



BETSY WILSON
1101 Davis #5250
Evanston, IL 60204
betsy@sagemitigation.com
847.250.SAGE

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 70 federal and state criminal cases.

Lead teams in the development detailed, multi-generational life histories for defendants facing the death penalty, juvenile life without release, or other sentences in order to contextualize the charges against the defendant and demonstrate the client's humanity.

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.

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-CR-120-003825 (Pennington Cty.) capital, Atty. Tim Rensch
- *IL v. Romairal Allen*, 10-CR-14697 (Cook Cty. Cir.) juvenile-life, Atty. Renae Amen
- *IL. v. Eric Anderson*, 96-CR-1838 (Cook Cty. Cir.) juvenile-life, Atty. Valerie Raedy
- *LA. v. Ronald Bandy*, 903019 (LA 21st D.) 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. D. Ill.) non-capital, Atty. Scott Frankel
- *U.S. v. Benjamin Biancafiori*, 16-CR-00306 (N. D. Ill.) non-capital, Atty. Lisa Wood
- *SD. v. Amir Beudion*, 41-CRI-20-000060 (Lincoln Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. David Stuart and Jason Adams
- *IL. v. Arthur Brown*, 08-CR-15708 (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. Gary Copp
- *U.S. v. Floyd Brown*, 19-CR-50016 (N.D. Ill.) capital, Atty. John Beal
- *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
- *U.S. v. Diamante Butler*, 2020 CF1 005801 (D.C. D.) non-capital, Atty. Jason Tulley
- *U.S. v. Gabriel Bush*, 13-CR-774-4 (N. D. Ill.) capital, Atty. Steven Shobat
- *U.S. v. Henry Calderon Marin*, 16-778 (D. P.R.) capital, Atty. Kelley Sharkey and Laura Maldonado Rodriguez
- *IL. v. Rashawn Carter*, 07-CR-21741 (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. John Conniff
- *U.S. v. Andre Chattam*, 17-20184 (E. D. Mich.), capital, Atty. Keith Spielfogel
- *U.S. v. Brendt Christensen*, 17-CR-20037 (Cen. D. Ill.) capital, Atty. Elizabeth Pollock and Julie Brain
- *IL. v. Marion Andre Comier*, 10-CR-0640602 (Cook Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Kulmeet Galhotra
- *IA. v. Vincent Connors*, FECR086611 (IA. D.) non-capital, Atty. Eric Tindal
- *U.S. v. David Delalio*, 14-CR-20048 (Cen. D. Ill.) non-capital, Atty. Scott Frankel
- *U.S. v. Thomas Delcourt*, 13-CR-40065 (Cen. D. 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. D. Ill.) non-capital, Atty. Scott Frankel
- *Marvin Charles Gabrion v. U.S.*, 15-CV-447 (W. D. Mich.) capital, Atty. Monica Foster
- *IL. v. Carlos Gardner*, 05-CR-2071501 (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. James Fryman
- *U.S. v. William Clyde Gibson*, 20-CV-00100 (Ind. S. D.) capital, Atty. Ken Murray
- *U.S. v. Mark Harmon*, 20-CR-00034 (Ind. S. D.) non-capital, Atty. George Barnett
- *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. Peter Hixon*, 19-CF-2422 (Kate Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Ron Dolak
- *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
- *U.S. v. Horta*, 16-CR-463 (N. D. Ill.) capital, Atty. Keith Spielfogel
- *Kevin Isom v. Ind.*, 45G04-0708-MR-8 (Ind. Ap.) capital, Atty. Joanna Green
- *IL. v. Darron Jackson*, 03-CR-22273 (Cook Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Edward Koziboski
- *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
- *IL. v. Michael Johnson*, 10-CR-1164801 (Cook Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. Brendan Max
- *IL. v. Juvenile*, (Cook Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Patrick Keenan Devlin
- *U.S. v. Jason Kechego*, 19-CR-50844 (E. D. Mich.) capital, Atty. Keith Spielfogel
- *IL. v. Foutaine King*, 12 CR 21059 (Cook Cty. Cir.), juvenile-life, Atty. Jennifer Hodel
- *SD. v. Jonathon Klinetobe*, 15-206569 (Pennington Cty. Cir.) capital, Atty. Alecia Fuller, Elizabeth 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. Cir.) capital, Atty. Marc Stahl
- *U.S. v. Santo Lozoya*, 19-CR-357 (N.D. Ill.) capital, Atty. Keith Spielfogel
- *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. Tony McClam*, 2019 CF1 009634 (D.C. D.) non-capital, Atty. Jason Tulley
- *U.S. v. Malik McKee*, 12-CR-707-1 (N.D. Ill.) non-capital, Atty. Patrick Boyle
- *Donald Moeller v. Weber*, 04-CV-04200 (8th Cir.) capital, Atty. Deb Czuba
- *Mich. v. Robert Morton*, 188-040 (Wayne Cty. Cir.) juvenile-life, Atty. Erin Sado
- *IL. v. Virginia Munuoz*, 19-CR-03976 (Cook Cty. Cir.) 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
- *Mich. v. Jean Pierre Orlewicz*, 07-23972 (Wayne Cty. Cir.) juvenile-life, Atty. John Minock
- *IL. v. Jafeth Ramos*, 16-CR-60140 (Cook Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. James Fryman
- *KY. v. Brice Rhodes*, 16-CR-1891 (Clark Cty.) capital, Atty. Tom Griffiths and Robert Beck
- *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
- *Daron Smith*, Illinois clemency petition, non-capital, Atty. Hallie Bezner
- *IL. v. Oliver Spann*, 13-CR-1886401 (Cook Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Ruth McBeth
- *IL. v. Diante Speed*, 19-CR-12299 (Cook Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty Sandra Parris
- *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
- *U.S. v. Tremayne Thompson*, 17 CR 611-3 (N. D. IL.) capital, Atty. John Beal
- *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 (Macolb Cty.), juvenile-life, Atty. Laura Sharkey
- *Mich. v. Donald Williams*, 93-1791 (16th Cir., Macomb Cty.) juvenile-life, Atty. Laura Sharkey
- *IL. v. Arsenio*, 08-CR-1256902 (Cook Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Vernon Schleyer
- *IL. v. John Yanni* (DeKalb Cty. Cir.) non-capital, Atty. Liam Dixon

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

- RISE, RESIST, AND REPRESENT, WE THE DEFENDERS 2021
National Association for Public Defense
Preparing for COVID-19-Era Mitigation Claims and Investigations
- 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
- INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY: UNCOVERING, EVALUATING, AND CHANGING OUTCOMES 2020
National Association for Public Defense
Co-designed and taught a four-week, on-line conference concerning the investigation and presentation of evidence of intellectual disability
- PEOPLE V. BUFFER TRAINING 2020
Children and Family Justice Center
Developing Mitigation in Juvenile Cases
- FALL SEMINAR 2019
Illinois Public Defender Association
Telling Your Client's Story
- WE THE DEFENDERS: 2018 & 19
INVESTIGATOR & SOCIAL WORKER/SENTENCING ADVOCATES CONFERENCE
National Association for Public Defense
Working with Experts; Formulating a Strategic Investigation Plan; Using Technology to Organize Information-Heavy Investigations; Teambuilding; Interviewing for Mitigation
- 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 2015

<p>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>	
<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>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></p>	2009-15
<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 <i>Facilitator</i></p>	2013
<p>DEATH PENALTY TRAINING Arkansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers <i>Facilitator</i></p>	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 Chair, Training Committee	2009-2012
 <i>RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF SENTENCING ADVOCACY AND MITIGATION SPECIALISTS'S 2011 PRESIDENT'S AWARD</i> 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., <i>cum laude</i>	June 1998
--	-----------

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, B.S., Policy Analysis

May 1993

ADMITTED TO BARS OF ILLINOIS AND NEW YORK STATE