

Meredith Martin Rountree, J.D., Ph.D.
Senior Lecturer & Curriculum Advisor

Northwestern University
Pritzker School of Law
375 East Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611
meredith.rountree@law.northwestern.edu
(312) 503-0227

Education

University of Texas, Austin, Texas Department of Sociology	Ph.D., 2012
Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C. Managing Editor, <i>Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics</i>	J.D., 1991
Yale College, New Haven, Connecticut	A.B., 1986

Selected Publications & Works in Progress

"The Complexities of Conscience: Reconciling Death Penalty Law with Capital Jurors' Concerns" (accepted for publication by the *Buffalo Law Review*) (co-authored with Mary R. Rose).

"The Focal Concerns of Jurors During Mitigation: Evidence from Federal Capital Jury Forms" (revise and resubmit extended by the *Law & Society Review*) (co-authored with Mary R. Rose).

"How Culture Impacts Courtrooms" (accepted for publication by the *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*) (co-authored with Maria E. Hawilo, Kat Albrecht, and Thomas Geraghty).

"Execution 'Volunteers': Psychological and Legal Issues," chapter in *Living on Death Row: The Psychology of Waiting to Die*, edited by Hans Toch, James R. Acker, & Vincent Martin Bonventre, APA Books (2018) (winner of Association of American Publishers' 2019 PROSE Award in Psychology).

"Criminals Get All the Rights: The Sociolegal Construction of Different Rights to Die," 105 *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology* 149 (2015).

"Law and Loss: Notes on the Legal Construction of Pain," 41 *American Journal of Criminal Law* 133 (2014).

"Volunteers for Execution: Directions For Further Research on the Influence of Mental Distress, Self-Blame, And Legal Structures on Decisions to Hasten Death," 82 *University of Missouri-Kansas City Law Review* 295 (2014) (cited in *Glossip v. Gross* (2015) (Breyer, J., dissenting)).

"Overlooked Guidelines: Using the Guidelines to Address the Defense Need for Time and Money," 41 *Hofstra Law Review* 623 (2014) (co-authored with Robert C. Owen).

"'I'll Make Them Shoot Me': Accounts of Death Row Prisoners Advocating for Execution," 46 *Law & Society Review* 589 (2012).

Academic Grants, Fellowships, and Honors

- 2020 One of four finalists for Best 1L Professor Award
- 2020 Nominated for Outstanding Professor of a Small Class Award
- 2016-2018 Nominated for both the Law School's Robert Childres Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence and Outstanding Professor of a Small Class Award
- 2014 Proteus Action League research grant
- 2012 Co-winner, American Bar Foundation Hetlage Prize for Best Doctoral Fellow Article
- 2011 American Bar Foundation Doctoral Fellow; Proteus Action League research grant; University of Texas Graduate Student Professional Development Award
- 2010 Harry E. and Bernice M. Moore Dissertation Fellowship, awarded by the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health; Texas State University Predoctoral Fellow; 2010 University of Texas Graduate Dean's Prestigious Fellowship Supplement; 2010 Selected for Law and Society Association Graduate Student Workshop
- 2007 University of Texas Liberal Arts Graduate Research Fellowship
- 2006 University of Texas Preemptive Fellowship; Graduate Steering Committee Fellowship

Academic Experience

- 2013-present Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
Senior Lecturer (2017-present); Visiting Assistant Professor of Law (2013-2017)
JD Courses: Criminal Law; Constitutional Criminal Procedure; Criminal Process; the American Death Penalty; Cook County Criminal Justice; Mass Incarceration; Law & Society.
Non-JD: Constitutional Criminal Procedure in the Executive LLM Seoul and Tel Aviv Programs; mini-course on Corporate Criminal Law in the Master of Science in Law program.
- 2012-2013 University of Texas School of Law
Capital Punishment Center Fellow
- 2006-2010 University of Texas at Austin, Department of Sociology
Teaching Assistant: Sociology of Death and Dying; Life and Death Decisions; Criminology; Criminal Justice; Deviance; Introduction to Sociology; Lab Instructor: Research Methods.
Invited lecturer: Law School and undergraduate Plan II and Sociology classes on the death penalty, homicide, self-defense, and white-collar crime.
- 2004-2006 University of Texas School of Law
Co-Director, Capital Punishment Clinic
Courses: Mental Health Topics in the Death Penalty; Capital Punishment Clinic.

Professional Experience

1991-2011 Engaged in civil and criminal litigation in New York, Arizona, Washington, and Texas, including with Owen & Rountree, L.L.P., the Texas Resource Center, and Sidley & Austin.

Predominant focus on representing clients facing the death penalty at trial, on appeal, and in state and federal post-conviction. Investigated legal claims, examined witnesses in evidentiary hearings, drafted pleadings and appellate briefs in state and federal court, and presented oral argument in trial and appellate court.

Active in a range of incarceration issues: member of working group on Texas death row mental health care; consulted with the Texas Youth Commission's independent ombudsman on health care issues; took part in health services audit of youth detention facility for the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Harris County Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative; and served on the final plaintiffs' counsel team for the *Ruiz* prison conditions lawsuit addressing segregation of prisoners with mental illness, prisoner sexual assault, and staff uses of force.

2001-2004 American Civil Liberties Union of Texas

Founded and directed *pro bono* the Prison and Jail Accountability Project of the ACLU of Texas. Through public education, legislative work, and litigation, led efforts to reduce sexual assault in prison, improve the quality of prisoners' health care, and challenge privatization of correctional facilities.

Selected Academic Conference Presentations and Activities

Ad hoc reviewer, *Law and Social Inquiry*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Justice Research & Policy*, among others.

Presenter, "Unraveling Capital Jurors' Response to Mental Health Evidence," 2021 CrimFest conference.

Invited Speaker, "Preliminary Qualitative Case Processing Analysis," MacArthur Foundation, Safety and Justice Challenge Research Roundtable (Cook County) (2019).

Invited speaker, "Paradoxes of Connection: Volunteers and Social Ties," University of Texas Law School's Capital Punishment Center, 2019 Annual Symposium.

Presenter, "Jury Decision Making in Federal Death Penalty Trials," 2019 Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting.

Invited Speaker, "Empirical Assessments of What 'Works' in Mitigation," University of Texas Law School's Capital Punishment Center, 2018 Annual Symposium.

Invited Speaker, "Outliers: The Unintended Consequences of the American Death Penalty," American Bar Foundation Fellows CLE Research Seminar, 2017 ABA Midyear Meeting.

- Invited Speaker, "The Death Penalty's Numbered Days?" *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 2016 Annual Symposium.
- Co-organizer, American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section Roundtable on proposed revisions to the ABA Criminal Justice Standards on Mental Health and ethical issues in representing clients with mental health issues, 2016.
- Co-organizer (with Elizabeth Mertz), Law and Society Association CRN 28, New Legal Realism, 2015-present.
- Co-organizer and presenter, National Conference and Training on Clinical Legal Education, Addis Ababa University School of Law, 2015.
- Moderator, Northwestern Law Alumni Weekend panel discussion on cannabis law, 2015.
- Invited speaker, *New Legal Realism 10th Anniversary Conference: Future Directions for Legal Empiricism* (co-sponsored by University of California, Irvine School of Law and the American Bar Foundation), 2014.
- Symposium contributor and speaker, *The 10th Anniversary of the ABA Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases: Implementing the ABA Guidelines to Achieve Justice* (co-sponsored by Hofstra Law and the American Bar Association Death Penalty Representation Project), 2013.
- Law & Society Association Annual Meetings*
- "Unraveling Capital Jurors' Response to Mental Health Evidence," 2021.
- "Explaining Justice: How Capital Jurors Account for their Sentencing Decisions," 2019.
- "New Legal Realism (Part I): Historical, Theoretical, and Empirical Approaches" panel (discussant), 2019.
- "New Legal Realism (Part II): Roundtable Discussion," (participant), 2019.
- "With the Jury in Mind: A Look at Evidence and Participation Decisions in Capital Punishment Trials" panel (chair), 2019.
- "Peña-Rodriguez and the rule of jury secrecy: Talk inside and outside of deliberations" panel (discussant), 2017.
- "Paper, Practice, Power, and Numbers" panel (chair and discussant), 2015.
- "Constructing the Meaning of "Just" Punishment: Theory, History, and Empiricism" panel (chair and discussant), 2015.
- "Re-Examining the Role of Serious Mental Illness in Murder Verdicts," 2014.
- "Networks and Norms in Texas Death Penalty Defense Representation" ("Work In Progress" submission), 2011.
- "Against Justice: The Death Penalty" panel (chair and discussant), 2011.
- "Giving Up: Who Volunteers for Execution?," 2010.
- "Prison Health: Examining Barriers to Care," 2008.
- "Death Row Inmates in Cyberspace," (co-presenter with Robert C. Owen), 2007.
- "Killing With a Vengeance: Prison Conditions as Part of Death Sentence," 2004.

American Sociological Association Annual Meetings (papers competitively selected)

“Instruments of Self-Destruction: A Sociolegal Examination of Different Rights to Die,” 2012.

“‘I’ll Make Them Shoot Me’: Accounts of Death Row Prisoners Advocating for Execution,” 2011.

American Criminology Society Annual Meetings

“Capital Punishment in the U.S.: Trends and Implications” panel (chair), 2012.

“Is Hastening Execution a Form of Prison Suicide?,” November 2012.

“Seeking Death: A Sociolegal Comparison of Consensual Executions and Assisted Suicide,” 2011.

“Who ‘Volunteers’ for Execution? Study of Texas Death-Sentenced Prisoners,” 2010.

“Prison Health Care: An Unfinished Revolution in Texas Penology,” 2009.

Other Presentations

“Mental Illness and Death Row,” University of Chicago Law School student chapter of the American Constitution Society, 2015.

“Mental Health in Prisons,” Northwestern Law student chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, 2015.

“Current Research on Mass Incarceration,” Northwestern Law student chapter of the American Constitution Society, 2015.

“*The New Jim Crow* and Reconceptualizing the Criminalization of Mental Illness,” Southeastern Association of Law Schools, 2015.

“Criminals Get All the Rights: Condemned Prisoners and Their Decisions to Hasten Death,” Association for the Study of Law, Culture & the Humanities, 2012.

“Giving Up: A Sociolegal Examination of Consensual Executions,” American Bar Foundation Fellows Research Advisory Committee, 2011.

“Lawyering” panel (chair), Annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, 2011.

Dissertation Committee Service

Dissertation committee member for Lisa L. Bell Holleran, “Future Dangerousness in Texas Death Penalty: A Content Analysis,” Texas State University, School of Criminal Justice, 2016.

Academic Affiliations

Association of American Law Schools

Law and Society Association

Selected Other Professional Presentations and Activities

Invited planner and participant (pilot meeting (2019) and full-scale training (deferred from 2020 due to the pandemic)) of l’Institut Makwayane, an intensive skills and community-building workshop for death penalty lawyers practicing in Francophone Africa, organized by Cornell Law School’s Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide.

Invited speaker, "Has the Death Penalty Become an Anachronism? A Discussion of Changing Laws, Practices and Religion on Our Standards of Decency," Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice, American Bar Association, 2018.

Invited speaker, American Bar Association Death Penalty Due Process Review Project Summit on Severe Mental Illness and the Death Penalty, 2016.

Invited speaker, "Severe Mental Illness: The Next Exclusion?," Capital Habeas Unit National Conference, 2015.

Invited speaker, "Developing Prison-Based Mitigation," Fourth Annual Training For Counsel Representing Capital Clients In Section 2255 Proceedings, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Office of Defender Services, Training Branch, 2010.

Invited speaker, "Mental Impairments in Prison," Third Annual Training For Counsel Representing Capital Clients In Section 2255 Proceedings, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Office of Defender Services, Training Branch, 2009.

Invited speaker, "Cutting Edge Issues: False Confessions," National Association of Appellate Court Attorneys, 2006.

Bar Memberships, Activities, and Honors

Admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States; the United States Courts of Appeals (Fifth and Ninth Circuits); United States District Courts in Arizona, Texas, and Washington; and the state courts of Arizona (inactive), New York, Texas, and Washington (inactive).

American Bar Association Death Penalty Due Process Review Project, Steering Committee member, 2017-present.

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Member, Corrections Committee, 2009-present.

American Bar Association Corrections Committee, Prisoner health subcommittee, 2016-2017.

Languages

French (fluent)

German (advanced (CEFR level C1))