

Jacquelyn "Jacquie" Esser

Experience

Office of the Public Defender State of Hawai'i, Honolulu

Deputy Public Defender, April 2010 to Current

48 jury trials and approximately 75 judge trials in the District, Family, and Circuit Courts, 5 appellate briefs, 1 oral argument before the Supreme Court of Hawai'i, strong written and verbal communication skills, ability to interact with people from all backgrounds, perform well under pressure, and handle a large case load. Spearheaded reentry efforts for clients released from our correctional and community centers and linking them with services.

Hawai'i Innocence Project, Honolulu

Volunteer Attorney – October 2020 to present

Currently supervise and lead team of law students to screen claims of innocence, conduct further investigations and file motions.

Circuit Court of the First Circuit, Honolulu

Judicial Clerkship - The Hon. Michael D. Wilson, August 2009 to April 2009

Assisted the judge in the orderly conduct of the court's calendar; Legal research and writing; Prepared memorandum; Reviewed legal documents; Prepared court orders.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i, Honolulu

Legal Externship, Spring 2009

Legal research; Prepared Memoranda.

United States District Court – District of Hawai'i, Honolulu

Judicial Externship – The Honorable David Alan Ezra, Fall 2008

Drafted court orders and bench memoranda; Sentencing reports; Observed trials.

Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Honolulu

Legal Internship, Summer 2008

Researched and drafted memorandums and motions to the court; Interviewed witnesses; Prepared cases for trial; Drafted witness examination questions; Second chaired deputies.

Superior Court of Arizona, Maricopa County, Phoenix

Judicial Clerkship – The Hon. Douglas Rayes, Summer 2007

Observed jury trials; Motions to the court; and Settlement conferences; Performed legal research; Drafted rulings and jury instructions.

Education

William S. Richardson School of Law, Honolulu

J.D.

Research assistant to Professor Jon Van Dyke; Hawai'i Women Lawyers, Student Representative; American Inns of Court; Environmental Law Society; Excellence for the Future Award in the study of Environmental Litigation; Excellence of the Future Award in Criminal Procedure; Public Interest Environmental Law Conference.

University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu

B.B.A. Management

**Volunteer Work
in 2020**

Panelist on the 2020 Statewide Homeless Awareness Virtual Conference;
Presentation to the Micronesian Ministers: Understanding the citation process and know your rights;
Panelist for the Public Health Action Webinar: Jails, Justice, and the Challenges of COVID-19;
Panelist for Webinar: A Human Rights Crisis: COVID Behind Bars;
Panelist for Hawai'i Harm Reduction, "De-Escalating Hawai'i's Drug War: Defelonization, Decriminalization, Police Reform & Beyond, Sept. 2020;
Drafted criminal justice reform bills for legislative session;
Hawai'i Women Lawyer Director, Immediate Past President;
Hawai'i Women Legal Foundation, Director;
Jubilee luncheon for criminal justice reform, March 2020;
Sunset Rotary Waikiki: Presentation on criminal justice and the role of the prosecutor, February 2020;
Emergency Reentry Project – collaborated and coordinated

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with stakeholders and community organizers to assist with emergency reentry efforts due to COVID-19;
Hawai'i Foodbank;
Fishpond restoration work with Hui Aloha 'Aina o Ka Lei Maile Ali'i (KLMA), July 2020;
Law school guest speaker for Professor Levinson, Sept. 2020;
UH Criminal Justice Seminar – guest speaker, Sept. 2020;
Hawai'i Health Harm Reduction Foodbank volunteer
Jubilee Anti-Racism Training, Sep. 5-7, 2020;
Access to Justice – volunteered to provide legal advice pro bono for people who could not afford an attorney, January 2020

Membership

ABA Criminal Justice Section
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
Hawai'i Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Hawai'i Women Legal Foundation
Hawai'i Women Lawyers
Japanese American Citizen League Member
National Criminal Justice Association