



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 nine-person, inter-disciplinary mitigation practice that has provided sentencing advocacy in more than 50 federal and state criminal cases.

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 people 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 treatment programs, rebut or explain evidence presented by the prosecutor, or otherwise support a lesser sentence.

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. Assist in selecting the appropriate expert, developing the referral question, furnishing information, and facilitating communication.

Use the information obtained in the mitigation investigation to illustrate and illuminate the factors that shaped and influenced the client's behavior and functioning. Furnish information in a form useful to counsel and any experts through methods including: genealogies, chronologies, social histories, and studies of the cultural, socioeconomic, environmental, political, historical, racial and religious influences on the client to aid counsel in developing an affirmative case for sparing the defendant's life or decreasing the sentence.

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:

- *Il. v. Eric Anderson*, 96-CR-1838 (Cook Cty. Cir.) juvenile-life, Atty. Valerie Raedy
- *La. v. Ronald Bandy*, 903019 (LA 21st Dist.) capital, Atty. Margaret Lagattuta
- *Il. v. Carlos Beltran*, 07-CR-0874601 (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. James Fryman
- *U.S. v. Robert Berrios*, 12-CR-00853 (N. Dist. Ill.) non-capital, Atty. Scott Frankel
- *Il. v. Arthur Brown*, 08-CR-15708 (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. Gary Copp
- *Il. v. Tameka Broyles*, 15-CR-1446801 (Cook Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Daniel Naranjo
- *U.S. v. Maurice Burks*, 17-CR-124 (Mid. Dis. Tenn.) capital, Atty. John Bailey and Eileen Parish
- *U.S. v. Gabriel Bush*, 13-CR-774-4 (N. Dist. Ill.) capital, Atty. Steven Shobat
- *U.S. v. Henry Calderon Marin*, 16-778 (Dist. PR) capital, Atty Kelley Sharkey and Laura Maldonado Rodriguez
- *U.S. v. Andre Chattam*, 17-20184 (E. Dist. Mich.), capital, Attorney Keith Spielfogel and Henry Scharg
- *Il. v. Rashawn Carter*, 07-CR-21741 (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. John Conniff

- *U.S. v. Brendt Christensen*, 17-CR-20037 (Cen. Dist. Ill.) capital, Atty. Robert Tucker and George Taseff
- *Il. v. Marion Andre Comier*, 10-CR-0640602 (Cook Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Kulmeet Galhotra
- *Ia. v. Vincent Connors*, FECR086611 (IA. Dist.) non-capital, Atty. Eric Tindal
- *U.S. v. David Delalio*, 14-CR-20048 (Cen. Dist. Ill.) non-capital, Atty. Scott Frankel
- *U.S. v. Thomas Delcourt*, 13-CR-40065 (Cen. Dist. Ill.) non-capital, Atty. Patrick Roberts
- *Va. v. Marlin Dumas*, 13-CV-00398 (Cir. Ct. Va.) juvenile-life, Atty. David O'Brien
- *U.S. v. Daniel Dvorkin*, 12-CR-00500 (N. Dist. Ill.) non-capital, Atty. Scott Frankel
- *Marvin Charles Gabrion v. U.S.*, 15-CV-447 (W. Dist. Mich.) capital, Atty. Monica Foster
- *Il. v. Carlos Gardner*, 05-CR-2071501 (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. James Fryman
- *Il. v. Quavostis Harris*, 09-CR-12825802 (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. James Fryman
- *Il. v. Martin Hill*, 95-CR-6668 (Cook Cty. Cir.) juvenile-life, Atty. Ed Koziboski
- *Il. v. Chron Hollis*, 15-CR-12085 (Cook Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Tony Thedford
- *Il. v. Ronald Hood*, 96-CR-531701 (Cook Cty. Cir.) juvenile-life, Kathleen Moriarty
- *Kevin Isom v. Ind.*, 45G04-0708-MR-8 (Ind. Ap.) capital, Atty. Joanna Green
- *Il. v. Demetrius Jackson*, 97-CR-205-29, (Cook Cty. Cir.) juvenile-life, Atty. Gina Piemonte
- *Il. v. Jermaine Jameson*, 97-CR-11019 (Cook Cty. Cir.) juvenile-life, Atty. Jennifer Gill
- *Il. v. Robin Johnson*, 08-CR-1402201 (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. Kulmeet Galhotra
- *Il. V. Tracy Johnson*, 17-CR-08648 (Cook Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Daniel Naranjo
- *S.D. v. Jonathon Klinetobe*, 15-206569 (Pennington Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. Elizabeth Regalado
- *Fl. v. William Kopsho*, 00-CF-3762 (Mid. Dist. Fl.) capital, Atty. Marie-Louise Samuels Parmer
- *Il. v. Louis Lashely* (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. Marc Stahl
- *Il. v. Terrence Ligon* (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. Steve Greenberg
- *Il. v. Jose Luera*, 02-CR-3113402 (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. Stephen Richards
- *Il. v. Jovanny Martinez*, 13-CR-1576501 (Cook Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Deanna Binstock
- *Il. v. Vennis McCall*, 08-CR-0959401 (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. Kristina Yi
- *U.S. v. Malik McKee*, 12-CR-707-1 (N.D. Ill.) non-capital, Atty. Patrick Boyle
- *Il. v. Michael Johnson*, 10-CR-1164801 (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. Brendan Max
- *Donald Moeller v. Weber*, 04-CV-04200 (8th Cir.) capital, Atty. Deb Czuba
- *Il. v. Terrence Nicks*, 09-CR-1434404 (Cook Cty.) non-capital, Atty. James Fryman
- *Ia. v. Denem Null*, FECR086637 (IA. Dist. Ct) non-capital, Atty. Mark Meyer
- *Mich. v. Jean Pierre Orlewicz*, 07-23972 (Wayne Cir.) juvenile-life, Atty. John Minock
- *Il. v. Jafeth Ramos*, 16-CR-60140 (Cook Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. James Fryman
- *U.S. v. John Robinson*, 16-CV-6756 (Johnson Cty. Ks.) capital, Atty. Madeline Cohen
- *U.S. v. Andrew Rogers*, 16-CR-00018 (S.D. Ind.) capital, Atty. Patrick Burke
- *Il. v. Oliver Spann*, 13-CR-1886401 (Cook Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Ruth McBeth
- *Andrew Suh*, Illinois clemency petition, non-capital, Atty. Justin Schwartz

- *U.S. v. Victor Vasquez*, 14-CR-20425 (E.D. Mich) capital, Atty. James Thomas
- *U.S. v. Omar Villalta*, 16-CR-403 (E.D.N.Y.) capital, Atty Laura Maldonado Rodriguez
- *Il. v. Decedrick Walker*, 99-CR-1391201 (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. Mark Stahl
- *Il. v. Rayvonne Wilson*, 05-CR-20231 (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. Kulmeet Galhotra
- *Il. v. Fred Weatherspoon*, 93-CR-26477 (Cook Cty. Cir.), juvenile-life, Atty. Andrea Webber
- *Mich. v. Donald Williams*, 93-1791, (16th Cir., Macomb Cty.) juvenile-life, Atty Laura Sharkey

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.

Lead 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

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

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

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

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

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

PRESENTATIONS

DEFENDING JUVENILES FACING LIFE SENTENCES 2016
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

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>	2015
National Association for Public Defense <i>Webinar: Do-it-yourself Mitigation (Do Not Attempt in Death Penalty Cases).</i> WWW.MYGIDEON.ORG	2015
CLARENCE DARROW DEATH PENALTY DEFENSE COLLEGE DePaul University <i>Have My First Case, Now What?; Professionalizing Your Mitigation Practice; Creating a Team That Is More than the Sum of its Parts; and Getting to Know Your Client; Working with Difficult Clients.</i>	Annually 2009-15
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>	2014
PUBLIC DEFENDER TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM National Defender Training Project <i>Using Social Media as Investigation Tools.</i>	2014
GEORGIA CAPITAL DEFENDER TRAINING Office of the Georgia Capital Defender	2014
USING MITIGATION TO GET A BETTER SENTENCE, Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender A two-day training designed and conducted by the Sentencing Advocacy Group of Evanston.	2013
NEW ORLEANS CAPITAL DEFENDER TRAINING Louisiana Public Defender Board <i>Facilitator</i>	2013
DEATH PENALTY TRAINING Arkansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers <i>Facilitator</i>	2013

SENTENCING ADVOCACY WORKSHOP Office of Defender Services, Administrative Office of U.S. Courts <i>Facilitator</i>	2013
NON-CAPITAL SENTENCING MITIGATION WORKSHOP Office of Defender Services, Administrative Office of U.S. Courts <i>Facilitator</i>	2012
LAW OFFICE OF THE COOK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER <i>Do-it-yourself Mitigation (Do Not Attempt in Death Penalty Cases).</i>	2012
NATIONAL LEGAL AID AND DEFENDER ASSOCIATION, Webinar <i>Getting to Know Your Client.</i>	2012
17 TH AND 18 TH ANNUAL SENTENCING ADVOCACY TRAINING National Alliance of Sentencing Advocacy and Mitigation Specialists <i>Professionalizing Your Mitigation Practice and Creating a Team That Is More than the Sum of its Parts.</i>	2010 & 11
Death Penalty Debate, NEWSVIEWS, ABC, Chicago, II	May 30, 2010
LIFE IN THE BALANCE National Legal Aid and Defender Association <i>Attorneys, Mitigation Specialists, and Clients, Building a Team and Working Together.</i>	2010
OSAD Death Penalty Seminar Office of the State Appellate Defender <i>Working with a Mitigation Specialist.</i>	2006

ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF SENTENCING ADVOCATES AND MITIGATION SPECIALISTS Vice Chair, Executive Committee	2009-2012
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Helped to determine and implement the strategic goals for the only national organization for sentencing advocates and mitigation specialists. Nurture and develop relationships within the organization and with other members of the criminal-defense and capital-defense community. Work to improve the national standard of practice among mitigation specialists across the county.

Chair, Training Committee

Developed national training for several hundred participants by planning curriculum,

identifying and recruiting faculty, and supervising marketing.

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

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