

Keisha Hudson

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Key Qualifications

- Eighteen years of legal experience representing indigent clients in criminal matters, including capital appellate litigation.
- Extensive experience creating networks and task forces to address problems of injustice in the local, statewide, and nationwide communities.
- Years of experience working with the media to forward important policy changes in criminal justice processes, including bail and probation reform.
- Expert in designing and conducting training for clients, lawyers, judges, and other legal staff, on a variety of topics involving criminal justice.

Professional Experience

The Justice Collaborative, San Francisco, CA

Mar. 2020-Present

Director of Campaigns

- Responsible for managing advocacy campaigns addressing criminal justice reforms.
- Managing each of the team leaders within the Campaigns team.
- Helps with onboarding new Campaigns team staff members.
- Drafts and implements campaign plans with clear goals, tasks, and timelines.
- Ensuring that the Campaigns team has clarity on their tasks, the skills to successfully complete their tasks, and that they are aligned with other Justice Collaborative priorities.

Montgomery County Public Defender, Norristown, PA

May 2016-Feb. 2020

Deputy Chief Public Defender and Director of Training

- Management of the third largest public defender agency in Pennsylvania, including all aspects of the administrative process, budget development, and the supervision of a staff of 66 attorneys, investigators, social workers, paralegals, and support staff members.
- Conceptualized and implemented the organization's first training program, which included management of a \$30,000 training budget, course and CLE development, creation of instructional materials, ongoing maintenance of a resource database, and forging new training partnerships with Gideon's Promise and the Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania.
- Maximized existing resources, conducted needs assessment and secured necessary tools to ensure the better delivery of legal services.

- Developed a recruitment, professional development, and mentorship model to guide the organization in attracting and retaining top quality legal staff.
- Created internal documents to guide supervisory staff on effective personnel evaluations.
- Directed public relations for the organization, which included writing press releases, the development of a website, and social media presence.
- Successfully worked with the news media on campaigns to address probation and parole issues and racism in Montgomery County police departments.
- Designed and supervised a variety of legal projects in partnership with Temple, Villanova, and Drexel Law Schools.
- Represented two juvenile lifer clients who were serving life without parole in Pennsylvania, conducting extensive multi-day resentencing hearings that included the presentation of experts.
- Co-counsel on a first-degree homicide case that is scheduled for trial in March 2020.

Federal Community Defender, Philadelphia, PA
May 2016

Sept. 2006-

Director of Training

- Designed, implemented, and managed an ongoing training program for all Capital Habeas Unit staff, including developing a new staff orientation and training curriculum.
- Created instructional materials and managed a training database that included resources on all aspects of capital appellate work.
- Recruited and collaborated with training faculty, including local and national forensic experts in the design of their presentations and the creation of their materials.
- Created annual detailed training reports submitted to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.
- Assisted in the planning of conferences for the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.
- Supervised the professional development of all staff, which included placement as faculty at conferences, creation of teaching opportunities with local law schools, and monitoring compliance with continuing legal education and Rule 801 qualification requirements.

Federal Community Defender, Capital Habeas Unit

Sept. 2006-May 2016

Assistant Federal Defender

- Direct representation of clients on Pennsylvania, Delaware, and federal death row in their state post-conviction and federal habeas appeals.
- Conducted guilt and penalty phase investigations, including interviewing witnesses in preparation for briefing and state and federal evidentiary hearings.
- Consulted with forensic and mental health experts in preparation for briefing and evidentiary hearings.

- Researched and wrote motions, briefs, and other memoranda to state and federal courts.
- Conducted several multi-week capital evidentiary hearings and arguments in state (Pennsylvania and Delaware) and federal courts (Eastern District of PA).
- Chaired the training committee and organized internal and national training programs for attorneys, investigators, and paralegals.

Drexel University, Thomas R. Kline School of Law,

Spring 2014

Adjunct Professor

- Taught a seminar course, titled “*Punishment and Society*” which looked at the history of punishment in America, from the creation of the prison to the socioeconomic and political developments that contributed to the growth of the prison population.

Defender Association, Philadelphia, PA,

September 2002- September 2006

Assistant Public Defender

- Represented indigent clients in Mental Health Court, Municipal Court, and Court of Common Pleas on cases ranging from civil commitments, simple misdemeanors, and multiple-count felonies.
- Researched, wrote, and argued pre-trial and post-trial motions.
- Supervised the municipal court unit, training new attorneys on effective client presentation and litigation skills.

Education

- **Cornell Law School**, JD, Public Law Concentration, May 2002
Cornell Law Review, Senior Note Editor, September 2001- May 2002
Legal Information Institute. Lead Editor, September 2001- May 2002
- **Cornell University**, Bachelor of Science, City and Regional Planning, May 1999.

Boards and Memberships

Member, American Bar Association \ Board Member, Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers \ Board Member, Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania \ Board Member, Fresh Artists

Honors and Awards

Manning’s High School Past Students Exemplary Public Service Award, 2019. Awarded each year to a past student of Manning’s High School (Jamaica, West Indies) who has shown a long-

standing commitment to public service.

Cornell Law School Award for Exemplary Public Service, 2013. *Awarded each year to alumni who have dedicated their career to public service.*

The Freeman Award for Civil-Human Rights, 2001-2002. *Awarded to the law student who made the greatest contributions during his/her law school career to civil human rights.*

Cornell Black Alumni Association Senior Leadership Award, 1999. *Awarded to an undergraduate senior for outstanding leadership and efforts to enhance the lives of students and the community-at-large while attending Cornell University.*