

Ira Gant
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Boston University School of Law | Boston, MA

2020 - Present

Lecturer

- Teaching the Wrongful Convictions Practicum. Supervising upper-level students' work on clients' cases. Investigating claims of innocence and wrongful conviction, focusing on homicides and other serious felonies.

Committee for Public Counsel Services | Boston, MA

Forensic Services Director

2021 - Present

- Overseeing the provision of forensic litigation support to staff and private attorneys handling state criminal and civil public defender cases at all stages of adult criminal, juvenile, care & protection, and mental health commitment cases. Such support includes consultation on forensic issues and litigation strategy, linking attorneys with experts or forensic resources, and co-counseling hearings or trials.
- Directly representing clients charged with or convicted of crimes involving complex forensic issues.
- Co-counseling attorneys at trials or hearings in cases involving forensic evidence.
- Providing trainings on forensic issues and cutting-edge research, working in conjunction with leaders in CPCS's Training Unit, as well as managers, attorneys, and social workers across the agency.
- Providing legislative advocacy on forensic issues. Writing amicus briefs and forensic practice advisories.
- Supervising Forensic Services' legal and administrative staff, law students, and undergraduates.
- Presenting at or attending state and national trainings on forensic issues.

Staff Counsel, Innocence Program

2014 - 2021

- Represented clients in post-conviction litigation across Massachusetts, reviewing and investigating claims of wrongful conviction in criminal cases. Drafted strategic litigation plans. Grant writing.
- Consulted with forensic experts, e.g., DNA analysts, pathologists, latent print examiners, ballisticians.
- Trained, supervised, and collaborated with CPCS staff and panel attorneys on pre-trial and post-conviction Criminal cases. Wrote practice advisories. Stayed current on forensic research and practice, and legal developments. Wrote amicus briefs on innocence and forensic issues. Supervised legal fellows and interns.
- Presented at state and national trainings on forensic issues: e.g., Forensic College, NACDL Trainings.
- Assisted the agency's General Counsel with legislative advocacy on forensic or innocence issues.

Trial Attorney, Alternative Commitment Unit

2012 - 2014

- Represented clients at "Sexually Dangerous Persons" Superior Court jury trials and probable cause hearings across the state. Consulted with, called, and cross-examined numerous forensic psychologists.

Trial Attorney, Bristol County and Norfolk County Offices

2010 - 2014

- Represented clients in criminal proceedings, including trials, and probation and motion hearings. Located and prepared expert and lay witnesses, and vigorously investigated and researched cases.
- Utilized various experts, including in psychiatry, chemistry, medicine, and video and computer analysis.

Intern, Roxbury Defenders Unit

2010

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

Intern, Appellate Division

2009

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division | Washington, D.C.

Intern, Special Litigation Section

2009

Supreme Court of Arizona | Phoenix, AZ

Intern, Staff Attorneys' Office

2008

APPOINTMENTS

Mass. Forensic Science Oversight Board | Boston, MA

2022 - Present

EDUCATION

Northeastern University School of Law | Boston, MA

Juris Doctor, 2010

Honors: Social Justice Award

Activities: *Managing Editor*, Northeastern University Law Review; *Teaching Asst.*, Legal Research and Writing; *Research Asst.*, Prof. Deborah Ramirez (Criminal Law)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Bachelor of Arts - English, 2003

LICENSURE

Massachusetts (2010), U.S. District of Massachusetts (2016), U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit (2019)

SELECTED LECTURES

Suffolk University School of Law | Boston, MA

Wrongful Convictions Clinic (Prof. Shira Diner)

- “Public Records: The Labyrinthine (But Hugely Helpful) Investigation Tool,” Nov. 6, 2019

Northeastern University School of Law | Boston, MA

Legal Skills in Social Context (Prof. Stephanie Hartung)

- “Forensics, Criminal Law, and Innocence Cases,” Oct. 3, 2018

Introduction to American Law, LLM Program (Prof. Sarah Schendel)

- “The Fourth Amendment, the Exclusionary Rule, and Why Rights Matter,” May 23, 2016

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

MCLE | DNA and Criminal Forensics

2020

- “Post-Conviction Forensic Testing, and Litigation Tips for Probabilistic Genotyping”

Mass. Assoc. of Criminal Defense Lawyers | DNA Seminar

2019

- “DNA Issue Spotting: Litigation Tips & New DNA Technologies”

Plymouth County Bench-Bar Meeting

2019

- “Cognitive Bias and Forensic Analysis”

Innocence Network Conference

2018

- “What’s New and What’s Next in Forensic DNA Analysis”

Nat’l Assoc. of Criminal Defense Lawyers | State Forensic Reviews

2016

- “Under the Microscope: Strategies for Implementing State Microscopic Hair Comparison Reviews”

Innocence Network Conference

2015

- “Stateside Forensic Reviews: Exploring the Ways to Make them Work”

Forensic College

2015

- “Hair Review and DOJ/FBI Commitment to Review Pattern Evidence”

MCLE | Criminal Law Conference

2014

- “Using a Defense Expert”

PUBLICATIONS

Forensic DNA Issues, Trying Murder and Other Homicide Cases in Mass. (MCLE 3d Ed., 2018, 2022 supp.)

Forensic Evidence, Trying Sex Offense Cases in Mass. (MCLE, 3d Ed., 2017, 2021 supp.)

MEMBERSHIPS

Mass. Conviction Integrity Working Group

2019 - 2021

- Guided by the Mass. Bar Association, served as a representative on a group of stakeholders to recommend best practices for “Conviction Integrity Units” in prosecutors’ offices. In March 2021, published [Conviction Integrity Programs: A Guide to Best Practices for Prosecutorial Offices](#).

Mass. Chapter 278A Working Group

2014 - 2021

- Acted as the CPCS Innocence Program liaison to a group of defense attorneys, prosecutors, clerks, and forensic scientists. Collaborated to improve the preservation, storage, and handling of evidence.

Innocence Network

2014 - 2021

- Amicus Committee
- Complex DNA Working Group

Nat’l Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

2020 - Present

Mass. Bar Association

2018 - Present

Boston Bar Association

2018 - Present

Mass. Assoc. Criminal Defense Lawyers

2016 - Present

VOLUNTEERING

826 Boston | Roxbury, MA

Tutor

2011 - 2012

- Tutored Boston students in writing, literacy, reading comprehension, social studies, and math.

Guardian ad Litem Program | Carrboro, NC

Court-Appointed Special Advocate

2004 - 2007

- Appointed by NC Family Court, independently investigated child neglect and abuse, and filed reports.

Orange County Literacy Council | Chapel Hill, NC

Tutor

2004 - 2007

- Taught literacy and math to adults and G.E.D. students, focusing on those with learning disabilities.