

**Jennifer Marie Merkle, Esq.**

**SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS**

- Coordinated Agency response to complex class action litigation in both the employment law context before the EEOC and in Federal Court in two conditions of confinement cases.
- Served as a criminal and civil Special Assistant United States Attorney in multiple districts representing the United States’ interests and performing legal analysis on complex legal issues.
- Possess expertise developed through 20+ years of hands-on field experience while working with offenders in Federal prisons.
- Comprehensive trial, hearing, and motions experience, including class action practice.
- Consistent provision of well-written, detailed and legally sound litigation reports and draft memoranda.
- Reputation for providing superior support and guidance to U.S. Attorney’s Office in civil and criminal matters and providing assistance to the defense bar.
- Proven experience providing well-reasoned legal advice to executive staff, department heads, line staff and others through teaching BOP training courses, outreach activities with the public, and teaching college and masters level criminal justice related courses.
- Supervising and assisting with the supervision of support staff through assigning litigation duties, coordinating office responses, reviewing work product, and providing feedback.

**SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Hosted a Roundtable on issues facing Honolulu’s Chinatown-Downtown Neighborhood, bring together law enforcement, politicians, community members and students.
- Received letter of praise from lead defense counsel on capital murder case for years of coordination of witnesses, document production, and access issues.
- Successfully represented the Bureau in a high-profile multiple defendant prosecutions in terrorism trial relating to unconstitutional conditions of confinement claims and facilitation of access to discovery matters.
- Proven leadership skills in handling divergent demands of the agency and its officers, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the courts, and fellow law enforcement agencies.
- Recipient of numerous performance awards, including a national award relating to class action case handling.

**CONSULTING EXPERIENCE**

**CO-Owner, General Counsel and Independent Contractor  
Premier Corrections Consultants, LLC**

August 2022 to Present

As co-founder, co-owner, and Independent Contractor, I offer in-house legal advice and consult for **Premier Corrections Consultants, LLC** (dba PCCExperts) on a myriad of issues including compassionate release, Federal sentencing mitigation, Federal sentence computation, policy development, labor-management relations, executive leadership, prison management, resource utilization, and more.

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

**Solo Practitioner, The Law Office of Jennifer M. Merkle**

September 2021 to Present

Solo practitioner handling general legal matters including restraining orders, homeowners’ association disputes, elder law, estate planning, life planning, and focusing on providing legal assistance in matters involving the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

**Senior Attorney, United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons**

September 1997 to September 1998, November 1999 to August 2015, September 2018 to Present  
Diverse legal practice including extensive civil rights defense litigation and provision of legal advice to law enforcement professionals implicating a variety of laws including Constitutional, administrative, tort, and criminal law.

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**Assistant General Counsel, United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Employment Law Branch**

August 2015 to August 2018

Providing defense in employment law matters before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Merit System Protection Board, Fair Labor Relations Authority, and before mediators and arbitrators.

**Special Assistant United States Attorney, Office of the United States Attorney, District of Hawaii**

September 2008 to August 2015

Representing the agency's position in numerous criminal matters, representing the Federal Bureau of Prisons' interests at hearings, assisting with the identification of witnesses and presentation of evidence relating to crimes occurring within the institution.

**Special Assistant United States Attorney, Office of the United States Attorney, Middle District of Florida**

September 2004 to August 2008

Representing the agencies position in numerous civil and criminal matters, representing the Federal Bureau of Prisons' interests at hearings, managing issues tangential to housing suspected terrorists, assisting with the identification of witnesses and presentation of evidence relating to crimes occurring within the institution.

**Assistant State Attorney, Office of the State Attorney for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit**

September 1998 to November 1999

Prosecuted offenders accused of committing misdemeanors and felony offenses, participated in discovery conferences and deposition of prosecution witnesses, represented the State at initial bail hearings, reviewed cases presented for prosecution and filed charges, argued motions, and represented the State in numerous jury and non-jury trials.

**TRAINING AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Assistant Professor, August 2021 to Present**

**Hawaii Pacific University**

**Adjunct Faculty Member, 2008 to 2021**

**Department of Public Service**

- Maintained a teaching load of approximately four undergraduate courses each year.
- Lectured and communicated effectively with students from diverse backgrounds while initiating thought provoking and academically appropriate discussions to help students develop their critical thinking abilities.
- Developed and taught in-person and online courses in Corrections, Criminal Law, Justice Systems, Criminal Procedure, Crime Victims and Justice, Law Enforcement: Contemporary Issues, Crime Victims and Justice and Sociology.
- Counseled undergraduate students in relation to educational and professional goals.
- Emphasized the importance of academic honesty with students and instructed them on proper citation of research sources.

**Instructor / Facilitator, September 1997 to July 2021**

**Federal Bureau of Prisons**

- Conducted staff training on numerous issues including labor management relations, ethics and professional conduct of law enforcement officers, and diversity and inclusion.
- Providing training, tips and resources for maximizing legal staff's use of case management software, Adobe Acrobat and Word.

**Adjunct Faculty Member, 2005 to 2009**

**Colorado Technical University Online**

- Provided quality online instruction with a weekly live interactive session and availability to students through established online office hours.
- Facilitated and contributed to curriculum development; develop course-specific training, core competencies, and individualized educational development through regular evaluations, feedback, mentoring, and career planning.
- Participated in course development and course creation for standardized components of online courses.

**EDUCATION**

**Juris Doctor, Cum Laude, May 1997 American University, Washington College of Law, Washington, DC**

Articles Editor, Human Rights Newsletter/Brief  
Judge and Semifinalist in Alvin Reckman Meyers Moot Court Competition

**Bachelor of Arts, Dean's Highest Honors, January 1993 Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL**

Writing Excellence Award  
Presentation of Paper at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, November 1992

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

Pi Alpha Alpha, National Honor Society for Public Affairs  
Network Of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, & Administration (NASPAA) Member  
International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association (ILEETA)  
International Association of Women Police (IAWP)  
American Correctional Association (ACA)  
Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPPAA) Member  
Active Member in Good Standing, Florida Bar since September 1997  
Active Member in Good Standing, Maryland Bar since June 1998  
Active Member in Good Standing, Hawaii Bar since November 2019  
Admitted, United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit since 2001  
Admitted, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit since 2021  
Admitted, United States Supreme Court 1998

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Service Learning Fall 2023  
Mayor's Award of Recognition, April 2023  
Recipient of National Award for work on class action lawsuits.  
Recipient of numerous time off awards and cash awards for outstanding performance.  
Recognized for participation in Women in Corrections Retreat.  
Received letter of praise from lead defense counsel on capital murder case for years of coordination of witnesses, document production, and access issues.

**RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL INTEREST**

Improving Offender and Loved One's Preparation for Incarceration, Enhancing Re-Entry Opportunities, Incorporating Emotional Intelligence Principles to Corrections and Law Enforcement Personnel Training, Preventing Youth Violence And Entry Into The Juvenile Justice System, Community Policing, Enhancing Evidence-Based Risk Assessment Tool, Moving Corrections Forward, And Applied Quantitative Methods And Measurements.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS AND HOBBIES**

I am a dedicated lifelong learner with a "to learn" list that would likely take several lifetimes to complete. I love the tranquility of a quiet, natural beach, and working on my potted gardens. My favorite part of my life is by far the time spent with my children.