



sentencing advocacy group of evanston

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EXPERIENCE

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

Founding partner in a mitigation practice that has provided sentencing advocacy in more than 40 federal and state criminal cases with the goal of avoiding a death sentence or reducing our client's sentence.

- Develop detailed, multi-generational life histories that include: medical history; complete prenatal, pediatric and adult health information; exposure to harmful substances in utero and in the environment; substance-abuse history; mental-health history; history of maltreatment and neglect; trauma history; educational history; employment and training history; military experience; multi-generational family history, genetic disorders and vulnerabilities, as well as multi-generational patterns of behavior; prior adult- and juvenile-correctional experience; religious, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic, racial, cultural and community influences; socio-economic, historical, and political factors.
- Identify, locate, and interview relevant persons in a culturally competent manner that produces confidential, relevant, and reliable information. Recognize and elicit information about mental-health signs and symptoms. Establish rapport with witnesses, the client, the client's family and significant others to overcome barriers those individuals may have against the disclosure of sensitive information.
- Gather documentation to support the testimony of expert and lay witnesses, including, but not limited to, school, medical, employment, military, and social service records, in order to provide medical, psychological, sociological, cultural or other insights into the client's mental and emotional state, intellectual capacity, and life history that may explain or diminish the client's culpability for his conduct, demonstrate the absence of aggressive patterns in the client's behavior, show the client's capacity for empathy, depict the client's remorse, illustrate the client's desire to function in the world, give a favorable opinion as to the client's capacity for rehabilitation or adaptation to prison, explain possible