

FRANCESCA BUZZI

Tulane University School of Law, 6329 Freret Street, New Orleans LA 70118
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University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), J.D.
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*

May 2018

Wesleyan University, B.A. *cum laude*, College of Letters & French Studies
High Honors earned on undergraduate thesis

May 2012

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Clinical Assistant Professor, Tulane University School of Law
Women's Prison Project

July 2026 – present

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

Represented indigent defendants facing life without parole in criminal cases in Orleans Parish at all stages from arrest to trial.

Litigated 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.

Appeared before both the Louisiana Supreme Court and Fourth Circuit for oral argument.

Led case team of investigators, social workers, and law school or undergraduate interns.

Supervised summer law clerks through delegation of caseload tasks, mentorship, and ongoing advice.

Recruited, interviewed, and evaluated staff attorney applicants as part of the Hiring Committee.

Special Litigation Staff Attorney, Orleans Public Defenders

June 2025 – May 2026

Wrote writ applications to the Louisiana Fourth Circuit and Supreme Court for staff attorneys on urgent trial matters and larger substantive issues.

Conducted specialized research to address recurring legal issues.

Assisted 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 five staff attorneys in weekly or biweekly supervision meetings to address case concerns, workload management, and any other issue.

Sat as supervisor second chair with three attorneys during their first jury trials.

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.

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.

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.

SELECTED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, & TRAININGS

Guest Lecturer, “Life Cycle of a Criminal Case,” Domestic Violence Clinic Seminar, Tulane University (August 2026)

Trainer/Co-Facilitator, Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence Expert Witness Training (August 2026)

Co-Instructor, “State Experts: Law, Litigation, and Strategy,” CLE, Orleans Public Defenders (December 2025)

Co-Instructor, “Expert Testimony & Scientific Evidence Basics: *Daubert/Foret* Law & Hearings,” CLE, Orleans Public Defenders (December 2025)

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

SKILLS

Language Skills: French (conversational)