

SARAH E. BRANCH

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SELECTED EXPERIENCE

Visiting Professor, University of Maine School of Law, Portland, January 2022-present

- Supervise student attorneys at the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic
- Oversee an intensive hands-on experience for students as they represent clients in court
- Director of the Youth Justice Clinic

Private Practice, Cumberland and Sagadahoc Counties, Maine, April 2015-January 2022

- Litigated adult and juvenile cases in State and Federal courts
- Litigated forced hospitalization and treatment cases in State courts
- Conducted legal research and drafted motions
- Developed and executed client centered interviews
- Focused on the intersection of mental illness and the criminal justice system

Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, Washington, DC, 2008-2014

Trial Attorney Juvenile Section, June 2012–July 2014

- Prosecuted juveniles for all felony and misdemeanor offenses
- Coordinated with victim specialists to provide support and resources for victims
- Prepared civilian witnesses, officers, and experts for trial under thirty-day speedy trial requirements
- Liaised with the DC Child Trafficking Task Force

Acting Assistant Chief, Criminal Section, November 2011–June 2012

- Managed section responsible for the prosecution of all adult traffic and quality of life offenses
- Reviewed and approved trial attorneys' legal pleadings prior to court submission

DUI Case Review Coordinator, August 2010–November 2011

- Litigated and managed cases involving complex challenges including *Brady* issues, prosecutorial misconduct claims, and general constitutional arguments
- Provided guidance on a model breath testing program for use by local and federal police agencies
- Created and conducted training sessions for attorneys and law enforcement officers

Trial Attorney Criminal Section, September 2008–August 2010

- Managed high-volume criminal caseload
- Drafted training materials and facilitated trainings for newly recruited officers for the Metropolitan Police Department

New Hampshire Superior Court, North Haverhill and Dover, NH: *Judicial Law Clerk*, August 2006–August 2008

- Researched and drafted proposed criminal and civil judicial orders for numerous New Hampshire Superior Court Judges

Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT: *Adjunct Professor of Law*, August 2006–January 2008

- Coached the Negotiation and Client Counseling Moot Court teams and facilitated workshops on Alternative Dispute Resolution

South Royalton Legal Clinic, South Royalton, VT: *Clinician*, Summer 2004

- Worked with indigent clients on children's rights, family law, housing, and domestic violence

Office of the Utah Attorney General, Salt Lake City, UT: *AmeriCorps VISTA*, January 1998–February 1999

- Administered the Attorney General’s violence prevention program in the community by facilitating presentations, monitoring legislation, working with law enforcement, and writing grants

United States Peace Corps, Namibia, Africa: *Volunteer*, March 2000–June 2002

- Addressed the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic at a community level

Glidden Point Oyster Farms, Edgecomb, ME: Fall 1999

- Farmed, harvested, cleaned, and packaged oysters

The Nautical Heritage Society, Coast of California, *Crew Member*, February 1997–November 1997

- Crewed a 145-foot non-profit sail training vessel and selected as Gunner and Coxswain

Assistant Yard Manager, San Francisco, CA: January 1997–February 1997

- Yard maintenance on boats and served as crew on harbor cruises

The South India Term Abroad Program, Madurai, India: *Program Assistant*, August 1996–December 1996

- Facilitated presentations on cultural sensitivity, community integration, and team building

EDUCATION

Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT, Juris Doctor, May 2006

- Academic Achievement Award: “Capital Punishment” and “Interviewing, Client Counseling, and Negotiation”
- Third Place, International Negotiation Competition, Dublin, Ireland, 2005
- First Place, ABA National Negotiation Competition, Salt Lake City, UT, 2005
- First Place, ABA Regional Negotiation Competition, Birmingham, AL, 2004
- Elected graduation speaker

Adult Education Program on Welding, Rockland, ME, 2002

Bates College, Lewiston, ME, Bachelor of Arts, English Literature and Women’s Studies, June 1996

- South India Term Abroad, Madurai, India 1994–1995

PRESENTATIONS

- *Connecting the Dots: How Experts can Clarify Competence & So Much More!* Presented at the national Youth Defender Leadership Summit in North Carolina put on by The Gault Center. Specifically, she presented on a panel of experts on issues of Competency and Bias. October 14, 2023
- In concert with the Maine Center for Youth Policy and Law organized, developed, facilitated, and presented at a two-day Juvenile Defender Basic Training for the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services. September 27 and 28, 2023

- At this training specifically presented sessions on the Ethical Considerations at Play When Representing Youth, What is Juvenile Competency, Post-Arrest Detention for Youth, and Motion Practice in Juvenile Courts.
- How and why to become a juvenile defense attorney presentation. A lunch and learn presented by the Juvenile Law Society to Maine Law students. Fall, 2023
- How does a youth move through the Justice System, a lunch and learn for Clinic students, Fall 2023
- Law School for Legislators presentation (Part II). February ,2023.
- Law School for Legislators presentation. January 10, 2023
- The Ethics of Competency, October 2021
- Criminal Law Minimum Standards Training, Freeport, December 2019 – Mental Health
- Juvenile Law Minimum Standards Training, Augusta, November 2018 – Client Intake; The Basics of the Juvenile Code
- Sex Trafficking Panel Discussion: Representing Clients Successfully, October 2018
- Domestic Violence Trial Training, April 2018 – Authentication; self-defense; defense of property

AWARDS

- Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers “Unsung Hero Award” given to a defense attorney who best exemplifies the highest level of commitment, passion, and tireless pursuit of justice in the representation of indigent defendants, 2018
- Washington Regional Alcohol Program, WRAPPY Award for Public Service for outstanding support against impaired driving, specifically for the DC DUI legislation, 2012
- Three times awarded the Office of the Attorney General of DC’s Team Spirit Award for demonstrated exceptional ability to foster collaboration, communication, and cooperation among colleagues and for notably improving the productivity and efficiency of the government, 2010, 2011, and 2012
- The Office of the Attorney General of DC’s Exemplary Service Award for service that substantially exceeded the norm, 2011
- Metropolitan Police Department, Chief of Police, Medal of Merit for outstanding service to the citizens of DC and contributions to the Metropolitan Police Department, 2009

MEMBERSHIPS

- Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Secretary
- Mental Health Task Force (the “Languishing Committee”), Cumberland County Court
- The Gault Center, New England Advisory Board Member

BAR ADMISSION

- United States District Court for the District of Maine (active; admitted 5/14/2017)
- Maine (active; admitted 1/16/2015)
- District of Columbia (inactive; admitted 6/8/2009)
- New Hampshire (inactive; admitted 10/31/2006)
- United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire (inactive; admitted 10/31/2006)

OTHER

- Interviewed by News Center Maine on a recent court order for new trial in a manslaughter case for 6th Amendment reasons. August 23, 2023
- Worked with the Department of Justice Access to Justice and the Students for the 6th with an evening networking and panel discussion on answering the call of criminal defense. October 3, 2022
- Faculty supervisor for the Students for the 6th Amendment
- Frequent consultation with practicing defense attorneys on issues of competency and youth justice
- Attends monthly practitioners working group on youth justice issues to develop policy and legislative goals