

MELANIE E. YOUNG

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- ❖ Bar Admission: Pennsylvania 2015
- ❖ Juris Doctor | Thomas R. Kline School of Law at Drexel University | 2015
- ❖ Bachelor of Arts in Sociology | Minor in Theater | Penn State University | 2009

KEY SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

Deeply empathetic approach to understanding clients' challenges and advocating for their rights. Proficient in legal research, case preparation, and crafting comprehensive defense strategies. Strong oral and written communication skills for articulating compelling legal arguments. Proven negotiation abilities for securing favorable outcomes while addressing systemic inequalities. Adept at mentoring and guiding future legal professionals. Passionate teacher with tangible experience to motivate student engagement. Adaptable problem-solver with a thorough grasp of legal processes. Exceptional intrapersonal skills for building rapport with colleagues, adversaries and clients.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Defender Association of Philadelphia

Director, Drexel Criminal Litigation Clinic | June 2022 – Present

Supervise 8-10 students on a yearly basis in a 12-credit clinical experience which gives them the skills to represent clients in municipal court trials and preliminary hearings. Foster an environment that emphasizes ethical practice and justice. Provide law students with invaluable insights into courtroom proceedings, and trial advocacy. Collaborate with colleagues and community organizations to create holistic learning experiences. Empower students to challenge systemic injustices and make a lasting impact on the criminal justice system. Go the extra mile to ensure students have the support and resources needed for success. Crafting intricate and thought-provoking lesson plans, designed to illuminate the intricate portrayals of society's most marginalized and vulnerable communities, encouraging a deeper understanding among students.

Major Trial Attorney | November 2018 - May 2022

Championed clients' rights during high-stakes trials, meticulously preparing cases and delivering persuasive arguments. Facilitated open communication with clients, ensuring their voices were heard. Sought innovative solutions to address clients' needs, while navigating injustices within the system. Collaborated with colleagues to analyze case strategies and present robust defenses. Utilized exceptional intrapersonal skills to effectively negotiate and advocate for the best outcomes. Litigated dozens of motions & trials, including three jury trials to completion. Worked closely with recruitment and training teams in the office. Mentored new attorneys.

Staff Attorney | August 2015 - October 2018

Provided comprehensive legal representation to clients in various court proceedings from municipal court, juvenile and common pleas court, including probation hearings, bail hearings, sentencing, preliminary hearings, motions, and trials. Collaborated with colleagues to develop defense strategies. Extensive experience in motion practice and trial preparation, with a focus on ensuring clients receive fair representation. Conducted hundreds of client interviews.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Summer Intern Supervisor | Defender Association of Philadelphia | May 2023 – August 2023

Helped create and implement summer intern training program for 12 rising 3Ls, supervising them in court and including proper training to ensure excellent in court and holistic client advocacy. Reviewed student work including motions, court prep, and client interviews. Gave feedback and facilitated mock hearings to help foster growth. Created opportunities to engage in different aspects of the practice, focusing on students' specific interests.

Dean's Scholar | Civil Procedure | Thomas R. Kline School of Law at Drexel University | 2013-2014

Held weekly review sessions to clarify topics discussed in class and offer support to students.

Teaching Assistant | SOC 119 - Race and Ethnic Relations | Penn State University | 2007 – 2009

Facilitated bi-weekly discussions with a group of students and local organizations on hard-hitting topics while creating a safe and inclusive space for open dialogue and sharing of perspectives.

Interests & Hobbies: Photography, television enthusiast, travel, scuba diving and eating delicious food, especially my children's left overs - right off the plate.