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LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Pinal County Attorney; Civil Division

Deputy County Attorney (November 2025 – current)

Member of the Civil Division Team representing county departments, elected officials, as well as various other duties as needed. Assigned to represent the Assessor's office including litigating tax appeals, Treasurer, Public Health District including Emergency Services and Environmental Health, Medical Examiner's office, and mental health filings pursuant to Title 36. Additional responsibilities include mentoring young attorneys, as well as overseeing Public Records Requests.

In addition to representing clients, engaged in continuing development of leadership skills through a series of classes provided by the county program that encourages professional growth and development.

Civil work has provided an opportunity to further hone the valuable skill of building professional relationships and navigating different personalities within government leadership, while providing legal advice and perspective with integrity and discretion. Representing elected officials as well as county department heads requires maintaining confidentiality, providing clear opinions based in law and policy while remaining objective in any advice provided. The ability to propose innovative and creative solutions within the bounds of the law continues to be a perspective that I provide to my clients.

Yavapai County Public Defender

Deputy Public Defender (October 2023 – November 2025)

Indigent defense work with a full and varied case load, including all levels of felony representation (other than capital), probation violations, mental health matters. Responsible for representation from arraignment through final resolution, whether jury trial or plea.

Participated in Leadership workshops to create and implement a Strategic Plan for the Public Defender Office. Chosen to be part of county team to implement plans to improve the culture and environment of the county for employees and the community at large.

Cochise County Legal Defender

Legal Defender (December 2020 – October 2023)

Hired to fill a vacant director spot of one of the three indigent defense offices for Cochise County. As the Director, was responsible for all administrative and management tasks, including hiring and supervising attorneys as well as support staff, managing budgets, and monitoring and balancing caseloads within the office to ensure quality representation for our clients.

In addition to administrative responsibilities, carried a full caseload while ensuring that our office provided a high level of service to our community, including but not limited to advocacy in criminal matters, probation revocations, juvenile delinquency and dependency matters, as well as mental health commitments, guardianships, extradition cases, criminal appeals, and post-conviction relief.

Member of the County Suicide and Overdose Fatality Review Boards, responsible for reviewing raw data from the county with other stake holders to look for solutions and preventative measures the county could take to prevent unnecessary deaths.

Member of the Cochise Area Recovery Project, an organization created to connect community resources and help educate the community about resources available to reduce addiction, promote recovery, and work at reducing recidivism.

I greatly benefited in my position from the relationships I had built with other departments through my service to the county in the Civil Division, that created a network of internal county resources that benefited and served our clients as well as building a better community overall.

Cochise County Attorney; Civil Division

Deputy County Attorney (May 2019 – December 2020)

Responsible for sharing in representation of all County departments, department heads, as well as broad variety of unique issues that arise in County government. Specific duties included but were not limited to representation of designated mental health agencies for purposes of filing Title 36/Civil Commitment for mental health petitions, Jail Medical, Special Districts (including Fire Districts), Health Department, Housing, Public Fiduciary, Public Records, Providing guidance to departments on Open Meeting Law, Treasurer, Tax Lien Foreclosures, Bankruptcy, Tax Appeals, and the Assessor's Office.

Having discretion, integrity, and maintaining confidentiality were vital, while nurturing collaborative relationships between a wide variety of personalities and perspectives in order to best serve the community. Building this network across the county departments, as well as utilizing innovative and creative solutions to issues that would arise were the hallmarks of my tenure.

Cochise County Attorney; Criminal Division

Deputy County Attorney (January 2019 – May 2019)

Responsible for all aspects of misdemeanor prosecution, including evaluating cases, making plea offers, evidentiary hearings, bench and jury (when eligible) trials; negotiating with opposing counsel to resolve cases; communicating with law enforcement to best investigate and prep for trials. Additional assignment to assist in two felony conflict cases out of Graham County.

Corazon Law Firm, PLLC

Private Practice/Sole Practitioner (April 2018 – January 2019)

Focus on criminal defense; contract public defense work for smaller jurisdictions; protection order hearings; some minimal animal, civil, and family law.

Pascua Yaqui Tribe – Public Defender

Deputy Public Defender/Senior Staff Attorney (September 2013 – April 2018)

Initially hired as a contract attorney and then quickly transitioned into a full-time position. Services provided upon appointment by the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Court.

Representation included pretrial investigation, referrals to outside agencies, legal research and motion practice, plea negotiations, jury and bench trials, appeals, and daily appearances in Pascua Yaqui Tribal Court. Tribal practice involves navigating cross-jurisdictional issues, as well as being culturally sensitive to the unique community you serve. Additional duties included supervising and advising younger attorneys in the office, performance reviews of other attorneys, as well as working closely with counseling service providers in the community to better serve clients as well as the community by addressing causes of recidivism.

Worked collaboratively with Tribal government and other stakeholders in order to rewrite the Animal section of the Tribal Code and successfully implement those changes. Included in the task force that began to redraft the criminal code sections of the Tribal Code, in order to mirror state laws and streamline processes.

City of Tucson; Criminal Division

Assistant City Prosecutor (August 2007 – July 2013)

Initially assigned to Research & Writing, researching and drafting motions and appeals on behalf of the State; moved to courtroom work, including prosecuting DUI, domestic violence, animal violations, assault and disorderly conduct, trespassing, shoplifting and other misdemeanor crimes.

Responsible for negotiating plea offers and non-trial resolutions for cases, working with probation on revocation matters, active in victim advocacy as well as being responsible for file maintenance. Trial experience included over 30 jury trials, numerous bench trials and evidentiary hearings; Additional duties included supervising and mentoring law students and new attorneys.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Arizona - College of Law

Professor at Practice (Fall 2013; Fall 2016; Fall 2023)

Taught Animal Law; The class covers the broad reaching field of Animal Law, illustrating how animals are a component of every area of law. Class is structured to approach the subject holistically, involving case law and legislative matters, but also incorporating Philosophy, Sociology, Religion and current examples from the news and local community. The class goal is to explore the distinctions between animal rights and animal welfare advocacy, as well as how

the law is shaped by social norms and how animals and the law are ever-evolving concepts through lecture, guest speakers, and field trips.

Brookline College – Tucson, AZ

Adjunct Instructor – Criminal Justice Track (May 2018 – January 2019)

Taught classes at for-profit college in the now dissolved Criminal Justice bachelor's program, while also working in private practice as a defense attorney. Classes taught while there included Race, Ethnicity & Crime; Victimology; Gender & Delinquency; Corrections, Law & Liability; and Criminal Evidence.

Tucson Police Department/Animal Cruelty Task Force Education Class

Guest Speaker/Instructor (2016)

Invited to help teach law enforcement what to look for on animal cruelty and domestic violence calls, and what evidence is needed for successful prosecution of animal cruelty as well as neglect cases. Goal is to aid law enforcement in better investigations, and to educate first responders on the link between violence to animals and humans especially in the context of domestic violence situations, and how better to identify signs at the scene.

SPECIAL LEGAL PROJECTS/AWARDS

University of Arizona College of Law; Law and Policy Speaker Series; Fall 2022

Speaker and Creator of original content in presenting to interested law students and faculty on the intersection of Animal Law and Criminal Law

In-House CLE - Title 36, Rule 11, and Title 14 – Information; Intersections; Possibilities and Pitfalls

Presenter and Creator of original content, CLE/ 1.5 credits w/.5 Ethics (2019)

Program created to aid the Bench, Prosecutors, Defense Bar, Mental and Behavioral Health Staff, Court Staff, Law Enforcement and any other interested stake holders in understanding the interplay between Court Ordered Treatment, Competency in the context of the criminal justice system, Guardianships, mental health, and substance use disorders. The goal was to provide a framework for how these can affect the justice involved, and what legal tools are (and are not) available to assist in just outcomes for cases.

Arizona State Bar/CLE – Sentience Matters in Animal Cruelty Jurisprudence

Presenter; Animal Law Section sponsored CLE/ 8 CLE credits (2017)

Presentation of a full day of animal law related topics, sponsored by the Animal Law Section of the State Bar. Focus was on three recent Oregon Supreme Court cases that stand for the

proposition that sentience matters in the context of criminal cases, Fourth Amendment issues and merging of counts; and that animals are more than mere property.

APDA – Rural Attorney of the Year; 2016

Recognition for trial work and advocacy in defending a Native transgender client in jury trial, that resulted in acquittal on all charges.

Arizona State Bar/CLE – Prosecuting Animal Cruelty

Co-presenter on Panel / 2.75 CLE credits (2015)

Panel discussion of the prosecution of felony and misdemeanor animal cruelty cases from investigation and charging decisions through sentencing. The seminar also examined the links between animal cruelty and other criminal activity, including juvenile crime, domestic violence, and serial killers. Panel included prosecuting attorneys, representatives from the Animal Cruelty Taskforce of Southern Arizona and the Arizona Professionals Animal Cruelty Taskforce, and a forensic veterinarian.

Puppy Mill Legislation Project, Tucson, AZ

Volunteer/Contributor (2013-2017)

Volunteer member of a group of advocates, working with community leaders to implement legislation to discourage the sale of puppy mill sourced dogs and cats and encourage adoption and rescue. Process involved coordinating meetings with city council and mayor, providing information, and fostering a cooperative atmosphere to address many points of view on the topic. Assisted in drafting initial proposal of the law, prior to the HSUS stepping in to assist and providing full support and resources.

Re-Draft of Animal Section of Tribal Code, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Tucson, AZ

Collaborative Project (2015)

Collaborative effort with Tribal stakeholders, drafting progressive and humane laws to better protect members of the Tribal community, both human and animal. New Code adopted by Council in 2015.

EDUCATION

Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA Juris Doctor, May 2007

Leadership: BLSA Student Organization; Chair/Director - Beagle Aid

San Diego State University, San Diego, CA

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, December 2003; graduated cum laude

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

Arizona State Bar Association - Bar# 025979; admitted June 2008 – present

Animal Law Section; Member of Executive Counsel (Current Chair-2025-2026); (2022-2023); (2020-2021); Chair (2017-2018)

Washington State Bar Association – Bar# 49141; admitted April 2015 – currently inactive

U.S. District Court: District of Arizona – admitted January 27, 2020

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Friends of PACC; Board Member (2025-2029)

Board member as well as appointed to Governance Committee; non-profit created to help fill the gaps and provide funding for support of companion animals in Pima County through a public and private partnership, with the goal of helping people keep their pets and reducing numbers of animals in shelters.

Tu Nidito Children and Family Services; Volunteer; provided support and bereavement services for families (2014-2019)

Participated annually at Camp Erin, a three-day camp for children who have lost a special person. I helped provide therapy dog support for the incoming campers on the welcome day; co-facilitated a bereavement group session twice a month for children (8-12) with the assistance of my certified therapy dog, Earl.

Humane Society of Southern Arizona; V.I.P. Therapy Dog Program

Volunteer (2013 – 2019) Two certified (now retired) therapy dogs were in the program (Earl and Laney). We frequently did work with children, special events, and both dogs were cross certified as comfort dogs to assist crime victims when called upon, as outreach from the Pima County Attorney Victim Services office.

Children's Literacy Organizer/Volunteer; Manzo Elementary School - Tucson, AZ (2007-2014)

Volunteer program through the local bar association and "Lawyers for Literacy" program, encouraging and tutoring students in an underachieving school.

BLSA Literacy Tutor Program at Rainier Elementary School; Seattle University School of Law, Seattle WA; Organizer/Volunteer/Facilitator (2005-2007)

Created a partnership with Rainier Elementary administration that got law students into classrooms to help tutor in reading in a school that was 98% kids of color and in a resource desert for educators. Through the Black Law Students Association, we were able to provide

representation for kids who may not have a lot of positive role models, while encouraging a love of reading and learning.