



BETSY WILSON
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EXPERIENCE

SENTENCING ADVOCACY GROUP OF EVANSTON - *Evanston, IL* 2006-present
FOUNDING PARTNER AND MITIGATION SPECIALIST

Founding partner and supervising mitigation specialist of eight-person, inter-disciplinary mitigation practice that has provided sentencing advocacy in more than 100 federal and state criminal cases.

Lead teams in the development of detailed, multi-generational life histories for defendants facing the death penalty, juvenile life without release, or other sentences. Contextualize the charges against the defendant and demonstrate the client's humanity with the goal of obtaining a lower sentence.

Identify, locate, and interview relevant people in a culturally competent manner that produces confidential, relevant, and reliable information. Recognize and elicit information about mental-health symptoms, sexual abuse, trauma, and other sensitive topics. Establish rapport with witnesses to overcome barriers to disclosure.

When appropriate, work in a trauma-sensitive manner with victims and loved ones of victims to provide information about the case and court proceeding and to elicit information relevant to mitigation.

Gather documentation to support the testimony of expert and lay witnesses, including, but not limited to, school, medical, employment, military, and social service records.

Aid counsel in identifying the type of experts needed, including psychologists, neuropsychologists, epileptologists, toxicologists, sociologists, and experts in intellectual

disability, trauma, sexual abuse, and addiction. Facilitate the expert's work.

Protect our standards of practice by educating courts, attorneys, and the administration of institutional defenders about the expertise, time, and efforts required to perform a constitutionally effective mitigation investigation.

Mentor and supervise newcomers to the field.

MITIGATION CASES:

- *SD v. Absolu*, 51-120-003825 (Pennington Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. Tim Rensch
- *IL v. Romairal Allen*, 10-CR-14697 (Cook Cty. IL) juvenile-life, Atty. Renae Amen
- *IL v. Eric Anderson*, 96-CR-1838 (Cook Cty. IL) juvenile-life, Atty. Valerie Ready
- *IL v. Norma Arreola-Vazquez*, 22-CR-9168 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Sarah Fransene
- *Ramiro Astello, Compassionate release petition*, Atty. Andrea Lewis Hartung
- *LA v. Ronald Bandy*, 903019 (LA 21st D.) capital, Atty. Margaret Lagattuta
- *US v. Robert Berrios*, 12-CR-0853 (N.D. IL) non-capital, Atty. Scott Frankel
- *IL v. Aramis Beacham*, 11-CR-1845401 (Cook Cty. IL) juvenile-life, Atty. Kyan Keenan
- *US v. Benjamin Biancofiore*, 16-CR-00306 (N.D. IL) non-capital, Atty. Lisa Wood
- *IL v. Arthur Brown*, 08-CR-15708 (Cook Cty. IL) capital, Atty. Gary Copp
- *US v. Floyd Brown*, 19-CR-50016 (N.D. IL) capital, Atty. John Beal
- *IL v. Tameka Broyles*, 15-CR-1446801 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Daniel Naranjo
- *US v. Maurice Burks*, 17-CR-124 (Mid. Dis. Tenn.) capital, Atty. John Bailey
- *IL v. Jakwon Buchanan*, 23-CR-639101 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Theresa Nelson
- *US v. Diamante Butler*, 2020 CF1 005801 (D.C. D.) non-capital, Atty. Jason Tulley
- *US v. Gabriel Bush*, 13-CR-774-4 (N. D. IL) capital, Atty. Steven Shobat
- *US v. Henry Calderon Marin*, 16-778 (D. P.R.) capital, Atty. Kelley Sharkey and Laura Maldonado Rodriguez
- *KS v. Johnathan Carr*, 00-CR-2974 (Sedgwich Cty. Kansas), capital, state post-conviction, Atty. Mark Hendrickson
- *IL v. Rashawn Carter*, 07-CR-21741 (Cook Cty. IL) capital, Atty. John Conniff
- *IL v. Christopher Carter*, 22-CR-0796401 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Theresa Nelson
- *US v. Andre Chattam*, 17-20184 (E. D. Mich.), capital, Atty. Keith Spielfogel
- *US v. Brendt Christensen*, 17-CR-20037 (Cen. D. IL) capital, Atty. Elizabeth Pollock
- *IL v. Marcus Cocroft*, 10 CR 21078 02 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Vernon Schleyer
- *IL v. Marion Andre Comier*, 10-CR-0640602 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Kulmeet Galhotra
- *IA v. Vincent Connors*, FECR086611 (IA. D.) non-capital, Atty. Eric Tindal
- *CA v. Lorenzo Davis*,
- *ID v. Chad Daybell*, (Fremont Cty. Idaho) capital, Atty. John Prior

- *US v. David Delalio*, 14-CR-20048 (Cen. D. IL) non-capital, Atty. Scott Frankel
- *US v. Thomas Delcourt*, 13-CR-40065 (Cen. D. IL) non-capital, Atty. Patrick Roberts
- *US v. Ashik Desai*, 19-CR-864 (N.D. IL.) Atty. Jacqueline S Jacobsen
- *VA. v. Marlin Dumas*, 13-CV-00398 (Cir. Ct. Va.) juvenile-life, Atty. David O'Brien
- *US v. Daniel Dvorkin*, 12-CR-00500 (N. D. IL) non-capital, Atty. Scott Frankel
- *IL v. Angelo Evans*, 94-CR-1073801 (Cook Cty. IL) resentencing, Atty. Amy Weisberg
- *Marvin Charles Gabrion v. US*, 15-CV-447 (W. D. Mich.) capital, Atty. Monica Foster
- *IL v. Carlos Gardner*, 05-CR-2071501 (Cook Cty. IL) capital, Atty. James Fryman
- *US v. William Clyde Gibson*, 20-CV-00100 (Ind. S. D.) capital, Atty. Ken Murray
- *IL v. Demond Goudy*, (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Lawndale Christian Legal Clinic
- *US v. Mark Harmon*, 20-CR-00034 (Ind. S. D.) non-capital, Atty. George Barnett
- *IL v. Quavostis Harris*, 09-CR-12825802 (Cook Cty. IL) capital, Atty. James Fryman
- *OK v. Keegan Harroz*, CF-2019-228 (Okmulee Cty.) capital, Atty. Carla Stinnet
- *IL v. Luis Hernandez*, 12-CR-0731801-01 and 20-CR-0665001 (Cook Cty. IL), non-capital, Atty. Katherine Lisco
- *IL v. Martin Hill*, 95-CR-6668 (Cook Cty. IL) juvenile-life, Atty. Ed Koziboski
- *IL v. Peter Hixon*, 19-CF-2422 (Kate Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Ron Dolak
- *IL v. Chron Hollis*, 15-CR-12085 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Tony Thedford
- *IL v. Ronald Hood*, 96-CR-531701 (Cook Cty. IL) juvenile-life, Kathleen Moriarty
- *US v. Horta*, 16-CR-463 (N. D. IL) capital, Atty. Keith Spielfogel
- *Kevin Isom v. IN*, 45G04-0708-MR-8 (Ind. Ap.) capital, Atty. Joanna Green
- *IL v. Darron Jackson*, 03-CR-22273 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Edward Koziboski
- *IL v. Demetrius Jackson*, 97-CR-205-29, (Cook Cty. IL) juvenile-life, Atty. Gina Piemonte
- *IL v. Jermaine Jameson*, 97-CR-11019 (Cook Cty. IL) juvenile-life, Atty. Jennifer Gill
- *IL v. Robin Johnson*, 08-CR-1402201 (Cook Cty. IL) capital, Atty. Kulmeet Galhotra
- *IL v. Tracy Johnson*, 17-CR-08648 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Daniel Naranjo
- *IL v. Michael Johnson*, 10-CR-1164801 (Cook Cty. IL) capital, Atty. Brendan Max
- *IL v. Juvenile*, (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Patrick Keenan Devlin
- *US v. Jason Kecheho*, 19-CR-50844 (E. D. Mich.) capital, Atty. Keith Spielfogel
- *SD v. Brent Kertzman*, 24-780 (Pennington Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty.
- *IL v. Fontaine King*, 12 CR 21059 (Cook Cty. IL), juvenile-life, Atty. Jennifer Hodel
- *SD v. Jonathon Klinetobe*, 15-206569 (Pennington Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. Alecia Fuller, Liz Regalado, Michael Stonefield
- *FL v. Willam Kopsho*, 00-CF-3762 (Mid. D. Fl.) capital, Atty. Marie-Louise Samuels Parmer
- *IL v. Louis Lashely*, (Cook Cty. IL) capital, Atty. Marc Stahl
- *US v. Santo Lozoya*, 19-CR-357 (N.D. IL.) capital, Atty. Keith Spielfogel
- *IL v. Terrence Ligon* (Cook Cty. IL) capital, Atty. Steve Greenberg
- *IL v. Jose Luera*, 02-CR-3113402 (Cook Cty. IL) capital, Atty. Stephen Richards
- *IL v. Jovanny Martinez*, 13-CR-1576501 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Deanna Binstock

- *IL v. Vennis McCall*, 08-CR-0959401 (Cook Cty. IL) capital, Atty. Kristina Yi
- *US v. Tony McClam*, 2019 CF1 009634 (D.C. D.) non-capital, Atty. Jason Tulley
- *IL Leandre McDonald*, 22-CR-12463 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Lafonzo Palmer
- *US v. Malik McKee*, 12-CR-707-1 (N.D. IL) non-capital, Atty. Patrick Boyle
- *US v. Chelsea Perkins*, 21-CR-00869 (N.D. Ohio), capital, Atty. Andrea Lyon
- *Donald Moeller v. Weber*, 04-CV-04200 (8th Cir.) capital, Atty. Deb Czuba
- *MI v. Robert Morton*, 188-040 (Wayne Cty. Cir.) juvenile-life, Atty. Erin Sado
- *IL v. Virginia Munuoz*, 19-CR-03976 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Lisa Boughton
- *IL v. Terrence Nicks*, 09-CR-1434404 (Cook Cty.) non-capital, Atty. James Fryman
- *IA v. Denem Null*, FECR086637 (IA. D. Ct) non-capital, Atty. Mark Meyer
- *US v. Duane Peterson*, 20-CR-20448 (E.D. Mich.) capital, Keith Speilfogel
- *MI v. Jean Pierre Orlewicz*, 07-23972 (Wayne Cty. Cir.) juvenile-life, Atty. John Minock
- *IL v. Jafeth Ramos*, 16-CR-60140 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. James Fryman
- *KY v. Brice Rhodes*, 16-CR-1891 (Clark Cty.) capital, Atty. Tom Griffiths and Robert Beck
- *US v. John Robinson*, 16-CV-6756 (Johnson Cty. KS.) state capital post-conviction, Atty. Madeline Cohen
- *US v. Andrew Rogers*, 16-CR-00018 (S.D. Ind.) capital, Atty. Patrick Burke
- *ID v. Richard Ross*, CV35-22-341 (Nez Perz, ID) capital, Atty. Anne Taylor
- *FL v. Francisco Saldana*, prerelease planning, Atty. Tracy Dreispul
- *Daron Smith*, Illinois clemency petition, non-capital, Atty. Hallie Bezner
- *IL v. Oliver Spann*, 13-CR-1886401 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Ruth McBeth
- *IL v. Diante Speed*, 19-CR-12299 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Sandra Parris
- *Andrew Suh*, Illinois clemency petition, non-capital, Atty. Justin Schwartz
- *US v. Victor Vasquez*, 14-CR-20425 (E.D. Mich.) capital, Atty. James Thomas
- *US v. Omar Villalta*, 16-CR-403 (E.D.NY) capital, Atty. Laura Maldonado Rodriguez
- *US v. Andre Sims*, 22-CR-20154 (E.D. Mich.) capital, Atty. Sanford Plotkin and Keith Spielfogel
- *IL v. Dante Speed*, 2019-CR-12299 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Sandra Paris
- *US v. Tremayne Thompson*, 17-CR 611-3 (N. D. IL.) capital, Atty. John Beal
- *IL v. Davion Thurman*, 22-CR-1021901 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Theresa Nelson
- *IL v. Noldon Wadley*, 84C00747201 (Cook Cty. IL), juvenile-life, Atty. Kristine Underwood
- *IL v. Decedrick Walker*, 99-CR-1391201 (Cook Cty. IL) capital, Atty. Mark Stahl
- *IL v. Decedrick Walker*, 99-CR-1391201 (Cook Cty. IL) clemency petition, pro bono
- *US v. Tony Weems*, (D.C. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Amelia Schmidt
- *IL v. Rayvonne Wilson*, 05-CR-20231 (Cook Cty. IL) capital, Atty. Kulmeet Galhotra
- *IL v. Fred Weatherspoon*, 93-CR-26477 (Cook Cty. IL) juvenile-life, Atty. Andrea Webber
- *IL v. Emral White*, 2022-CR-0550401 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Theresa Nelson
- *MI v. Donald Williams*, 93-1791 (16th Cir., Macomb Cty.) juvenile-life, Atty. Laura Sharkey
- *IL v. LaNiya Williams*, 22-CR-979801 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Eleanor Roos
- *IL v. Arsenio Willis*, 2008-CR-12569 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty. Amanda Stevens

- *SD v. Arkadius Wright*, 24-885 (Pennington Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty Liz Regalado
- *IL v. John Yanni* (DeKalb Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Liam Dixon
- *IL v. John Young* 2001-CR-2839801 (Cook Cty. IL) non-capital, Atty Lisa Boughton

EVANSTON VICTIM OUTREACH - Evanston, IL
FOUNDER AND VICTIM OUTREACH SPECIALIST

September 2023-present

Provide a safe, respectful, and trauma informed avenue of communication between defense teams and victim-survivors and victims’ loved ones, expanding the options available to families and victim-survivors to get information, responses to their questions, to voice and vent their concerns, and to better address their needs throughout the judicial process.

CABRINI GREEN LEGAL AID - Chicago, IL
INTERIM LEGAL DIRECTOR

2011-2012

Supervised Cabrini Green Legal Aid’s provision of high-impact, free legal services to low-income Chicagoans in four areas of law: family, housing, criminal records, and criminal defense in a unique program that integrates legal representation and social services to improve legal outcomes and extend its impact beyond crisis support.

Oversaw CGLA’s nine full-time attorneys, along with interns and volunteers, as they served more than 5,000 clients a year.

Maintained a caseload that included public-housing evictions, orders of protection, child custody, criminal defense, petitions to seal or expunge, and clemency petitions.

Led the development of new projects within CGLA’s legal practice, including: a program for juvenile defense, expungement, and school expulsions; a court-partnership serving order-of-protection litigants; and partnerships with academic institutions in research and clinical areas.

Built and nurtured relationships and partnerships with courts, other members of the legal-aid community, law schools and researchers, social-service providers, and law-firm partners.

Worked with the Interim Executive Director and the incoming Executive Director and program directors to refine the long-term vision for the legal program to maximize the transformative impact on our clients and their communities.

CAPITAL DEFENDER OFFICE - New York, NY
DEPUTY CAPITAL DEFENDER

2000-2005

Represented indigent defendants facing the death penalty under New York’s Capital-Offense statute.

Led trial teams of investigators, mitigation specialists, paralegals, and experts in preparation for trial or negotiated settlement.

Handled all aspects of the complex litigation associated with defense of a capital case from arraignment to resolution by disposition or trial.

Developed unique expertise in challenges to the demographic composition of juries.

Supervised teams of scientists, lawyers, and interns to investigate various sociological aspects of the death penalty, for example, the effect of death qualification on the demographics of the jury.

Litigated *In re Investigation of Thomas*, 189 Misc.2d 487 (Kings Cty. Sup. Ct. 2001), the first decision in New York State to order that a lineup be conducted sequentially and double blind.

Advised appointed attorneys in capital and potentially capital proceedings.

PUBLICATIONS

Sentencing Advocacy Group of Evanston and National Alliance of Sentencing Advocates and Mitigation Specialists, *Strategic Considerations When Conducting a Mitigation Investigation During the Evolving Conditions of the COVID-19 Pandemic*, White Paper, July 11, 2020.

Betsy Wilson and Amanda Myers, *Accepting Miller's Invitation: Conducting a Capital-Style Mitigation Investigation in Juvenile-Life-Without-Parole Cases*, THE CHAMPION, April 2015.

Co-contributor to Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, *Trial Defense Guidelines: Representing a Child Client Facing a Possible Life Sentence*, March 2015.

Betsy Wilson, *Creating a Capital-Defense Team That Is More than the Sum of its Parts*, CORNERSTONE, Summer 2010.

Betsy Wilson, *Illinois Can't Afford Its Death Penalty System*, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, Jan. 22, 2010.

Betsy Wilson, *Illinois Can't Afford the Death Penalty*, ST. LOUIS DISPATCH, Jan. 29, 2010.

Co-author, *Report on the Pataki Administration's Proposals to Expand the Death Penalty*, THE RECORD OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE BAR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, Jan./Feb. 2000, at 129.

Co-author, *A State of Denial: Texas Justice and the Death Penalty*, 2000 www.texasdefender.org/publications.htm, critiquing the Texas death-penalty system.

PRESENTATIONS

- INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY: UNCOVERING, EVALUATING, AND CHANGING OUTCOMES 2020, 22, 23 & 24
National Association for Public Defense and University of Iowa
Co-designed and taught an intensive, week-long conference concerning the
the investigation and presentation of evidence of intellectual disability.
*Can You Feel It? Telling The Story Of Intellectual Disability; Interviewing For Adaptive
Deficits: Shifting Power, Getting Details.*
- RISE, RESIST, AND REPRESENT, WE THE DEFENDERS 2021, 22, 23 & 24
National Association for Public Defense
*Preparing for COVID-19-Era Mitigation Claims and Investigations; Starting,
Growing, and Sustaining a Private Mitigation Practice; Lessons Learned
from Mitigation Lifers; Telling a Mitigation Story: DeCedrick*
- HISTORY MATTERS 2022
National Association for Public Defense
Introduction to Mitigation
- BALDUS / DARROW DEATH PENALTY DEFENSE COLLEGE 2009-15, & 22
University of Iowa and National Association for Public Defense
*Have My First Case, Now What?; Professionalizing Your Mitigation Practice;
Creating a Team That Is More than the Sum of its Parts; Getting to Know
Your Client; Working with Difficult Clients; Feeling Our Clients' Stories*
- WE THE DEFENDERS: 2018, 19 & 22
INVESTIGATORS, SOCIAL WORKERS, PARALEGALS, CORE STAFF
National Association for Public Defense
*Racial Injustice and Our Role; Working with Experts; Formulating a
Strategic Investigation Plan; Using Technology to Organize Information-
Heavy Investigations; Teambuilding; Interviewing for Mitigation*
- WE ARE THE ONES WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR: 2020
WOMEN IN PUBLIC DEFENSE CONFERENCE
National Association for Public Defense
*The Role of Implicit Gender Bias in Developing Female Social Justice
Advocates in the World of Capital Representation*
- PEOPLE V. BUFFER TRAINING 2020
Children and Family Justice Center
Developing Mitigation in Juvenile Cases

<p><u>JUST MERCY: A STORY OF JUSTICE AND REDEMPTION, A MODERATED DISCUSSION</u> Empowered Professional Women’s Networking Group</p>	2020
<p>FALL SEMINAR Illinois Public Defender Association <i>Telling Your Client’s Story</i></p>	2019
<p>DEFENDING JUVENILES FACING LIFE SENTENCES National Association for Public Defense Designed and coordinated a five-part series of webinars for lawyers, mitigation specialists, and investigators defending juvenile-life cases. WWW.MYGIDEON.ORG</p>	2016
<p>DEFENDING CHILDREN WHO ARE LOOKING AT LIFE Colorado State Public Defender <i>Implementing Miller Using the CFSY Guidelines; Putting the Puzzle together: Assembling an Effective Mitigation Story; Painting the Picture: Using Details to Tell the Story.</i></p>	2015
<p>National Association for Public Defense <i>Webinar: Do-it-yourself Mitigation (Do Not Attempt in Death Penalty Cases).</i> WWW.MYGIDEON.ORG</p>	2015
<p>LIFE AND LIBERTY IN THE BALANCE National Legal Aid and Defender Association <i>Accepting Miller’s Invitation: Conducting a Capital-Style Mitigation Investigation Juvenile Life-Without-Parole Cases; Using Social Media as Investigation Tools; Creating a Team That Is More than the Sum of its Parts.</i></p>	2014
<p>PUBLIC DEFENDER TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM National Defender Training Project <i>Using Social Media as Investigation Tools.</i></p>	2014
<p>GEORGIA CAPITAL DEFENDER TRAINING Office of the Georgia Capital Defender <i>Preparing Your Mitigation Case</i></p>	2014
<p>USING MITIGATION TO GET A BETTER SENTENCE, Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender A two-day training designed and conducted by SAGE</p>	2013
<p>NEW ORLEANS CAPITAL DEFENDER TRAINING Louisiana Public Defender Board</p>	2013

Facilitator

DEATH PENALTY TRAINING 2013
Arkansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Facilitator

SENTENCING ADVOCACY WORKSHOP 2013
Office of Defender Services, Administrative Office of US Courts
Facilitator

NON-CAPITAL SENTENCING MITIGATION WORKSHOP 2012
Office of Defender Services, Administrative Office of US Courts
Facilitator

LAW OFFICE OF THE COOK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER 2012
Do-it-yourself Mitigation (Do Not Attempt in Death Penalty Cases).

NATIONAL LEGAL AID AND DEFENDER ASSOCIATION, Webinar 2012
Getting to Know Your Client

17TH AND 18TH ANNUAL SENTENCING ADVOCACY TRAINING 2010 & 11
National Alliance of Sentencing Advocacy and Mitigation Specialists
Professionalizing Your Mitigation Practice and Creating a Team That Is More than the Sum of its Parts.

Death Penalty Debate, NEWSVIEWS, ABC, Chicago, II May 30, 2010

LIFE IN THE BALANCE 2010
National Legal Aid and Defender Association
Attorneys, Mitigation Specialists, and Clients, Building a Team and Working Together.

OSAD Death Penalty Seminar 2006
Office of the State Appellate Defender
Working with a Mitigation Specialist.

ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF SENTENCING ADVOCATES AND MITIGATION SPECIALISTS 2009-2012
Vice Chair, Executive Committee
Chair, Training Committee

BOARD MEMBER 2008-2011

CABRINI GREEN LEGAL AID

RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF SENTENCING ADVOCACY AND MITIGATION SPECIALISTS'S 2011 PRESIDENT'S AWARD for outstanding contributions to NASAMS in recognition of extraordinary dedication to the work of the executive committee and the alliance.

EDUCATION

DEFENSE VICTIM OUTREACH TRAINING, *Federal Death Penalty Resource Counsel Project* September 2023

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, J.D., *cum laude* June 1998

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, B.S., *Policy Analysis* May 1993

ADMITTED TO BARS OF ILLINOIS AND NEW YORK STATE