

THOMAS M. LEITH

Syracuse University College of Law
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EXPERIENCE

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW, Syracuse, New York

Associate Teaching Professor, Director, Criminal Defense Clinic, August 2024 to Present

Adjunct Professor, January 2023 to August 2024

Responsible for directing and supervising second- and third-year law students in the Criminal Defense Clinic. This entails preparing students to represent indigent criminal defendants in Onondaga Criminal Courts. Includes instruction on case management, client interviewing, investigation, motion practice, negotiation, attorney ethics, and trial advocacy. Clinic instruction also examines the role of the advocate in indigent criminal defense and criminal justice reform.

HISCOCK LEGAL AID SOCIETY, Syracuse, New York

Managing Attorney, Criminal and Appeals Programs, November 2022 to August 2024

Staff Attorney, Appeals, June 2020 to November 2022

As Managing Attorney, responsible for oversight of HLAS's Criminal and Appeals Programs, which provide parole and appellate representation for indigent clients in Onondaga County, New York. As Staff Attorney, briefed and argued indigent appeals from criminal convictions, SORA, and family court adjudications before the Fourth Judicial Department and New York State Court of Appeals.

LAW OFFICES OF THE SHELBY COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER, Memphis, Tennessee

Assistant Public Defender, Division Leader, October 2014 to June 2020

Senior trial attorney responsible for felony caseload of all levels, including First Degree Murder. Tried numerous cases to verdict, with a high rate of acquittal. Mentored junior attorneys with litigation strategy and trial technique.

BROOKLYN DEFENDER SERVICES, Brooklyn, New York

Trial Attorney, July 2011 to August 2014

Public Defender office representing indigent criminal defendants in Kings County, New York. Representation based upon a vertical structure, where each criminal attorney has primary responsibility for each individual defendant from arraignment through trial. Carried a typical caseload of approximately one hundred cases, split between misdemeanors and felonies.

SPEARS & IMES LLP, New York, New York

Associate, January 2009 to June 2011

Boutique firm specializing in white collar criminal defense. Involved in every part of federal criminal trial, including appeal to Second Circuit. Represented individual in SEC investigation requiring preparation for multiple SEC depositions and defense of formal charges.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT, EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, Brooklyn, New York

Law Clerk to the Honorable Judge Raymond J. Dearie, November 2007 to November 2008

Drafted numerous opinions regarding criminal and civil matters. Assisted Judge in capital trial, high-profile terrorism case, and various other hearings and proceedings.

SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP, New York, New York

Associate, Litigation Department, May 2005 to July 2005, October 2006 to October 2007

Drafted motion to dismiss securities fraud claim. Wrote research memoranda for amicus brief related to securities case decided by the Supreme Court of the United States. Supervised document review project.

PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN, Madison, Wisconsin

Drum Set and Percussion, June 1996 to August 2003

Played throughout the country and in Europe with bands including *Mama Digdown's Brass Band*, *Avenida Brasil*, and *John Chimes and the Nat'chl Blues Band*. Focused on the musical and cultural connections of New Orleans, Brazil, and Cuba.

EDUCATION

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, New York, New York

J.D., *cum laude*, May 2006

Honors: Dean's Scholarship—*75% of tuition*; McKay Scholar—*academic achievement*

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, Madison, Wisconsin

B.S. in Philosophy, Graduated with Distinction, May 1996 (top 5% of graduating class)

ADMISSIONS: New York, 2007; Tennessee, 2014