

ARTHUR AGO
aago@lawyerscommittee.org

EMPLOYMENT

LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW *Washington, DC (2019-Present)*

Director, Criminal Justice Project

- Lead and manage the Criminal Justice Project; ensure Project's attorneys and staff fulfill its mission, which is to combat racial inequities in the criminal justice system and the criminalization of poverty; ensure Project's attorneys and staff comply with professional standards of representation; evaluate performance of Project's attorneys and staff
- Supervise Project's investigation and litigation of cases around the country; supervise Project's investigation and litigation of cases on the unconstitutional jailing of people too poor to pay their court fines and fees, police abuse and misconduct, unconstitutional prison conditions, violations of right to counsel, and amicus practice; supervise Project's policy work on policing, court fines and fees, Sixth Amendment right to counsel, and other policy issues related to criminal justice
- Oversee hiring of new staff
- Work with grant and funding agencies; seek grants and work with organization's development staff to write grant proposals; ensure that Project meets all grant and funding milestones and deliverables

PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA *(1998-2002 and 2004-2019)*

Special Litigation Division Attorney (2017-2019)

- Represented clients in post-conviction cases under the D.C. Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act; supervised investigation, performed legal research, and sought sentence reductions for juvenile clients convicted as adults and sentenced to lengthy prison terms
- Represented indigent adults facing homicide charges

Chief, Trial Division (2013-2017)

- Led and managed Trial Division, which was comprised of over 50 attorneys; ensured trial attorneys and Supervising Trial Attorneys complied with agency's standards of representation; evaluated performances of all trial attorneys and Supervising Trial Attorneys
- Served as liaison between Trial Division and D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge, Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division, Associate Judges, and D.C. Pretrial Services Agency
- Represented agency before the Maryland Governor's Commission to Reform Maryland's Pretrial System, Council for Court Excellence District of Columbia Jury Project, and before delegations from the Republic of Georgia, Ukraine, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Massachusetts
- Supervised General Felony, Serious Felony, new Felony I attorneys, and Supervising Trial Attorneys; discussed case strategies, research, pleadings, sentencing memoranda,

- trial preparation, and preliminary hearing preparation with supervisees; supervised trials, complicated sentencings, and other important hearings
- Evaluated trial attorneys for potential promotion to Supervising Trial Attorney positions
- Along with agency Director, Deputy Director, and General Counsel, participated in hiring of new trial attorneys
- Evaluated and enforced agency policies on employment, EEO, leave, and procurement
- Coordinated, developed, and assisted in trainings, including Trial Practice Groups, new attorney training, and investigator training; coordinated and led Supervising Trial Attorney training, which re-examined and established new policies and procedures for supervision in Trial Division; trained non-agency attorneys and law students in variety of settings, including Washington Council of Lawyers Litigation Skills Training; Georgetown University Law Center Criminal Justice Clinic; and National Institute for Trial Advocacy

Deputy Chief, Trial Division (2008-2013)

- Assisted Chief of Trial Division in management of Trial Division, including evaluation of attorneys and division procedures and policies; managed attorney schedules and calendars; directed Felony I Trial Practice Group; ensured attorney compliance with agency policies on case management systems, leave, and procurement
- Trained non-agency attorneys in variety of settings, including Public Defender Service Summer Series; Washington Council of Lawyers Litigation Skills Training; Public Defender Service Forensic Science Conference; D.C. Law Students in Court; and Georgetown University Law Center Criminal Justice Clinic
- Supervised General Felony, Serious Felony, and new Felony I attorneys
- Served as agency representative to variety of D.C. Superior Court committees, including Domestic Violence Implementation Committee, Performance Stakeholders Committee, Misdemeanor Community Court Committee, and Fugitive Safe Surrender Program
- Served on agency Hiring Committee
- Represented agency in meetings with attorneys and government representatives from the Philippines, Japan, and Afghanistan

Supervising Trial Attorney, Trial Division (2005-2008)

- Supervised Juvenile, General Felony, and Serious Felony attorneys; supervised case preparation, including strategies, research, pleadings, sentencing memoranda, trial preparation, and preliminary hearing preparation; supervised trials, complicated sentencings, and other important hearings
- Directed bi-weekly Trial Practice Group training for General Felony attorneys

Trial Attorney (1998-2001 and 2004-2005)

- *Felony I, 2005-Present:* Represent indigent adults facing homicide, assault with intent to kill, and sex assault charges; member of the Forensic Practice Group; have handled cases involving DNA, disputed ballistic evidence, disputed mental health evidence; conducted competency hearings; tried over 25 Felony I cases as lead counsel
- *General Felony and Serious Felony, 1999-2001 and 2004:* Represented adults facing criminal charges and parole revocation; tried over 25 cases, including allegations of armed robbery, sex abuse, felony drug possession and distribution, and felony assault

- *Juvenile, 1998-1999*: Represented juveniles facing delinquency charges; tried over 10 cases, including allegations of drug distribution, robbery, sex abuse

Appellate Attorney (2002)

- Represented indigent juveniles and adults in delinquency and criminal appeals before D.C. Court of Appeals; evaluated cases for appellate issues; researched and wrote appellate briefs and other pleadings

UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL *Washington, DC (Spring 2019)*

Adjunct Professor of Law

- Developed and taught Trial Advocacy; taught weekly seminar for second- and third-year law students; developed and taught classes on all aspects of trial advocacy, including opening statements, direct examination, cross examination, expert witnesses, and closing arguments

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW *Washington, DC (Summer 2018)*

Adjunct Professor of Law

- Developed and taught Long-Distance Externship Seminar; created this class for internet-based distance learning; taught on-line weekly seminar for second- and third-year law students participating in field placements; developed classes on ethics, bias and diversity in the workplace, implicit bias, gender in the workplace, race and the legal system, representing clients, and leadership

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER *Washington, DC (Spring and Fall 2016)*

Adjunct Professor of Law

- Developed and taught Criminal Defense Externship Seminar (Spring 2016) and Diverse Placement Externship Seminar (Fall 2016); taught bi-weekly seminars for second- and third-year law students participating in field placements; developed classes on ethics and professionalism, indigent criminal defense, bias and diversity in the workplace, implicit bias, and leadership

D.C. LAW STUDENTS IN COURT PROGRAM, INC. *Washington, DC (2002-2004)*

Supervising Attorney and Adjunct Professor of Law

- Supervised third-year law students in Criminal Division in the representation of misdemeanor and delinquency cases in D.C. Superior Court; oversaw students' research and writing, investigation, and trial preparation; taught weekly seminar on trial advocacy, criminal procedure, and evidence; supervised over 50 students and approximately 150 cases

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

D.C. LAW STUDENTS IN COURT PROGRAM, INC.

Washington, DC (2005-2009)

Member, Board of Directors

- Oversaw operations of the program, including staffing and budget oversight; evaluated performance of the executive director; engaged in capital development, fundraising, and capital investment; ascertained that the program continued to meet its mission of

educating law students while representing indigent clients in landlord-tenant, small claims, criminal, and juvenile courts in D.C. Superior Court

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION EDUCATIONAL FUND

Washington, DC (2001-2003)

Member, Board of Directors

- Raised capital to fund fellowships that were awarded to law students engaged in public interest work; managed and expanded programs that provided practical assistance to law students

EDUCATION

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL (Washington, DC)

- *Juris Doctor*, May 1998
- Associate, *The George Washington University Law Review*
- President, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, 1996-1997

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (Los Angeles, CA)

- Master of Arts, Asian American Studies, August 1995
- Studied Asian American history, politics, legal issues

AMHERST COLLEGE (Amherst, MA)

- Bachelor of Arts *cum laude*, English, May 1990
- Co-Captain, Track and Field Team

BAR MEMBERSHIP

- Active Member of the Bar Associations of: Supreme Court of the United States, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and District of Columbia