

VICKIE PIONTKOWSKI, JD, MSW, LCSW

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EDUCATION

Master of Social Work, University of Maryland School of Social Work, 2006

Juris Doctor, University of Maryland School of Law, 2006

Bachelor of Arts in English, Ohio Wesleyan University, 1998

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021 – Present *Founder and Mitigation Specialist*, Insight Mitigation, LLC

Interview indigent clients, families and collateral witnesses using client-centered theory techniques | Identify, collect and analyze mitigation records | Provide psychosocial assessments to attorneys, court and experts | Prepare coordinated mitigation presentations, including social history reports and sentencing videos | Coordinate treatment and alternative sentencing recommendations to address substance abuse, mental health, education, employment, developmental disabilities, medical needs and housing | Testify in court

2020 – Present *Adjunct Professor*, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work

Teach *Social Work & The Law* and *Models of Intervention* to social work graduate students

2009 – 2021 *Mitigation Investigator*, Federal Public Defender, Pittsburgh, PA

Interviewed indigent clients, families and collateral witnesses using client-centered theory techniques | Provided psychosocial assessments to attorneys, court and experts | Prepared coordinated mitigation presentations, including social history reports and sentencing videos | Coordinated treatment and alternative sentencing recommendations to address substance abuse, mental health, education, employment, developmental disabilities, medical needs and housing | Identified, collected and analyzed mitigation records | Testified in court | Participated in re-entry court and on sex offender task group | Supervised social work graduate students in field placement

2006 – 2009 *Social Worker*, Neighborhood Defenders Northwest, Baltimore, MD

Interviewed indigent clients, families and collateral witnesses using client-centered theory techniques | Created and maintained working relationships with community service providers | Coordinated treatment plans and alternative sentencing recommendations | Wrote psychosocial assessments

2006 *Law Clerk*, Homeless Persons Representation Project, Baltimore, MD

Researched and wrote legal memos regarding expungement issues

2005 – 2006 *Social Work Field Placement Intern*, Patuxent Institution Youth Team, Jessup, MD

Conducted individual therapy with two inmates | Observed, participated in, and gathered resources for group therapy: advanced group, basic group, victim impact group, anger management group | Prepared and presented psychosocial assessments to treatment team

2004 – 2005 *Mediator and Medication Coordinator*, Community Mediation, Baltimore, MD

Coordinated mediations with community host sites, court liaisons and mediation participants | Mediated conflicts with a co-facilitator

2002 – 2003 *Women in Transition Project Director*, Alternative Directions, Inc., Baltimore, MD

Interviewed female inmates, developed release plans for parole board approval | Counseled soon-to-be-released inmates and recently released women | Maintained and related statistical data for program evaluation | Wrote successful grant requests

2001-2002 *After Care Transition Project Director*, Alternative Directions, Inc., Baltimore, MD

Presented monthly re-entry workshops within Maryland Correctional Institution for Women and Baltimore Pre-Release Unit for Women | Recruited over sixty community representatives to speak at monthly workshops | Collected, created, and distributed resource information to inmates | Counseled soon-to-be-released inmates and recently released women

2000 – 2001 *Paralegal*, Alternative Directions, Inc., Baltimore, MD

Presented civil legal workshops in Maryland correctional institutions: explained child support modification and divorce process, child custody developments, visitation rights, and how to access community resources

1998-2000 *Assistant Editor*, F&W Publications, Cincinnati, OH

Wrote, edited, and proofread catalogue copy

OTHER ACTIVITIES

2020 – Present *Justice Reform Committee Member*, Mt. Lebo Organization for Racial Equity
2018 – 2020 *Co-Coach*, Odyssey of the Mind
2016 – Present *Co-Chair*, Washington Elementary School Learning Garden
2013 – Present *Member*, National Alliance of Sentencing Advocates & Mitigation Specialists
2007 – 2009 *Board Member*, Baltimore Community Mediation Center
2005 – 2009 *Mediator*, Baltimore Community Mediation Center
2004 *Group Facilitator*, Baltimore City Women's Detention Center, Power Inside
2002 – 2004 *Chair*, Institution Reform Workgroup of Maryland Justice Coalition
1998 – 2000 *Sexual Assault Hotline Counselor*, Women Helping Women
1998 – 2000 *Literacy Tutor*, River City Correctional Center

LICENSURE & CERTIFICATIONS

- 2014 – Present Pennsylvania Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists
Licensed Clinical Social Worker, #CW018010
- 2009 – 2015 Maryland Board of Social Work
Licensed Certified Social Worker – Clinical, #15078
- 2007 – 2009 *Licensed Master Social Worker, #G12661*
- 2008 *Offender Workforce Development Specialist*
- 2007 – present Maryland Bar Association
Attorney License #0706110196, Inactive

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 *Cessie Alfonso Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Profession*
National Alliance for Sentencing Advocates and Mitigation Specialists
- Good Trouble Award*
Mt. Lebanon Organization for Racial Equity
- 2017 *Outstanding Federal Defender Investigator*
National Association of Federal Defenders
- 2009 *The Jane Addams Social Work Award*
Maryland Office of the Public Defender
- 2004 – 2005 *Albert Schweitzer Fellow*

PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 *Sentencing Mitigation Videos* with Foongy Lee, Federal Public Defender Investigator
First Fridays: Sentencing Videos
Northern California Federal Public Defender Training
- David and the Turtles; Locating and Analyzing Mitigation Documents*
Storytelling: A Framework for Mitigation with Akin Adepoju, AFPD
Non-Capital Mitigation Skills Workshop, Virtual
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Defender Services Office Training Division
- 2020 *David and the Turtles; Locating and Analyzing Mitigation Documents*
Storytelling: A Framework for Mitigation with Akin Adepoju, AFPD
Non-Capital Mitigation Skills Workshop, Orlando, FL
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Defender Services Office Training Division

- 2019 *Identifying & Addressing Mental Health Issues for Sentencing*
Winning Strategies Seminar, Austin, TX
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Defender Services Office Training Division
- David and the Turtles; Locating and Analyzing Mitigation Documents*
Criminal Justice Act Panel Training, Boise, ID
Federal Public Defender Paralegal and Investigator Seminar, Baltimore MD
Sentencing Advocacy Workshop, Cincinnati, OH
Sentencing Advocacy Workshop, San Antonio, TX
Non-Capital Mitigation Skills Workshop, New Orleans, LA
- Storytelling: A Framework for Mitigation* with Akin Adepaju, AFPD
Non-Capital Mitigation Skills Workshop, New Orleans, LA
- Maximizing Mitigation*
Criminal Justice Act Panel Training, Columbus, OH
- 2018 *David and the Turtles; Locating and Analyzing Mitigation Documents*
Sentencing Advocacy Workshop, Los Angeles, CA
Sentencing Advocacy Workshop, Kansas City, MO
- Locating and Analyzing Mitigation Documents*
Storytelling: A Framework for Mitigation with Akin Adepaju, AFPD
Non-Capital Sentencing Mitigation Skills Workshop
- 2017 *David and the Turtles; Locating and Analyzing Mitigation Documents*
Sentencing Advocacy Workshop, Savannah, GA
Sentencing Advocacy Workshop, Baltimore, MD
Sentencing Advocacy Workshop, Albuquerque, NM
- Successful Sentencing Mitigation Presentations* with Christopher Brown, AFPD
Criminal Justice Act Panel Training, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2016 *Locating and Analyzing Mitigation Documents*
Storytelling: A Framework for Mitigation with Akin Adepaju, AFPD
Non-Capital Mitigation Skills Workshop, St. Louis, MO
- Mitigation for Skeptical Judges* with Akin Adepaju, AFPD
Federal Public Defender National Conference, Pittsburgh, PA
- Mitigation 101: Just Three Sticks*
Mitigation 2.0: A Spirited Horse
Federal Defender Paralegal and Investigator Seminar, Chicago, IL
- Locating and Analyzing Mitigation Documents*
Sentencing Advocacy Workshop, San Diego, CA

Identifying, Locating, Analyzing and Presenting Mitigation Documents with Kimberly Thomas, MSW, LMSW
Seminar on Federal Criminal Practice for CJA Panel Attorneys, Pittsburgh, PA

- 2015 *Locating and Analyzing Mitigation Documents*
Non-Capital Mitigation Skills Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
- Seek and Ye Shall Find: Locating and Analyzing Mitigation Documents*
What We Can Learn From Ketchup: Interviewing for Mitigation
National Defense Investigators Association Conference, San Diego, CA
- Locating and Analyzing Mitigation Documents*
Sentencing Advocacy Workshop, New Orleans, LA
- 2014 *Turning Mr. Hyde Into Dr. Jekyll, Effective Sentencing Advocacy*
Federal Criminal Law & Sentencing Law Seminar, Columbus, OH
- Developing a Correctional Treatment Plan*
Federal Public Defender National Conference, Cleveland, OH
- 2013 *Interviewing for Mitigation*
Multi-Track Federal Criminal Defense Seminar, Buffalo, NY
- 2011 *Identifying and Implementing Community Resources for Alternatives to Incarceration*
Sentencing Workshop for Federal Defenders, San Diego, CA
- Mitigation 101*
Criminal Justice Act Panel Training, Williamsport, PA

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 *Are You An Ally – An Interactive Panel*
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Defender Services Office Training Division
- 2011 *Bring Your Case – Brainstorming the Toughest Mitigation Cases*
Sentencing Workshop for Federal Defenders, San Diego, CA
- 2009 *The Future of Indigent Criminal Defense: Exploring Tensions Between Holistic Community-Based Representation and the Constitutional Right to a Fair Trial*
University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, MD
- 2009 *Holistic Criminal Defense*
Marc Steiner Radio Show, Baltimore, MD