

EVAN B. ELSNER

Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor of Law • Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law
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LEGAL EXPERIENCE

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW

Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor of Law

Chicago, IL
August 2021 – Present

- Teaching Communication and Legal Reasoning I & II, the first-year legal analysis, writing, and research course, to first-year law students.

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, CRIMINAL APPEALS DIVISION

Assistant Attorney General

Chicago, IL
November 2015 – July 2021

- Represented the People of the State of Illinois in criminal appeals in the Illinois Supreme Court, constitutional challenges to state criminal statutes, 28 U.S.C. § 2254 proceedings in federal district courts and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and direct appeals under Illinois’s Sexually Violent Persons Commitment Act.
- Extensive briefing experience at the federal district and appellate levels, as well as all state court levels. Notable briefs included an opening brief in *People v. Gawlak*, 2019 IL 123182, interpreting a rule regulating limited scope appearances and the due process right to hired counsel, and an appellee’s brief in *In re Commitment of Gavin*, 2019 IL App (1st) 180881, addressing the sufficiency of evidence supporting commitment as a sexually violent person.
- Substantial oral argument experience in the Illinois Supreme Court, Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Illinois Appellate Court, and various Illinois circuit courts. Notable arguments included:
 - *People v. Bochenek*, 2021 IL 125889, regarding constitutionality of identity theft venue statute;
 - *People v. Stoecker*, 2020 IL 124807, concerning due process issues in the dismissal of a petition for relief from judgment and a claim of inadequate representation by discretionarily appointed counsel;
 - *People v. McLaurin*, 2020 IL 124563, analyzing the sufficiency of eyewitness testimony to prove the possession of a firearm, as statutorily defined;
 - *People v. Encalado*, 2018 IL 122059, concerning voir dire inquiry into juror bias;
 - *People v. Pearse*, 2017 IL 121072, interpreting Illinois’s sex offender registration statute;
 - *In re Commitment of Montanez*, 2020 IL App (1st) 182239, addressing the sufficiency of evidence supporting commitment as a sexually violent person;
 - *In re Det. of Lieberman*, 2017 IL App (1st) 160962, arguing against release under the SVP Act;
 - *People v. Lee*, 2018 CF 382 (Cir. Ct. Boone Cnty.), defending the constitutionality of the *per se* DUI subsection for cannabis; and
 - *People v. Rollins*, 2016 CF 1566 (Cir. Ct. Lake Cnty.), defending the constitutionality of a statute criminalizing child photography by convicted child sex offenders.

KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP

Litigation Associate; Summer Associate

Chicago, IL
October 2012 – October 2015; Summer 2011

- Practiced in a range of complex civil litigation matters; drafted numerous substantive motions, including a motion to dismiss a fraud claim, a motion for summary judgment on an aiding and abetting a breach of fiduciary duty claim, and a motion to compel arbitration.
- Briefed and argued a *pro bono* criminal appeal in *United States v. Charles*, 801 F.3d 855 (7th Cir. 2015).

LEGAL INTERNSHIPS

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, HON. SUSAN D. WIGENTON Newark, NJ
Judicial Extern Summer 2010

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EDUCATION

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW

Chicago, IL

Juris Doctor, *Cum Laude*

June 2012

GPA: 3.674

Journal: JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY, Comments Editor

Activities: Bluhm Legal Clinic, Center on Wrongful Convictions, Senior Law Student, Fall 2011
Student Bar Association, Executive Board Secretary, 2011 – 2012

DUKE UNIVERSITY

Durham, NC

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Minor in Psychology

December 2008

GPA: 3.73

Honors: Political Science National Honor Society; Psychology National Honor Society

Activities: Freeman Center for Jewish Life – Work Study Program; Delta Tau Delta Fraternity

Internships: MSNBC – Primetime Programming Intern, Summer 2007 & Summer 2008

Study Abroad: NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, Florence, Italy, Fall 2007

BAR ADMISSIONS

State of Illinois

United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois

United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois