

Experience

Federal Public Defender, District of Hawai'i, Honolulu

Assistant Federal Defender, July 2021 to Current

Extensive experience: 1) providing zealous, professional legal representation to people charged with federal criminal offenses; 2) preparing motions and briefs for consideration in federal magistrate, district, and appellate courts; 3) advocating for clients before magistrate and district court in oral argument; 4) analyzing legal decisions, opinions, rulings, memoranda and related legal materials; 5) assessing cases for probable outcomes by researching current federal, state and other legal authority; 6) explaining available courses of action and possible repercussions of cases to clients; 7) conducting voir dire and presenting evidence and exhibits during federal trials; 8) negotiating with Assistant United States Attorneys.

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

Deputy Public Defender, April 2010 to July 2021

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 July 2021

Supervised and led team of law students to screen claims, conduct further investigations and draft post-conviction relief 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; Assisted in investigating and drafting civil complaints.

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

Judicial Externship – The Honorable David Alan Ezra, Fall 2008

Drafted court orders and bench memoranda.

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., May 2009

Research assistant to Professor Jon Van Dyke; Awarded Cali Center Excellence for the Future Award in the study of Environmental Litigation and in Criminal Procedure; Awarded Grant to Attend the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference; Member of the Environmental Law Society; Member of the Hawai'i Women Lawyers Association; American Inns of Court Pupil.

University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu

B.B.A. Management, May 2004

Affiliations

Member, Hawai'i State Bar Association

Admitted to practice in the District of Hawai'i

Admitted to practice in the Eastern District of Oklahoma

Admitted to practice in the U.S. Court of Appeals – Ninth Circuit

President – Hawai'i Women Legal Foundation

Past President – Hawai'i Women Lawyers

Board of Director – O'ahu Area Service Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse