

EDUCATION

Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago, IL
Juris Doctor, May 2001
Honors Scholar

University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV
Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology, December 1997
Dean's List Recognition
Vice President, Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Medical Honors Society

EXPERIENCE

Second Judicial District Court, Reno, NV (April 2018 – Present)

Juvenile Court Master

- Preside over plea, dispositional, competency, review, and detention hearings in juvenile delinquency matters
- Issue findings and recommendations in all juvenile delinquency cases
- Conduct bench trials in which State must prove case beyond a reasonable doubt
- Read juvenile probation assessment reports, substance abuse evaluations, psychological and psychiatric evaluations in preparation for court dockets
- Lead After Court Meetings with all stakeholders to discuss current court issues and trends

Washoe County Public Defender, Reno, NV (June 2007 – Present)

Deputy Public Defender

- Oversee the planning and preparation of preliminary hearings, evidentiary hearings, and jury trials by consulting with client, researching relevant statutes and case law, submitting legal pleadings, reviewing discovery, creating and initiating investigative plan, coordinating with investigator, and experts, interviewing and preparing witnesses for testimony, visiting crime scene, and put together defense case in effective and professional presentation to the trier of fact
- Review and issue spot in various types of discovery including police reports, medical records, toxicology reports, psychological evaluations, substance abuse evaluations, criminal histories, video and audio surveillance
- Research, write, file, and prepare to argue motions, oppositions, and replies on evidentiary issues
- Meet with clients after arrest, preparing them for interviews by pre-trial services officers; coordinate with pre-trial services and in-patient substance abuse programs to facilitate release; make arguments to Justices of the Peace and District Court Judges in furtherance of own recognizance releases and/or bail reductions.
- Negotiate plea agreements with Deputy District Attorneys resulting in reduction of charges and favorable sentencing outcomes
- Organize and present effective sentencing arguments to the Court by gathering mitigation evidence, interviewing clients and their friends and family members, consulting with psychiatrists and other experts; counsel clients during presentence investigation interviews; draft sentencing memoranda in support of arguments for leniency
- Represented clients in the Second Judicial District Court's Specialty Courts programs for 4 years (including Adult Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Veteran's Court, Prison Reentry Court)
- Represented parents in court hearings and out of court settings who were participating in the reunification process in dependency cases
- Engaged in pre-trial settlement conferences with District Court Judges, clients, and attorneys, resulting in settlement agreements in dependency and termination of parental rights cases
- Represented clients participating in Family Drug Court
- Participated in successful mediation sessions in dependency and termination of parental rights cases
- Drafted proposed Orders, Open Adoption Agreements, Petitions for Guardianship, Court Reports,

- Motions, Settlement Statements, Trial Statements
- Served as President, Vice President, and Treasurer for the Washoe County Public Attorneys Association
- Teach Continuing Legal Education Seminars
- Train and mentor new attorneys in matters related to court procedure, legal issues, client consultations, evidentiary issues, and effective negotiation strategies
- Judge Mock Trial competitions

Washoe County District Attorney, Reno, NV (January 2003 – June 2007)

Deputy District Attorney

- Prosecuted dependency and termination of parental rights cases
- Prosecuted domestic violence cases involving restraining order violations
- Handled civil drug forfeiture cases
- Led and participated in multi-disciplinary team meetings involved in dependency cases
- Represented the State in involuntary commitment hearings at Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services

Barber, Klearman & Associates, Reno, NV (February 2002 – January 2003)

Law Clerk

- Conducted client interviews to obtain background information and determine the existence of viable legal issues
- Researched various areas of family law
- Drafted motions, discovery documents, and office memorandums
- Organized discovery documents

Peterson & Ross, Chicago, IL (June 2000 – January 2002)

Summer Associate and First Year Associate

- Researched and wrote legal memoranda for the litigation team in insurance defense and securities cases
- Drafted discovery documents in securities litigation cases
- Appeared in Cook County Courthouses on status conferences and reviews