

Jennifer A. Merrigan

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Current Employment

Death Penalty Litigation Clinic (formerly Public Interest Litigation Clinic) (Kansas City, MO) 10/03 - present
Acting Director 02/10- present

Staff Attorney/ Mitigation Specialist 3/05 -present

Provide direct representation, investigation and mitigation consultation in pre-authorization and pre-trial capital cases as well as post-conviction proceedings in both state and federal death penalty cases. Coordinate, train, and supervise clinical students and volunteers in the office. Assisted in the research and development of Supplementary Guidelines for the Mitigation Function of Defense Teams in Death Penalty Cases and assisted in the research, writing, editing and cite checking of the Guidelines and accompanying articles in conjunction with Sean O'Brien, Russell Stetler, and the ABA Death Penalty Representation Project. See 36 HOFSTRA L. REV. 639 (Spring 2008).

Legal Intern 10/03 -3/05

Researched mitigation and issues of state post-conviction, federal habeas and criminal defense. Worked on post-conviction capital cases: met with clients; digested transcripts; drafted motions; and cite-checked. Edited habeas petitions and filings.

Coalition for Clemency for Battered Women 8/01 – 6/04

Advocated for clemency for battered women who killed their abusive spouses; assisted in obtaining parole for a battered woman who killed her abusive paramour (05/03). Co-author, *Symposium: Deconstructing the "Image" of Battered Women*, 23 ST. LOUIS U. PUB. L. REV. 193 (2004).

Capital Mitigation Training Presentations

2010 Bring Your Own Case 2255 Seminar 05/12/10-05/14/10

Federal Capital Habeas Project Indianapolis, IN

Plenary presentation on clemency presentation and litigation opportunities surrounding clemency in death penalty cases.

14th Annual National Federal Habeas Corpus Seminar 08/26/10-08/29/10

Administrative Office of the United States Courts Cleveland, OH

Plenary presentation on investigating and rebutting aggravators in 2254 and 2255 proceedings.

2010 Bring Your Own Case 2255 Seminar 05/13/10-05/15/10

Federal Capital Habeas Project Indianapolis, IN

Co-facilitator for small group workshop in which defense teams discussed and brainstormed about mitigation investigation and penalty phase issues.

2nd Annual Capital Defense Mental Health Training, Bring your case workshop 11/12/09-11/15/09

National Consortium for Capital Defense Training Kansas City, MO

Co-facilitator for small group workshops in which defense teams discussed and brainstormed about mental health client issues surrounding client and case.

30th Annual Capital Punishment Training Conference 07/09/09-07/12/09

NAACP Legal Defense Fund Warrenton, VA

Co-presented breakout session on proportionality in application and execution of death sentences across the country.

12th Annual National Federal Habeas Corpus Seminar 08/21/08-08/24/08

Administrative Office of the United States Courts St. Louis, MO

Co-presented breakout session about use of video documentary in mitigation presentation using, as example, a video of prison witness interviews produced in conjunction with representation of James Harlow.

Assisted in presentations on the National Guidelines for Mitigation Function of the Capital Defense Team at:

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| 3rd National Seminar on the Development and Integration of Mitigation Evidence Administrative Office of the United States Courts | 04/27/06- 04/30/06 Washington D.C. |
| 3rd Annual National Capital Defense and Mitigation Skills Conference: Building the Mitigation Case Washburn University School of Law | 11/11/05-11/13/05 Topeka, KS |
| Making the Case for Life Volunteer National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyer | 09/30/05-10/02/05 Oklahoma City, OK |
| Life in the Balance National Legal Aid and Defender Association | 03/19/05- 03/22/05 New Orleans, LA |
| 27th Annual Capital Punishment Training Conference NAACP Legal Defense Fund | 07/21/06-07/24/06 Warrenton, VA |

Capital Mitigation Trainings Attended

Complete list of national death penalty trainings attended is available upon request.

Education

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| University of Missouri at Kansas City, J.D. | Top 5%, 12/162 | 06/04 |
| DePaul University, B.A. Political Science | With Honors, Deans List | 06/99 |

Other Relevant Experience

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

Completed specialized training at the Cook County, IL and Jackson County, MO Family Courts.

Volunteer Guardian ad Litem (Kansas City, MO) 8/02 - 8/07
Advocate for a child in Jackson County juvenile court.

Legal Intern (Kansas City, MO) 8/02-7/03
Worked with Guardian ad Litem in Jackson County, including aiding families, writing motions, and attending hearings and trials. Received Advocate of the Year Award in 2002.

Court Advocate (Chicago, IL) 5/00-8/01
Acted as an advocate for children in abuse and neglect cases in Cook County Family Court.

El Centro De La Comunicacion y Cultura

Volunteer Teacher (Chicago, IL) 5/00-7/01, 9/98-3/99
Taught English as a Second Language (ESL) to Spanish Speaking immigrants. Prepared students for their United States Citizenship Examination by teaching citizenship courses.