

AMANDA CECILIA SAVAGE
University of Denver, Sturm College of Law
2255 East Evans Ave. • Denver, CO 80208
amanda.savage@du.edu

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, Denver, CO

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, Aug. 2024 – Present

Courses: Criminal Defense Clinic, Criminal Defense Clinic Seminar

Member: Constitutional Rights and Remedies; Rocky Mountain Collective on Race, Place, and Law

Directing semester-long criminal defense clinic. Supervising teams of student attorneys in their holistic representation of clients on criminal matters. Teaching two seminar classes per week on issues ranging from trial skills to forensic science to inequities within the criminal legal system.

Awards: 2025 Faculty Career Champion Nominee

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA – Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, May 2015

Activities: Trial Advocacy Workshop
Civil Rights - Civil Liberties Law Review, General Board Member
Research Assistant, Professor Peter Murray
Harvard College Resident Tutor, Lowell House

Honors: Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Pro Bono Honor Roll
Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellowship
James Vorenberg Equal Justice Summer Fellowship
Summer Theory Institute Fellowship
Dean's Scholar Prize: Criminal Justice Institute: Defense Theory and Practice; Torts

American University, Washington, D.C. – Master of Arts in Teaching, May 2012

Harvard College, Cambridge, MA – Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude* in Psychology, May 2010

PUBLICATION AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Pseudoscience of Gun Hunting, forthcoming in the *COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW*

Sacrificed by Bail Reform (work-in-progress)

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am interested in clinical teaching with a focus on the criminal legal system and defending members of marginalized communities. My research is on policing and criminal procedure, with a concentration on what I call accepted constitutional violations: abuses of constitutional rights that are uncritically accepted.

LEGAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Baltimore, MD

Assistant Public Defender, District 1 (Baltimore City) Felony, Jan. 2022 – July 2024

Represented adults charged with murder and other complex and serious felonies in Baltimore City Circuit Court. First-chaired felony jury trials, including murder, child sexual assault, attempted murder, and other

felonies. Handled high-profile, media-involved cases. Litigated pretrial issues, including novel *Daubert* challenges to expert testimony in identifying characteristics of armed persons. Trained attorneys to handle murder/life cases. Member of Forensic Liaison Program. Participated in Advanced Litigation Training.

New Jersey Office of the Public Defender, Newark, NJ

Assistant Deputy Public Defender, Essex Adult Felony Trial Region, Dec. 2015 – Jan. 2022

Attorney Assistant, Essex Adult Trial Region, Sept. 2015 – Dec. 2015

Represented adults facing criminal felony charges, including murder, at all stages of the criminal process. First-chaired serious felony jury trials including murder, attempted murder, rape, aggravated assault, armed robbery, weapons, and other offenses. Member of Forensic Science Workgroup, working to create resources for and educate defense attorneys about cutting edge social science research and litigation strategies. Trained new and experienced attorneys on topics such as advanced cross examination at agency-wide trainings. Mentored new felony attorneys.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Criminal Justice Institute, Cambridge, MA

Student Attorney, Sept. 2014 – May 2015

Provided complete representation to adults and juveniles for misdemeanors and felonies. Investigated cases, prepared motions, and argued at hearings and trials under a clinical instructor's supervision.

The Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C.

Law Clerk, Juvenile Trial Division, Summer 2014

Researched and briefed topics including unlawful interrogations and arrests, met with clients, families, and experts.

Prison Legal Assistance Project, Cambridge, MA

Managing Director, Training Coordinator & Student Attorney, Sept. 2012 – May 2015

Provided legal services to people in prison for disciplinary matters, handled intake, researched resources, corresponded with clients, and supervised new members.

Mississippi Delta Project, Cambridge, MA

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Project, Co-Leader, Sept. 2012 – May 2015

Researched and wrote reports and legislative proposals about mental health treatment in detention centers and diversion programs for offenders with mental illnesses.

Cambridge Juvenile Court, Child Advocacy Clinic, Cambridge, MA

Student Law Clerk, Jan. 2014 – April 2014

Analyzed cases, researched legal issues, and wrote memorandums relating to juvenile delinquency, abuse and neglect, and adoption matters with Justice Kenneth King.

Education Law Clinic, Cambridge, MA

Student Attorney, Sept. 2013 – Dec. 2013

Represented a student and a parent on matters relating to students' entitlement to a Free and Appropriate Public Education and conducted a workshop for community members on special education rights.

Teach For America, Corps Member, Washington, D.C.

Eighth Grade Mathematics Teacher - Cesar Chavez Public Charter School, Aug. 2010 – June 2012

Taught math to students with diverse needs, helping school reach adequate yearly progress mark for the first time.

Content Team Leader - Teach For America, Aug. 2011 – June 2012

Led workshops and clinics on teaching and planning practices for corps members teaching math.

PRESENTATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Featured Guest, Public Defenseless Podcast, Aug. 2025

Panelist, presenting my research, “Sacrificed by Bail Reform,” Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Clinical Writing Workshop, July 2025 (virtual)

Panelist, presenting my research, “Sacrificed by Bail Reform,” CrimFest, July 2025

Guest Lecturer, Criminal Justice Reform, Department of Sociology and Criminology at University of Denver, May 2025

Panelist, “Modernizing Clinical and Experiential Training in Criminal Defense,” AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education, April 2025

Panelist, “Unified Justice: Advancing Holistic Legal Education Through Structured Cross-Clinic Collaboration,” AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education, April 2025

Lecturer, “Storytelling Through Opening Statements,” New Jersey Office of the Public Defender (NJOPD), April 2025

Panelist, presenting my research, “Proactive Policing: A Dangerous and Discriminatory Tactic,” American Bar Association and AALS Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure Work in Progress Roundtables, Dec. 2024 (virtual)

Panelist, “Election Implications,” Rocky Mountain Collective on Race, Place and Law, Oct. 2024

Plenary Panelist, “Redefining Justice: Conversations on Criminal Justice Reform,” Society of American Law Teachers Teaching Conference, Sept. 2024

Panelist, “Breaking Silos: Enhancing Legal Education Through Cross-Clinical Collaboration,” Society of American Law Teachers Teaching Conference, Sept. 2024

Panelist, “Supreme Court Preview,” Constitutional Rights & Remedies, Sept. 2024

Presenter, “Advanced Cross Examination,” Maryland Office of the Public Defender Misdemeanor Jury Trial Unit, Feb. 2024

Trainer, “Trial Skills Training,” NJOPD, May 2023

Panelist, “Criminal Law Trial Series: Discovery and Admissibility of Evidence in an Ever Changing Technology World,” Essex County Bar Association, Feb. 2020

Presenter, “Challenging IDs from Videos,” 2nd Annual Forensic Science Conference, NJOPD, Sept. 2019

Presenter, “Essential Skills Program – Chapter Method of Cross Examination,” NJOPD, Sept. 2019

Presenter, “Ethical Uses and Challenges for Social Media Evidence,” NJOPD, March 2019

Presenter, “Social Media Evidence,” NJOPD – Essex County Annual Training, Nov. 2018

Faculty, “Bring Your Own Case Training,” NJOPD, June 2018

Panelist, “School Success for All Students: Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline,” Harvard Law School Bicentennial: HLS in the World, Oct. 2017

BAR ADMISSIONS

Colorado (2024; Law Professor Certification); Maryland (2023); New York (2016); New Jersey (2015)