

FACULTY BIOS

Brianna Mircheff is the Appellate Unit Chief at the Federal Public Defender office in the Central District of California. Ms. Mircheff attended Loyola Law School as a Public Interest Scholar. After graduation, she clerked for the Honorable Harry Pregerson of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Mircheff has been with the Federal Public Defender's office since 2006 as a trial attorney, appeals attorney, immigration specialist.

Akin Adepoju is an Attorney Advisor in the Training Division at the Administrative Office of US Courts. Before joining the courts Akin was an Assistant Federal Defender for the Western District of Pennsylvania where he has served in both the Trial and Capital Habeas Units. He has litigated cases in state and federal, trial, and post-conviction courts. Before joining the Federal Defender, Akin was a J. Kirk Osborn Fellow and spent his time at Fair Trial Initiative, where he litigated capital trial cases in North Carolina. He is a frequent speaker and instructor in training programs for state and federal defenders. He frequently lectures on trial strategy and sentencing advocacy, legal writing, and legal ethics. Akin is a cum laude graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, earned his J.D. cum laude from Rhode Island's Roger Williams University School of Law where he was a Dean's Scholar and student-attorney in the Criminal Defense Clinic, and earned his LL.M. from Temple University School of Law as a public interest scholar. In 2012, Akin was presented with the Feinstein Institute Public Interest Award.

Fritz Scheller is a private attorney with offices in Tampa and Orlando, Florida. After graduating Order of the Coif from the University of California at Berkeley in 1999, Fritz worked as an Assistant Federal Defender in the Middle District of Florida until 2004. Since 2004, Fritz has worked in private practice concentrating on federal criminal defense. Although his practice is primarily focused in the Middle District, he has handled federal cases throughout the country. Fritz's acquittal rate in federal trials is remarkable. Moreover, he was part of the successful defense team for Noor Salman in the Pulse Shooting trial in federal court, has had two convictions reversed from the Southern District of Illinois and the Florida 5th DCA, obtained one of the largest downward variances (85% reduction) in the country for a career offender,

and has drafted a series of outstanding federal sentencing memos that have resulted in significant downward variances.

Giselle Pomerleau is a Litigation Technology Attorney who has been with the Office of the Federal Public Defender, District of New Jersey, since 2010. During her time there, she has occupied several positions, including Paralegal, Research and Writing Specialist, and Assistant Federal Public Defender. She has been a faculty presenter on the topic of e-discovery management and e-discovery trends at CJA seminars, has implemented e-discovery management training programs within her office, and focuses a large part of her practice on complex, high-volume, e-discovery cases. Giselle is originally from Maine and graduated from Villanova University with a BA in Sociology in 2006. She graduated from the Drexel University School of Law in 2010, where she received the faculty award for Outstanding Pro Bono Student. Giselle is also an adjunct professor in the Criminal Justice department at La Salle University. She currently resides in Philadelphia.

James Reavis has worked with the Montana Office of the Public Defender since 2012, first serving as a trial attorney in Butte and then as an appellate attorney in Helena and now Billings. Reavis has resolved 117 appeals before the Montana Supreme Court, with 32 of those appeals resulting in published opinions, including 7 dissents. He has worked on a wide variety of criminal defense topics but has developed a specialty in double jeopardy claims and involuntary commitment appeals. Reavis has presented CLE's on DUI litigation, extradition, drafting motions *in limine*, and preserving the record for appeal.

Rene Valladares is the Federal Public Defender for the District of Nevada. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Boyd School of Law, and the UNLV Criminal Justice Department. He lectures nationally on various criminal law and procedure topics including evidence and the defense of conspiracy cases. Mr. Valladares serves on the Federal Defenders' Performance Measurement Working Group. Recently, Rene Valladares wrote a Defender's Guide to Federal Evidence: A Trial Practice Handbook for Criminal Defense Attorneys, published by NACDL.

Cullen Macbeth is an appellate attorney in the Federal Public Defender's Office for the District of Maryland, where he has worked since 2018. In that role he briefs and argues cases in the Fourth Circuit and assists trial attorneys with complex motions, including those raising Second Amendment issues. Before joining the Maryland FPD, he worked as an appellate attorney for two years at the Federal Public Defender's Office for the District of Nevada. Cullen, a graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School, clerked for Judge Neil V. Wake of the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona and Judge Scott M. Matheson, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Carmen Smarandoiu is the Appellate Chief for the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of California, which she joined in 2012. During this time, she has maintained a diverse practice consisting of direct criminal appeals, habeas corpus litigation, and complex motion work, as well as a year-long stint as a trial attorney. Pre-*Bruen*, she litigated a case arguing that California's concealed-carry regime violated the Second Amendment and authored a Ninth Circuit FPD amicus brief arguing that *Heller* does not foreclose as-applied challenges to felon-in-possession bans. Carmen, a graduate of the University of Washington Law School, clerked for the Hon. Anne Ellington of the Washington State Court of Appeals and the Hon. Betty B. Fletcher of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Captain Art Cody, USN (Retired) is the Director of the Center for Veteran Criminal Advocacy. His military career spans over thirty years, and he has served worldwide. Art began his career as an Army helicopter pilot followed by a similar role in the Navy Reserve flying for a Strike Rescue/Special Operations Squadron. He served aboard *USS Enterprise (CVN-65)* in the initial response to the 9-11 attacks and was most recently deployed to Afghanistan as the Staff Director of the Rule of Law Section, US Embassy Kabul. As a civilian lawyer, Art has represented capital clients for over twenty-five years. Art is a former chair of the Capital Punishment Committee of the New York City Bar Association. He frequently presents nationally on the defense of veterans, provides counsel to lawyers for capital charged or sentenced veterans, and served as lead counsel in a veteran capital clemency hearing. In 2020, he assisted Advancing Real Change and the Southern Center for Human Rights in obtaining clemency in Georgia for Jimmy Meders, an Army veteran. In addition to an Aerospace Engineering degree from West Point, he graduated *magna cum laude* from Notre Dame Law School where he was the Executive Editor of the *Notre Dame Law Review* and founded the Notre Dame Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. He is a recipient of the New York City Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award for Capital Representation, and the New York State Bar Association's 2019 *David S. Michaels Award* for his

representation of veterans in Criminal Courts. His military decorations include the Navy Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Naval Aviator Badge, Army Parachutist Badge and the German Armed Forces Parachutist Badge. Additionally, he received the State Department's Meritorious Honor Award for his service in Kabul.

Katy Stack is from Missoula, Montana, and graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in 2010. After law school, she clerked for U.S. Magistrate Judge Keith Strong and Chief U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen. Katy then started her own law practice in 2014 in Missoula, specializing in criminal defense and child advocacy. Katy was a member of the CJA Panel in Montana for several years and has tried jury trials as a criminal defense attorney, prosecutor, law clerk, and substitute judge. Katy currently serves as Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Career Development at the University of Montana Blewett School of Law.

Kari E. Hong is an expert in immigration consequences of criminal appeals. Kari has represented more than 250 people before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Court has decided over 125 of her cases and published 30 decisions, including a 2021 en banc victory. Kari was a tenured law professor at Boston College and is currently the Ninth Circuit Attorney with the Florence Immigration & Refugee Rights Project. Kari clerked for Judge Sidney Thomas (9th Cir. Court of Appeals) and Judge Jeremy Fogel (N.D. California). Kari is a graduate of Columbia Law School and Swarthmore College and currently lives in Missoula, Montana.