

ALISON K. GUERNSEY

University of Iowa College of Law
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

The University of Iowa College of Law, Iowa City, IA 10/2017–present
Herschel G. Langdon Professor of Trial Advocacy (7/2025–present)
Clinical Professor of Law
Clinical Associate Professor of Law (10/2017–6/2022)

Federal Criminal Defense Clinic (FCDC)

Founded, designed, and currently direct the second trial-level federal criminal defense clinic in the nation. Supervise students in the representation of indigent people charged with crimes in the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa and U.S. Courts of Appeals. Teach a seminar on federal practice, litigation, and lawyering skills.

- ***Decarceration Project***: Handle post-conviction litigation under the First Step Act of 2018 (“compassionate release,” crack-cocaine reductions, earned-time credit litigation, etc.), 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e), 28 U.S.C. § 2241, and Executive Clemency across the country (Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, and West Virginia).
- ***Voting & Citizenship Rights Restoration Clinic (VRRRC) (Fall 2018 – Summer 2020)***
Co-supervised law students in representation of over 60 individuals with prior convictions seeking to understand the voting- and citizenship-rights restoration process in Iowa. Taught a companion class focusing on the basics of brief-services representation and substantive law.

Principal Non-Clinical Courses:

- Criminal Procedure: Adjudication (annually since Fall 2020)
- Trial Advocacy (twice annually since 2018)

Other Courses:

- Federal Courts (Spring 2024, Spring 2025)
- Criminal Law (Spring 2022)
- Litigation for Decarceration (3-credit Upper-Level Writing Seminar) (Summer 2020)
- Writing for Criminal Litigation (Independent Study) (Fall 2018 – Spring 2021, Fall 2025)
- Crimmigration (Tutorial) (Fall 2019)
- Federal Appellate Litigation (Tutorial) (Spring 2024)
- Conditions of Confinement (Tutorial) (Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Fall 2026)
- Advanced Appellate Advocacy (Fall/Spring 2021–25)

PRIOR LEGAL EMPLOYMENT

Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington & Idaho

9/2010–10/2017

Supervising Attorney (11/2015–10/2017)

Trial Attorney (6/2012–11/2015)

Immigration Fellowship Attorney (9/2010–6/2012)

Supervised all aspects of attorneys' legal work in the Yakima office. Second-chaired cases with attorneys and functioned as a legal mentor. Developed performance plans for struggling attorneys. Maintained a full district-court and court-of-appeals caseload. Case types included, drug trafficking, firearms, fraud, child exploitation, serious violent/sexual crime under the Major Crimes Act (18 U.S.C. § 1153) and the Assimilative Crimes Act (18 U.S.C. § 13), and habeas-corpus petitions (28 U.S.C. §§ 2254 and 2255), among others. Represented clients before the Ninth Circuit. Litigated the district's 28 U.S.C. § 2255 petitions under *Johnson v. US*, 135 S. Ct. 2551 (2015).

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, Cleveland, Ohio

9/2009–9/2010

Term Law Clerk for The Honorable Karen Nelson Moore

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

8/2008–8/2009

Term Law Clerk for The Honorable Michael J. Melloy

EDUCATION

The University of Iowa College of Law, J.D., 2008

Editor in Chief, *Iowa Law Review*

Honors: Order of the Coif; Distinguished Student Leader (University-wide); Boyd Community Service Award (Highest Honors); UI College of Law Nominee for University-Wide Hancher-Finkbine Medallion

United States Fulbright Student Fellow, Valparaíso, Chile, 2002–2003

University of Michigan, Honors College of Literature, Arts, and Sciences, 2001

B.A. in Anthropology (Highest Distinction) and Latin American Studies

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, Cutcheon Honors Research Grant, James B. Angell Scholar, University Honors (all years), Class Honors (all years), National Dean's List, William J. Branstrom Award

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL, ACADEMIC, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

U.S. Supreme Court Fellows Program

10/2025–6/2026

Academic Advisory Board Member

Provided academic mentorship and substantive guidance to a U.S. Supreme Court Fellow during the October 2025 Term, advising on research, professional development, and engagement with the fellowship's intellectual and public-service objectives.

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

8/2023–present

Corrections Committee Member

Identify critical criminal legal issues related to corrections policy in the United States and help set NACDL's strategic direction with respect to those issues.

University of Iowa Faculty Judicial Commission

6/2023–present

Presiding Judicial Officer

Oversee the administration of the Faculty Judicial Commission, including assigning panelists to hear disputes brought under the Faculty Dispute Procedures; maintaining case files; providing reports to the Faculty Council; and consulting with the Administrative Officer and Commission on the interpretation of the Faculty Dispute Procedures. Member of the Faculty Senate (9/2023 – 12/2024). Member of the Faculty Policies and Compensation Committee (9/2024 – 5/2025)

Iowa Legal Aid Board of Directors

8/2021–present

President of Board (5/2024–5/2026)

Executive Committee Board Member (2023–present)

Help maintain ILA’s mission and goals by providing oversight of the organization’s fiscal operations, resources, policy development, program implementation, and status of operations.

Federal Practice Committee (U.S. District Court, Northern District of Iowa)

12/2020–present

Committee Member

Serve as a liaison between the Bench and Bar in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa. Work on projects related to Court operations and procedures.

Office of Professional Regulation (Iowa Supreme Court)

1/2018–present

Member of the Ad Hoc Committee of Attorney Discipline

Appointed by the Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court to review ethics complaints against Disciplinary Board members.

Child Advocacy Board (State of Iowa)

3/2020–3/2023

Board Member

Appointed by Governor Kim Reynolds as 1 of 9-member board. Help establish policies and procedures for two volunteer child-advocacy programs in Iowa: The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program and the Foster Care Review Boards (FCRB) program. Engage in other oversight as required by Iowa Code Chapter 237.

Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference

10/2016–10/2017

Lanier Representative

Selected by the judges of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington to function as a conduit between the bench and the bar concerning Local Rules, courtroom practice and procedure, and any other concerns about the administration of justice in the district.

Federal Bar Association, EDWA

10/2016–10/2017

Ex Officio Member

Help organize and plan the Federal Bar Association Annual Conference, a district-wide CLE addressing matters of concern for both the criminal and civil bars.

Criminal Justice Act Panel Mentor Program

10/2015–10/2017

Co-Coordinator and Mentor

Developed the new CJA Panel Mentorship Program for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington in conjunction with the Court. The goal of the program is to teach newer attorneys (or attorneys inexperienced with the federal criminal system) how to manage a federal criminal case from start to finish. Approved mentor for individuals admitted to the program.

AWARDS

- Recipient, UI President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence (2025-26)

- College of Law Nominee, UI President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence (2025-26)
- College of Law Nominee, UI President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence (2024-25)
- Recipient, University of Iowa Pomerantz Career Center, Career Impact Award (Faculty) (2025)
- College of Law Nominee, UI President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence (2023-24)
- Recipient, Iowa College of Law, Collegiate Teaching Award (2023-2024)
- Recipient, AALS Pro Bono Honor Roll, Iowa College of Law Submission (2024)
- *Iowa Law Review* Distinguished Alumni Award (2023)
- College of Law Nominee for the President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence (2021)
- Recipient, Iowa College of Law, Collegiate Teaching Award (2020-2021)
- Recipient, Washington Lawyers Committee, Outstanding Achievement Award for work on Compassionate Release cases under the First Step Act of 2018 (June 2020)
- Nominee, 2019 Distinguished Mentor Award, UI Center for Research by Undergraduates (Feb. 2019)
- Fellow, Opioid Ideas Lab, University of Iowa, Office of Vice President for Research (April 2018)
- Outstanding Assistant Federal Defender, National Ass'n of Federal Defenders (May 2017)

PUBLICATIONS/TESTIMONY

- *The Soapbox: A Structured Advocacy Pedagogy for the Classroom*, IOWA RESEARCH ONLINE (2026) (forthcoming)
- *Proceduralizing 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A)*, FEDERAL SENTENCING REPORTER (Univ. of Cali. Press) (June 2026) (forthcoming)
- Comment Letter on [Proposal to Amend Fed. R. Crim. P. 15](#), Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, Admin. Office of the Courts (Mar. 11, 2026) (co-authored).
- Comment Letter on [Proposed Amendments to the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, Post-Offense Rehabilitation Adjustment](#), § 3E1.2, U.S. Sentencing Commission (Feb. 10, 2026).
- [Oral Testimony](#), U.S. Sentencing Commission, Proposed Amendments to the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, Supervised Release (Mar. 13, 2025).
- Comment Letter on [Proposed 2025 Amendments to the Federal Sentencing Guidelines Published January 2025: Supervised Release](#), U.S. Sentencing Commission (Mar. 3, 2025) (requested submission).

- Invited Academic, *Supervised Release Roundtable*, U.S. Sentencing Commission (Wash. DC, Nov. 2024).
- Alison K. Guernsey & Meredith B. Esser, Comment Letter on Proposed Priorities for the Amendment Cycle Ending May 1, 2025, [*Revisiting the Sentencing Guidelines on Reductions in Sentence Extraordinary and Compelling Category, § 1B1.13\(b\)\(4\) - Victim of Assault*](#) (July 11, 2024) (requested submission).
- [*Iowans Need More Second Chances; Kim Reynolds Should Explore Clemency*](#), with Mary Cohen & Gina Hausknecht, DES MOINES REGISTER (Sept. 4, 2022)
- [*Rethinking Supervised-Release Discovery with an Eye Towards Real “Fundamental Fairness.”*](#) FEDERAL SENTENCING REPORTER (Univ. of Cali. Press (June 2022).
- Written Testimony, U.S. House Judiciary Committee, Oversight Hearing on the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 117th Cong. (Feb. 3, 2022) (requested submission)
- [*Oral and Written Testimony*](#), U.S. House Judiciary Committee, The First Step Act, The Pandemic, and Compassionate Release: What Are the Next Steps for the Federal Bureau of Prisons?, 117th Cong. (Jan. 21, 2022)
- [*Written Testimony*](#), U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Oversight Hearing on the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 117th Cong. (Apr. 15, 2021) (co-authored with Anita Aboagye-Agyeman)
- [*Bar Exam Puts Iowa Graduates in an Impossible Scenario*](#), with John Allen, Daria Fisher Page, Bram Elias, and Len Sandler, DES MOINES REGISTER (July 27, 2020)
- [*White Privilege Must be Discussed*](#), with Daria Fisher Page, THE GAZETTE (Feb. 13, 2019).
- Written Testimony, Council of the District of Columbia, Committee of the Judiciary and Public Safety, Public Hearing on B22-452, *Clemency Board Establishment Act of 2017* (Nov. 1, 2017) (co-authored with Amber Baylor, Daria Fisher Page & Jason Hernandez)
- *Death Penalty Litigation in the U.S. District for the Northern District of Ohio*, in A HISTORY OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO (Finkelman & Alexander, eds.) (2011)
- *The World Bank’s Inspection Panel: Promoting True Accountability Through Arbitration*, 41 CORNELL INT’L L.J. 577(2008) (co-author with Enrique Carrasco)
- *Waiting for the Other Shoe to Drop: Will State Courts Follow Leegin?* 27 FRANCHISE L. J. 173 (2008) (co-author with Richard Duncan)
- Note, *Double Denial: How Both the DOL and Organized Labor Fail Domestic Agricultural Workers in the Face of H-2A*, 93 IOWA L. REV. 277 (2007)
- *Working Together to Increase Immigrant Women’s Access to Reproductive Health Care*, Report of the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society and Family Planning Advocates (2004) (co-editor)

PRESENTATIONS/PANELS

- *Witness Prep versus Coaching: Tips to Ethically Prepare*, Iowa Defense Counsel Ass'n (Des Moines, Iowa) (Sept. 11, 2026)
- *The Ethics of Vouching: Rules Governing Comments on Evidence Credibility*, Western All-Star Conference, Federal Defender Services of Idaho (Boise, Idaho) (Sept. 3, 2026).
- *Witness Prep versus Coaching: Tips to Ethically Prepare*, Western All-Star Conference, Federal Defender Services of Idaho (Boise, Idaho) (Sept. 4, 2026)
- *Reducing Federal Criminal Sentences for Survivors of Sexual Abuse*, 2027 National Sexual Assault Conference (August 20, 2026) (co-presenter with Shanna Rifkin, FAMM)
- *Second Looks for Supervised Release*, The Sentencing Project, Second Look Network Convening (Baltimore, Maryland) (Aug. 18, 2026) (co-presenter with Kelly Barrett, SRC).
- *Investigations in Supervised Release: Nuts and Bolts and Challenging Default Practices*, U.S. Admin. Office of the Courts, Annual Federal Defender Investigator and Paralegal Seminar (California) (Aug 5, 2026).
- *Witness Prep versus Coaching: Tips to Ethically Prepare*, Alaska Ass'n of Criminal Defense Lawyers All Star Conference (Anchorage, AK) (July 16, 2026).
- *Alaska Ethics Roundup*, Alaska Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers All Star Conference (Anchorage, AK) (July 17, 2026).
- *The Ethics of Vouching: Rules Governing Comments on Evidence Credibility*, Grand Rapids (MI) Bar Ass'n, Criminal CLE (Virtual) (May 29, 2026).
- *Watch What You Say: Witness Prep, Court Candor, and Negotiation*, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, Third Annual Criminal Law Conference (April 17, 2026) (Richland, WA).
- *The Ethics of Vouching: Rules Governing Comments on Evidence Credibility*, Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers, (Des Moines, IA) (Feb. 27, 2026).
- *The Ethics of Vouching: Rules Governing Comments on Evidence Credibility*, Office of Defender Servs., Admin. Office of the Courts (Houston, TX) (Feb. 6, 2026).
- *How Academic Institutions and Law Clinics Support Second Look*, FAMM Second Chances Working Group (Minneapolis, MN) (Nov. 18, 2025).
- *Second Look Sentencing Practices and Practicalities*, Stanford Law School, The Ohio State University, and the Federal Sentencing Reporter (Stanford, CA) (Nov. 7, 2025).
- *Primer on the Upcoming U.S. Sentencing Guideline Amendments*, Federal Criminal Law Seminar, Federal Public Defender & U.S. Attorney's Offices— SDIA & NDIA (Cedar Rapids, IA) (June 24, 2025).
- *New Supervised Release Amendments: What, Why, and How*, Federal Criminal Law Seminar, Federal Public Defender & U.S. Attorney's Offices— SDIA & NDIA (Cedar Rapids, IA) (June 24, 2025).

- *Achieving Justice Through Poverty Law*, Iowa College of Law (Apr. 4, 2025).
- *Aggressive and Successful Supervised-Release Litigation*, Federal Defender Fellowship Program, Office of Defender Services (March 2025).
- *Ethics in the Practice of Criminal Law*, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, Third Annual Criminal Law Conference (March 7, 2025) (Richland, WA).
- *Pardons and Commutations*, American Constitution Society (Iowa City, IA) (Feb. 26, 2025).
- *Introduction to Supervised Release: Nuts and Bolts of Supervised Release and Challenging Default Practices*, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California Federal Public Defender and Criminal Justice Act Seminar (San Francisco, CA) (Feb 6, 2025).
- *How to Get Discovery and Win Revocation Hearings*, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California Federal Public Defender Seminar (San Francisco, CA) (Feb 6, 2025).
- *Trial Skills Workshop: Bail Boot Camp*, Admin. Office of the U.S. Courts, Office of Defender Services (Atlanta, GA) (Jan. 22-25, 2025) (training faculty).
- *Incarceration Among the Elderly (or, How to Decarcerate the Elderly)*, Oaknoll Retirement Residence (Iowa City, IA) (Sept. 26, 2024).
- *Advanced Sentencing Topics*, Federal Defenders of Iowa Federal Sentencing Seminar (Cedar Rapids, IA) (June 25, 2024) (co-panelist)
- *Incarceration Among the Elderly*, UI Retirees Ass'n (Apr. 24, 2024) (Iowa City, IA)
- *Second Looks for Second Chances: State and Federal Mechanisms for Decarceration*, UI Center for Human Rights (May 8, 2024) (Iowa City, IA) (moderator)
- *Debatable: Sentencing Issues & Ethics*, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, Third Annual Criminal Law Conference (March 21, 2024) (Richland, WA) (invited presentation by the Honorable Salvador Mendoza, Jr., U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit)
- *Collaborative Defense: What's Next for America's Public Defenders*, UI College of Law (Feb. 19, 2024) (Iowa City, IA) (co-panelist)
- *In the Shadow of Atticus: A Panel on Wrongful Convictions and Other Second Look Mechanisms*, Hancher Auditorium and Journal of Gender Race & Justice (Jan. 17, 2024) (co-panelist)
- [Earned Time Credits and PATTERN for Defense Attorneys](#), National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (Dec. 18, 2023)
- *Defending Our Neighbors: Principles from Just Mercy in Practice*, Indianola High School, 10th Grade Assembly (Nov. 8, 2023)

- *I Hear That Train A-Coming: The Rise of ‘Second Look’ Sentencing Advocacy and the Opportunities it Presents for Cutting Edge Clinical Pedagogy*, Midwest Clinical Conference (Oct. 20, 2023) (Minneapolis, MN) (co-panelist)
- *JustUS Documentary Screening and Talkback*, Federal Criminal Defense Clinic and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine (Oct. 11, 2023) (moderator)
- *Considerations and Challenges in Litigating Federal Reduction in Sentence Motions Under the New “Unusually Long Sentences” Provision*, The Sentencing Project | Second Look Network Conference (Sept. 29, 2023) (Washington, D.C.) (co-panelist)
- *The Ethics of Vouching: A General Overview of the Rules Governing Comments on Evidence Credibility*, Alaska Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers All Star Conference (Anchorage, AK) (Sept. 21, 2023)
- *Trial Investigation Ethics: The Fallacy of Witness “Ownership,”* Alaska Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers All Star Conference (Anchorage, AK) (Sept. 22, 2023)
- *Supreme Court Preview*, American Constitution Society (Iowa City, IA) (Sept. 7, 2023) (co-panelist)
- *Prosecuting and Defending Criminal Cases in “Indian Country,”* Iowa Law Federal Criminal Defense Clinic (Sept. 5, 2023) (Iowa City, IA) (moderated a panel).
- *Creative, Multimedia Advocacy in Clinical Legal Education*, Clinical AALS Annual Conference (Apr. 30, 2023) (San Francisco, CA) (co-panelist).
- *Collaborating with Experts Outside the Law School: The Fight Against Mass Incarceration One Client at a Time*, Clinical AALS Annual Conference (Apr. 29, 2023) (San Francisco, CA) (co-panelist)
- *Trial Investigation Ethics: The Fallacy of Witness “Ownership” and the Boundaries of Social Sleuthing*, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, Second Annual Criminal Law Conference (Mar. 11, 2023) (Richland, WA)
- *Public Defender – Understanding the Practice*, University of Iowa College of Law (Mar. 6, 2023) (Iowa City, IA) (moderator)
- *Trial Skills Workshop: Bail Bootcamp*, Admin. Office of the U.S. Courts, Office of Defender Services (Houston, TX) (January 25-28, 2023) (training faculty)
- *The First Step, Post-Film Talkback*, FilmScene, Iowa City (June 29, 2022) (moderated panel with law students in response to producer Lance Kramer’s film, *The First Step*).
- *Supervised Release Litigation: Selected “Hot Topics,”* Federal Defenders for the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa (June 9, 2022) (co-presenter with Nova Janssen)
- *Pregaming the Appeal: An Ethics Overview*, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, First Annual Criminal Law Conference (Mar. 11, 2022) (Richland, WA) (co-panelist with the Honorable Johnnie B. Rawlinson, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the Honorable Rebecca Pennell, Chief Judge of the Washington State Court of Appeals, Third Division).

- *Vouching*, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, First Annual Criminal Law Conference (Mar. 11, 2022) (Richland, WA) (co-panelist with Allison Gregoire, Deputy Criminal Chief, U.S. Attorneys' Office for the Eastern District of Washington)
- *Ineffective Assistance of Counsel and the Ethical Intersection Some Considerations from Preindictment to Postconviction*, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, First Annual Criminal Law Seminar (Mar. 11, 2022) (Richland, WA).
- *Medical Compassionate Release: What's Working, and What's Not*, University of Chicago Law School, Second Chances Symposium (Feb. 17, 2022) (co-presenter)
- *Progressive Prosecution: A Response to Akbi Johnson's "Racial Disparities & Prosecution"*, Iowa Justice Action Network, Iowa (Sept. 9, 2021)
- *The Ethics of Self-Interest: How to Defend Yourself While Always Defending Your Client*, Federal Defenders for the District of Nevada (Aug. 25, 2021)
- *Incorporating Compassionate Release Advocacy in the Law School Curriculum*, AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education (Apr. 28, 2021) (co-presenter)
- *Renewing a Human Rights Agenda: The Criminal Legal System*, University of Iowa Center for Human Rights (Mar. 24, 2021) (co-panelist).
- *Offensive Use of Evidence: Rules 403, 404, and 405*, Administrative Office of the Courts, Office of Defender Services (Mar. 12, 2021)
- *Exploring Holistic Defense*, Federal Defenders for Districts of Iowa (Nov. 10, 2020)
- *Aggressive and Ethical Appellate Practice*, Federal Defenders for Districts of Iowa (Sept. 29, 2020)
- *Categorical and Modified Categorical Approach*, Iowa Ass'n of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Des Moines, IA (Nov. 7, 2019).
- [*Felon Disenfranchisement in Iowa: An Overview and Vision for a Better Future*](#), Inside Out Reentry Community, Iowa City, IA (Oct. 17, 2019).
- *Criminalizing Voting Rights*, American Constitution Society, Iowa City, IA (Oct. 2, 2019) (co-panelist).
- *Ethics of Negotiation in Banking*, MidwestOne Bank Spring CLE, Iowa City, IA (June 20, 2019).
- *Prosecutorial Vouching: What Is It and What Are Your Ethical Obligations Once You Spot It?* Federal Defenders of Iowa, Cedar Rapids, IA (June 6, 2019).
- *Juvenile Justice and Sentencing: WIP Discussant*, AALS Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education, San Francisco, CA (May 7, 2019).

- *Federal Criminal Practice: An Overview*, Iowa Paralegal Association Spring Seminar, Cedar Rapids, IA (Apr. 19, 2019).
- *Ethics of Negotiation*, UI College of Law Reunion Ethics CLE, Iowa City, IA (Oct. 2018)
- *Using “Why-Storming” to Navigate Clinical Transitions*, Midwest Clinical Conference, AALS Section on Clinical Education, University of Kansas School of Law (Oct. 14, 2017) (co-presenter)
- Washington State Court of Appeals, Division III, Presentation to the Court’s judges: *Your Court’s Impact on Federal Sentencing and Immigration Outcomes: A Primer*, Spokane, WA, April 2017
- Heritage University, Panelist, *Civic Leadership on Campus, in the Community, and in your Career: Perspectives from Women in the Legal Profession*, Toppenish, WA, April 2017. (Co-panelists: the Honorable Mary K. Dimke, E.D. of Washington; the Honorable Rebecca L. Pennell, Washington Court of Appeals; and the Honorable Candice Hooper, Kittitas County Superior Court).
- Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Presentation: *Digital Evidence and the Courtroom: How to Use Technology to Be a More Persuasive Advocate*, Pasco, WA, March 2017
- Educational Service District 105, Presentation: *Know Your Rights: Noncitizens and the Criminal Justice System*, Yakima, WA, March 2017.
- Federal Bar Association, Eastern District of Washington Annual Conference, Panelist, *Litigating the Jury Service and Selection Act: Division B’s Sixth Amendment Problem*, Yakima, WA, September 2016 (Co-panelists included: the Honorable Stanley Bastian, E.D. of Washington and the Honorable Mary Yu, Washington State Supreme Court. Moderated by the Honorable Mark W. Bennett, N.D. of Iowa).
- Washington State Bar Association, Presentation: *Paperless Is the New Black*, Seattle, WA, June 2016 (co-presenter Jay McEntire).
- Gonzaga Law School, Guest Lecturer for Adjunct Professor Jay McEntire’s Trial Advocacy Course, *Pretrial Motions Practice*, Spokane, WA, April 2016.
- Washington State Minority and Justice Commission, 12th Annual Tri-Cities Youth and Justice Forum, Facilitated breakout session on the criminal implications of cyber bullying, Pasco, WA, November 2014
- Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Annual Conference, Presentation: *Paperless Practice*, Lake Chelan, WA, June 2014 (co-presenter Jay McEntire)
- Federal Judicial Center, Recruited by the Honorable Rosanna Malouf Peterson to help develop training videos on sentencing for new federal district-court judges, Spokane, WA, Spring 2014

- Gonzaga Law School, Guest Lecturer for Professor Brooks Holland's Trial Advocacy Course, *Trying a Paperfree Trial*, Spokane, WA, Spring 2014
- Washington State Minority and Justice Commission, 11th Annual Tri-Cities Youth and Justice Forum, Facilitated breakout session on the criminal implications of bullying, Pasco, WA, November 2013
- Federal Bar Association, Eastern District of Washington Annual Conference, Presentation: *Paperfree Is the New Black*, Spokane WA, September 2013 (co-presenter Jay McEntire)
- Washington State Bar Association, Capital Case Litigation Training, Presentation: *Paperfree Is the New Black*, Spokane, WA, August 2013 (co-presenter Jay McEntire)
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, 7th Annual Federal Civil Trial Practice Seminar, *Trying a Paperfree Trial*, Richland, WA, May 2013 (co-presenter Jay McEntire)
- Albany Law School, Criminal Law Guest Lecture, *Criminal Law in Practice*, Albany, NY, February 2013.
- Criminal Justice Act Panel Presentations, Eastern District of Washington (Spokane and Yakima):
 - *Using and Challenging the 2016 Amendments to the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines* (2017)
 - *Challenging Supervised Release Conditions* (2016)
 - *Research and Writing Tips* (2015)
 - *Challenging Eyewitness Identifications* (2013)
 - *Concurrent and Consecutive Sentencing in Federal Court* (2011)
 - *Using and Challenging the 2011 Amendments to the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines* (2011)
 - *Aggressive Defense Tactics in Illegal-Reentry Cases* (2011)
- Federal Defender of Eastern Washington & Idaho, Nuts and Bolts Seminars for CJA Practitioners
 - *Pretrial Motions Practice: A Primer* (2016)
 - *Calculating Offense Levels Under the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines* (2014)
 - *Violent Felonies, Crimes of Violence, and Aggravated Felonies* (2012)

AMICUS BRIEFS

- *United States v. Bowers*, 23-902 (9th Cir.) (signatory)
- *United States v. Carpenter*, 23-3295 (7th Cir.) (signatory)
- [*Carpenter v. United States*](#), 24-5594 (S. Ct.) (signatory)
- [*Esteras v. United States*](#), 23-7483 (S. Ct.) (signatory)
- [*Rutherford v. United States*](#), No. 24-820 (S. Ct.) (signatory)
- [*Carter v. United States*](#), No. 24-860 (S. Ct. Mar. 4, 2025) (signatory)
- *United States v. Maiorana*, No. 22-1115 (2d Cir. May 19, 2025) (drafter)
- *Sayers v. Thompson*, No. 25-1475 (8th Cir. June 16, 2025) (signatory)

EXPERT TESTIMONY/CASE DECLARATIONS

- *US v. Dion Walker*, No. 05-CR-0070 and Clemency Case C285520
- *Crowe v. Fed. Bureau of Prisons*, No. 1:24-cv-03582-APM (D.D.C. 2025)

- *Wash. Lawyers' Committee v. Dept. of Justice*, 1:23-cv-01328-BAH (D.D.C. 2023)

MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND MENTIONS

- Todd Magel, [*Ex-Des Moines superintendent admits lying about citizenship, gun charges. What's next?*](#) KCCI Des Moines Channel 8 (Jan. 22, 2026) (discussing the former Des Moines School Superintendent Ian Roberts's plea agreement and next steps in the federal criminal process).
- Sam Levin, [*Survivors of Prison Sexual Abuse Scandal Ask Biden for Clemency: 'Give us a chance'*](#), The Guardian (Dec. 18, 2024) (quoted about what Pres. Biden can do with respect to his clemency power and people who were abused at FCI Dublin).
- C.J. Ciaramella, [*The Bureau of Prisons' Casual Cruelty to Families of Those Who Die Behind Bars*](#), Reason (Nov. 19, 2024) (discussing my research on deaths in BOP custody)
- Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg, [*Incarcerated Protestors Say Federal Prisons Refuse to Release People on Time*](#), The Appeal (Sep. 30, 2024) (discussing the BOP's failure to properly implement the earned time credit program under the First Step Act).
- C.J. Ciaramella, [*Advocates Say the Justice Department Is Failing to Provide Relief to Women Who Were Abused in Prison*](#), Reason (Jun 10, 2024) (profiling one of the Federal Criminal Defense Clinic's cases)
- Zachary Oren Smith, [*"I Think That Means Something?": A Protestor's Acquittal, What it Changes and What it Doesn't*](#), Iowa Public Radio (Mar. 15, 2024) (discussing the impact of Tara McGovern's acquittal and the legal verses social impact of jury-trial outcomes).
- Tirzah Christopher, [*There Is Little Scrutiny of "Natural" Deaths Behind Bars*](#), NPR Morning Edition (Jan. 2, 2024) (discussing one of the Clinic's cases and the difficulties of getting the Bureau of Prisons to respond).
- [*Another Supreme Court Decision Stopping Innocent People from Getting Their Day in Court*](#), Public Defenseless Podcast (Nov. 16, 2023) (discussing *Jones v. Hendrix* and changes to federal sentencing Guidelines related to reduction in sentence motions).
- Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg, [*SCOTUS Conviction Ruling Already Harming Innocent People, Lawyers Say*](#), The Appeal (July 20, 2023) (profiling one of the client's clients and the impact of *Jones v. Hendrix*).
- Catherine Wheeler, [*UI Criminal Defense Clinic Director Says Jones v. Hendrix Ruling 'Values Efficiency Over Accuracy'*](#), Iowa Public Radio (June 27, 2023) (discussing the impact of the opinion).
- Nicholas Florko, [*Worse Than We Thought': New Data Reveals Deeper Problems with the Bureau of Prisons' Covid Response*](#), Stat News (May 23, 2023) (commenting what newly revealed data reveals about the Bureau of Prisons' actions during the pandemic).
- Catherine Wheeler, [*Iowa Ranks 50th on Report Ranking States' Compassionate Release Programs*](#), Iowa Public Radio (Nov. 1, 2022) (commenting on Iowa's failing grade related to compassionate release).

- Catherine Wheeler, [*Advocates Worry that New Prison Mail Regulations Could Isolate Iowa Inmates*](#), Iowa Public Radio (Oct. 14, 2022) (commenting on the new Iowa prison-mail scanning policies).
- Catherine Wheeler, [*Advocates are raising concerns about the Iowa Department of Corrections' new mail system*](#), Iowa Public Radio (Sept. 19, 2022) (commenting on the new Iowa prison-mail scanning policies).
- Conrad Wilson, [*Former Head of Oregon Prisons Now Leads Nation's Prisons*](#), Oregon Public Broadcasting (Aug. 2, 2022) (discussing the challenges that the new head will face).
- Nicholas Florko, [*'Too Little Too Late': Unpacking Biden's Moves to Improve Federal Prisons' Response to COVID-19*](#), Stat News (June 3, 2022) (providing commentary on the new Executive Order related to COVID data collection, testing, and decarceration initiatives).
- Meg Anderson, [*As COVID Spread in Federal Prisons, Many At-Risk Inmates Tried and Failed to Get Out*](#), NPR, All Things Considered (Mar. 7, 2022) (discussing the Clinic's work)
- LJ Dawson, [*Inmates Who Died Asked for Release Before Falling Ill with Covid*](#), Kaiser Health News (Feb. 18, 2022) (discussing the Clinic's data collection and testimony before US House)
- LJ Dawson, [*Covid-19 Rips Through West Virginia's Women's Prison as Federal Agency Takes Heat*](#), CNN (Feb. 18, 2022) (discussing the Clinic's data collection and testimony before US House).
- Nicholas Florko, [*Despite Biden's big promises and a far better understanding of the virus, Covid-19 is still raging through the nation's prisons*](#), STAT (Boston Globe) (Feb. 2, 2022) (discussing the Clinic's BOP data-tracking project)
- Casey Tolan, [*A 90-Year Old Was Serving Life for a Serious Illness. Now He's Going Home*](#), CNN (Dec. 16, 2021) (discussing the Court's compassionate release order)
- Kate Payne, [*An 88-Year Old Iowan Has Served 52 Years on a Life Sentence. Should that Be Enough?*](#) Iowa Public Radio (Dec. 17, 2021) (discussing the need for executive clemency)
- Casey Tolan, [*Compassionate Release Became a Life-or-Death Lottery for Thousands of Federal Inmates During the Pandemic*](#), CNN (Sept. 30, 2021) (citing the Clinic's compassionate-release research).
- William Morris, [*Doug Jensen Seeks to Dismiss Felony Charge for 'Obstructing, Influencing, or Impeding Congress during Capitol Riot,'*](#) DES MOINES REGISTER (Sept. 27, 2021) (discussing one of the Capital Riot defendant's motion to dismiss)
- John Yang & Mike Fritz, [*Inmates Released to Home Confinement During Pandemic Fear "Devastating" Reincarceration*](#) PBS NEWSHOUR (Sept. 21, 2021) (discussing of the Clinic's work on CARES Act home confinement cases)
- Tom Dreisbach, [*John Pierce Represents More Capital Riot Defendants Than Anyone. Should He?*](#), NPR: ALL THINGS CONSIDERED (Sept. 8, 2021) (discussing ethical rules surrounding multiple representations)

- Keri Blakinger & Joseph Neff, [*'They Let People Die.': US Prisons Bureau Denied Tens of Thousands Compassionate Release During COVID*](#), THE GUARDIAN/MARSHALL PROJECT (June 11, 2021) (discussion of trends in compassionate release dispositions)
- ABC LOCAL CHANNEL 5, [*University of Iowa Law Professor on Why Defendants Testify in Criminal Trials*](#) (May 26, 2021) (interview discussing the right to testify)
- Keegan Hamilton, [*Prisoners Keep Dying of COVID While 'Compassionate Releases' Stall in Court*](#), VICE NEWS (Mar. 18, 2021) (discussing Clinic's compassionate-release data and visual advocacy projects).
- Miles Pope, *What We Have Wrought: Compassionate Release in the Time of Our Plague*, THE ADVOCATE 64:2 (Feb. 2021) (discussing the Clinic's compassionate-release visual advocacy project).
- WFHB Community Radio, KITE LINE PODCAST, [*Compassionate Release: Part 1*](#) (Dec. 18, 2020) and [*Compassionate Release: Part 2*](#) (Dec. 25, 2020) (interview discussing the compassionate release statute and barriers to sentence reductions during the pandemic)
- Robin Opsahl, [*Action Urged Now on Felons' Rights*](#), DES MOINES REGISTER (Aug. 1, 2020) (discussing VRRC work)
- Jason Clayworth, [*Iowa could soon be alone in the nation with felon voting ban — and become a bigger target for ban's opponents*](#), DES MOINES REGISTER (Nov. 26, 2019) (discussing VRRC work)
- Taylor Vessel, [*Bill Passes House Allowing Felons to Vote*](#), KWWL NEWS (Mar. 31, 2019) (interviewing student and video of VRRC Waterloo)
- Stephen Gruber-Miller, [*Here's How Kim Reynolds Is Making it Easier for Former Felons to Regain the Right to Vote*](#), DES MOINES REGISTER (Mar. 12, 2019) (describing work of the VRRC and quoting students)
- Rylee Wilson, [*UI Legal Clinic Helps Felons Apply to Reinstate Their Voting Rights*](#), THE DAILY IOWAN (Feb. 18, 2019) (describing work of the VRRC and quoting students)
- Jason Clayworth, [*Dozen of Felons Have Been Caught Illegally Voting in Iowa*](#), DES MOINES REGISTER (Jan. 20, 2019) (quotes concerning the confusing state of voting-rights laws in Iowa)
- Monte Reel, [*Two Towns Forged an Unlikely Bond; Now, ICE Is Severing the Connection*](#), BLOOMBERG BUSINESS WEEK (Dec. 27, 2018) (discussing the work of the FCDC in a particular case)
- Josie Fischels, [*New Law Clinics Provide a Hands-On Learning Experience for Students*](#), THE DAILY IOWAN (Oct. 29, 2018) (describing work of the FCDC generally).
- Lee Hermiston, [*College of Law Clinics Teach Students About Transactional Law, Federal Defense*](#), IOWA NOW (Oct. 1, 2018) (describing work of the FCDC generally).
- Alma Gaul, [*Another Immigration Raid Defendant Deported*](#), THE GAZETTE (July 9, 2018) (describing case in which FCDC is involved and quoting students).

- Alma Gaul, [*2 Men in ICE Custody Fail to Appear in Court*](#), QUAD-CITY TIMES (June 27, 2018) (describing case in which FCDC is involved and quoting students).

BAR ADMISSIONS

State of Iowa (2017)
 State of New York (2009)
 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit (2008)
 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (2009)
 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (2011)
 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (2022)
 U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington (2010-2017)
 U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho (2010-2017)
 U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa (2018)
 U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa (2018)
 U.S. Supreme Court (2019)

LANGUAGES

Spanish (fluent)
 Certified ESL Teacher (Feb. 2002)