

NICOLE A. (HARRELL) EL, ESQ.

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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Experienced criminal and civil litigator with extensive trial experience. In civil practice, negotiated and interpreted collective bargaining agreements; negotiated successful settlements involving gender, race and sexual orientation discrimination claims. In criminal practice, achieved numerous acquittals in aggravated assault, robbery, sex offense and drug possession/distribution cases. Successful legal career evidenced by promotion to positions of increasing responsibility, including training and supervision of junior attorneys.

EXPERIENCE

DEFENDER ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA

2008 - present

Assistant Defender

- Successfully defended juvenile and adult defendants in bench and jury trials for attempted murder, robbery, SORNA, gun possession, drug possession and delivery, theft, carjacking and driving under the influence offenses.
- Represents juveniles charged as adults in high-profile criminal cases, including conducting certification and decertification hearings, proffers and negotiating re-slate offers.
- Cross examines experts in the area of firearms/ballistics, child abuse, drug offenses, sex offenses and digital piracy.
- Drafted and litigated numerous motions to suppress evidence, motions *in limine*, and motions to quash.
- Serves as faculty member for the Defender Association Trial Advocacy Training Program, training new attorneys in cross-examination, motions practice and conducting preliminary hearings.
- Coordinates with social service advocates and outside agencies to identify and meet client needs regarding educational, housing, mental health, drug and alcohol treatment issues.
- Serves as faculty member for the Defender Association Juvenile Unit Training Program.
- Faculty member, "Defending Children Accused of Sexual Offenses," CLE seminar (April, 2018)

LAW OFFICE OF FAYE RIVA COHEN, P.C.

2006 - 2008

Associate Attorney

- Obtained a \$300,000.00, plus punitive damages, award from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) on behalf of client in a pregnancy-discrimination claim.
- Represented plaintiffs in state and federal discrimination claims before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC), and the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (PCHR).
- Authored settlement agreements.
- Prepared pleadings and pretrial motions; performed key research on applicable caselaw and relevant legal statutes via LexisNexis and Westlaw databases.
- Represented plaintiffs in trials in the Eastern District, including the cross-examination of witnesses and arguing for and obtaining favorable jury instructions from the federal trial judge.
- Determined strategies for depositions, production of documents, issuances of subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum.
- Conducted pre-discovery fact investigation.
- Managed own caseload while assisting with various aspects of the firm owner's cases.

ADMISSIONS

- Pennsylvania Bar (2006)
- New Jersey Bar (2006)

EDUCATION

NEW ENGLAND SCHOOL OF LAW, Boston, Massachusetts 2006
Juris Doctor
Dean's List, Spring 2005, Fall 2005, Spring 2006
Charles Hamilton Houston Honor Society
Minority Students' Association, President (2005-2006)
Black Law Students' Association

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 2003
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, *Magna Cum Laude*
Dean's List, 2000-2003; Presidential Scholar (2003)