible for the administration and management of the office, including the creation of performance standards and an evaluation program for staff. Advised on budget issues and funding allocation. Contributed on all executive

leadership decisions related to external operations. Supervised five post-conviction attorneys in all aspects of their practice. Supervised the office training coordinator in the development and execution of office training. Maintained duties as lead counsel of capital post-conviction cases.

*Training Director and Hearings Supervisor* (April 2018-Oct. 2019); Established the first attorney and non-attorney training program and was responsible for continued office training. Supervised attorneys in capital post-conviction practice including hearing preparation and in-court supervision. 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. Presented mitigation and forensic evidence through lay and expert witnesses in post-conviction hearings. Litigated complex forensic issues.

**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, holistic 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.

**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. Conducted 100s of hearings and 12 jury trials on behalf of clients charged with felonies.

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

## **SELECTED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS & TRAININGS**

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*Facilitator*, Angola Counsel Substitute Symposium, Louisiana State Penitentiary (February 13, 2025)

*Trainer/Facilitator*, Quarterly Mock Trial for the Expert Witness Project, Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV), Gretna, LA (November 22, 2024)

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

*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)

*Legal Instructor*, “Litigating Forensic Science in Post-Conviction,” Angola Counsel Substitute Symposium, Louisiana State Penitentiary (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: 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,” National Association for Public Defense (“NAPD”) (June 2018)

*Webinar Instructor*, “Theories and Themes,” NAPD (Sept. 2018)

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

*Instructor & Plenary Lecturer*, Louisiana Defender Training Institute (Sept. 2014 & Feb. 2018)

## **SERVICE**

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### **Tulane Faculty Service**

Committee Member, Career Development (2024-2025)  
Committee Member, Access to Justice Internship Program (2024)  
Committee Member, Academic Affairs (2023-2024)  
Committee Member, Admissions (2022-2023)  
Co-convenor, Workshops on Careers in Public Defense (2022-2024)

## **BAR MEMBERSHIP**

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Admitted to the bar in Louisiana (2009), Texas (2015) and New York (2017)

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING & SKILLS**

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National Forensic College (June 2018, 2019, 2023 and 2024)  
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers: BYOC Capital Defense Training (October 2024)  
CLEA New Clinicians Conference (June 2020)  
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)

Fluent in Italian