

FRANCESCA BUZZI

Tulane University School of Law, 6329 Freret Street, New Orleans LA 70118
(504) 865-5995 fbuzzi@tulane.edu

University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), J.D.

May 2018

- Public Interest and Social Justice Certificate
- Community Participant, Restorative Justice Circles at San Quentin Prison
- Associate Editor and Mentorship Chair, *Berkeley Journal of Criminal Law*

Wesleyan University, B.A. with Honors, College of Letters & French Studies

May 2012

- *High Honors* earned on undergraduate thesis

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Clinical Assistant Professor, Tulane University School of Law

July 2026 – present

Women's Prison Project

- Supervise third-year law students in the representation of survivors of intimate partner violence at all stages of criminal defense litigation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Staff Attorney, Orleans Public Defenders

September 2018 – May 2026

- Represent indigent defendants facing life without parole in criminal cases in Orleans Parish at all stages from arrest to trial.
- Cultivate client relationships via regular jail visits to identify and achieve client goals.
- Litigate pretrial matters such as bond hearings, suppression hearings, expert witness challenges, forensic evidence litigation, motions in limine, and sentencing hearings, among other substantive issues, and taking writs to appellate courts where appropriate; appearing once before the Louisiana Fourth Circuit for oral argument.
- Lead case team of investigators, social workers, and law school or undergraduate interns.
- Supervise summer law clerks through delegation of caseload tasks, mentorship, and ongoing advice.
- Recruit, interview, and evaluate staff attorney applicants as part of the Hiring Committee.

Special Litigation Staff Attorney, Orleans Public Defenders

June 2025 – May 2026

- Write writ applications to the Louisiana Fourth Circuit and Supreme Court for staff attorneys on urgent trial matters and larger substantive issues.
- Conduct specialized research to address recurring legal issues.
- Assist staff attorneys with review of written work and preparation for substantive hearings, including oral arguments in higher courts.

Supervising Staff Attorney, Orleans Public Defenders

May 2023 – May 2025

- Mentored 5 staff attorneys in weekly or biweekly supervision meetings to address case concerns, workload management, and any other issue.
- Identified individualized areas of improvement for supervisees and tracked progress for each over time.
- Strategized case theory, litigation, and negotiation with court actors.
- Reviewed supervisees' preparation for hearings and trials, including detailed written edits.
- Sat as supervisor second chair with three attorneys during their first jury trials.

- Participated in management of the entire office to ensure support for staff.

Food & Water Watch, Researcher, Washington, D.C.

June 2013 – June 2015

- Conducted research and prepared fact-check process for written materials.
- Attended lobbying meetings with congressional offices.
- Hired and managed research interns.

CLINICAL AND INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

U.C. Berkeley Death Penalty Clinic, Clinical Student

August 2017 – May 2018

Assisted in post-conviction representation of a client on death row in an intensive one-year clinic.

Conducted investigative interviews and reviewed records and historical data for mitigation purposes.

Interviewed trial jurors to identify potential legal issues for post-conviction relief.

Alaska Public Defender Agency, Certified Intern, Palmer, AK

June 2017 – August 2018

Managed caseload of up to 30 clients at all stages of criminal defense litigation, including jury trial.

Contra Costa County Office of the Public Defender, Certified Intern

January – May 2017

Argued motions to suppress evidence in criminal court and for juvenile probation conditions.

East Bay Community Law Center Housing Clinic, Certified Intern

August – December 2016

Met with clients facing eviction, reviewed discovery, argued a motion in court, drafted motions.

Orleans Public Defenders, Law Clerk, New Orleans, LA

June – August 2016

Met with clients in jail; helped secure rehabilitative resources; reviewed discovery, researched legal questions, and drafted memoranda.

TRAININGS

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, “Defending Pregnancy-Related Prosecutions,” Austin, Texas, May 2025

National Criminal Defense College, “Trial Practice Institute,” Rhode Island, Summer 2022

Gideon’s Promise Training, Atlanta, Georgia 2018

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Louisiana Bar, 2018 – Present

SKILLS

Language Skills: French (proficient)