

Ashwini Velchamy

Tulane University Law School, 6329 Freret St., New Orleans, LA 70118 ♦ avelchamy@tulane.edu

Experience

Tulane Law School, Women's Prison Project

New Orleans, LA

Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor

Jan 2025 – current

- Supervised third year law students in the Domestic Violence Clinic practicing under Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XX.
- Represented incarcerated survivors of intimate partner violence in pardon hearings and post-conviction litigation.
- Assisted in running case rounds class sessions for the Domestic Violence Clinic.
- Collaborated with counsel substitutes at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women and led trainings to provide them with more resources.

Capital Appeals Project/Center for Social Justice at Loyola Law School

New Orleans, LA

Staff Attorney

July 2022 – Oct 2024

- Worked on capital cases in direct appeal, state post-conviction, and federal habeas postures as a second-chair attorney.
- Appeared in court for evidentiary hearings, oral arguments, *Montgomery* sentencing hearings, and pretrial juvenile *Miller* cases.
- Worked on writs for various public defenders as part of CAP's Writ Project.
- Prepared pardon applications for multiple capital clients during Louisiana's historic clemency push.
- Represented clients in parole and pardon hearings.
- Supervised legal fellows and interns through investigation, court appearances, and legal writing.

Legal Fellow

Aug 2020 – June 2022

- Researched and interviewed witnesses, co-defendants, and jurors for post-conviction and direct appeal cases.
- Prepped and directed witnesses and made arguments while third-chairing a capital Motion for a New Trial evidentiary hearing.
- Appeared before the Louisiana Fifth Circuit for appellate oral arguments.
- Authored pleadings in all stages of both capital and non-capital cases.

UCLA COVID-19 Behind Bars Data Project

Remote

Youth in Prison Team Coordinator

Jan 2020 – May 2020

- Managed team of volunteers in gathering COVID-19 data from juvenile detention centers across the country during the peak of the pandemic.
- Created systems to effectively sort and analyze health, education, and visitation information.
- Continued to expand the project during vaccine rollout, keeping track of state law regarding vaccinations for incarcerated youth.

Professor Bernard Harcourt, Columbia Law School

New York, NY

Research Assistant

Jan 2019 – May 2020

- Assisted with Motion for Certificate of Appealability ("COA") and Motion for Reconsideration in district court (S.D. Ala.) and circuit court (11th Cir.) on behalf of a formerly death sentenced client now serving life without parole.
- Authored sections of petition for certiorari to the United States Supreme Court as well as the reply, arguing that the circuit court improperly denied COA.

Professor Kimberle Crenshaw, Columbia Law School

Research Assistant

New York, NY

Jan 2019 – Jun 2020

- Researched and authored profiles for the African American Policy Forum's Say Her Name Report addressing deaths of Black women in custody.
- Researched legal shortcomings denying access to justice to victims of police violence.
- Assisted weekly webinars, "Under the Blacklight: The Intersectional Vulnerabilities that COVID Lays Bare," examining different aspects of the impact of COVID-19 on marginalized communities.

Education

Columbia Law School, New York, NY

Juris Doctor, May 2020

Honors: Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar (for superior academic achievement)

Public Interest Honoree

Public Interest and Government Fellowship Award (2020)

John Paul Stevens Fellow (2018)

Journal: *Human Rights Law Review*, Articles Editor

Note: "Reimagining Bail Reform: The Flaws in California's S.B. 10 and the Need to Limit Pretrial Detention"

American University, Washington, DC

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, *cum laude*, May 2017

Bachelor of Science in Economics, *cum laude*, May 2017

Honors: Upsilon Pi Epsilon (Computer Science Honors Society)

Dean's List

Professional Associations

Bar Admission: Louisiana

Other Skills

Fluent Tamil