

STEPHANIE BERGER

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EDUCATION HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, Cambridge, MA June 2014

Activities: Harvard Mediation Program, *Webmaster*
Mississippi Delta Project, *Mental Health Initiative Team Leader*
Disability, Veterans, and Estate Planning Clinic, *Student Advocate*

COLBY COLLEGE, Waterville, ME B.A. *Summa cum laude*, Psychology: Neuroscience May 2011

EXPERIENCE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE February 2018 - Present *Senior Trial Attorney*

- Handled the most serious cases in my assigned courtroom.
- Assisted trial partners in case preparation, legal analysis, and trial advocacy.
- Tried seven felony cases before juries. The results of which include the following:
 - Not Guilty Attempted Murder,
 - Hung Jury Robbery in the First Degree,
 - Hung Jury Murder,
 - Not Guilty Possession of a Controlled Substance,
 - Not Guilty Robbery in the First Degree,
 - Not Guilty Robbery in the First Degree.
- Led training sessions in the following topics: understanding DNA, client-centered interviewing, and jury selection.
- Qualified to serve as associate counsel in capital cases.

EXPERIENCE JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE Fall 2014 - Winter 2018 *Trial Attorney*

- Represented indigent criminal defendants in felony cases in Jefferson County Circuit Court.
- Litigated cases from indictment to resolution including investigation, case theory development, plea negotiation, pre-trial motions, and trial.
- Advised attorneys regarding forensic science topics including DNA analysis, fingerprint analysis, and drug chemistry.
- Conducted evidentiary hearings including preliminary hearings, probation revocation hearings, motions hearings, and bond hearings.
- Tried eight cases before juries. The results of which include the following:
 - Not Guilty Rape in the First Degree and Sexual Torture,
 - Lesser included offense of Theft of Property in the Second Degree (Robbery in the First Degree),

Lesser included offense of Possession of Marijuana in the Second Degree (POM 1),
Hung Jury Robbery in the First Degree,
Hung Jury Possession of a Controlled Substance (Later dismissed),
Hung Jury Theft of Property in the Fourth Degree.

- Tried twelve misdemeanor cases before District Court judges.

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE Fall 2013 – Winter 2014 *Student Advocate*

- Represented indigent defendants in the Roxbury Division of the Roxbury District Court.
- Advocated for clients at arraignment, pretrial hearings, motions hearings, and trials.

PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Summer 2013 *Summer Law Clerk*

- Assisted attorneys in the trial division by researching legal questions, drafting motions, and contributing to case development.
- Specifically, researched jury instructions on the defense of not guilty by reason of insanity in response to a government pleading, the parameters of attorney-client privilege and the right against self-incrimination during competency evaluations, and the admissibility of psychiatric history for the purpose of impeachment.
- Analyzed medical records and neurological tests in preparation for trial and competency hearing respectively.
- Reviewed and summarized scientific articles related to the validity of “shaken baby syndrome” in a murder case.

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICES Summer 2012 *Summer Law Clerk*

- Personally assisted clients with serious mental illnesses navigate legal issues including, but not limited to, housing, special education, and government benefits.
- Submitted a memorandum to the Social Security Administration interpreting a Social Security Ruling under Federal and California law.

TRAINING

- Graduate of Gideon’s Promise Core 101 Training Program
- Attended NACDL’s 2016 Forensic Science College
- Attended Loosening the Death Belt in January of 2018.