

# DEBBIE F. FREITAS, J.D., M.P.H.

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## PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

### **Freitas & Freitas, LLP, Lowell, MA**

*Small Public Interest Law Firm*

*Partner*

September 2018-present  
Provide representation in the areas of child welfare, juvenile delinquency, and health law for clients including drafting motions, memorandums in support of motions, conducting legal research, conducting client interviews, entering court appearances, trying cases, and managing own case load

### *CPCS Panel Membership*

Youth Advocacy Division (YAD) Mentor	April 2020-present
Youth Advocacy Division (YAD) Appeal Panel Member	December 2019-present
Children and Family Law (CAFL) Appeal Panel Member	May 2019- present
Mental Health Litigation Division Panel Member	October 2018- February 2020
Children and Family Law (CAFL) Mentor	October 2015- present
Juvenile Delinquency (YAD) Trial Panel Member	March 2015- present
Children and Family Law (CAFL) Trial Panel Member	December 2010- present

### *Awards/Honors*

Citizens for Juvenile Justice, <i>Thomas E. Coury Youth Justice Award</i>	December 2022
American Bar Association, Center on Children & the Law, <i>Reunification Hero</i>	June 2022
Mass. Bar Association, <i>Race, Equity and Inclusion Access to Justice Award</i>	June 2022
Mass. Dept. of Youth Services, <i>Commissioner's Certificate of Appreciation</i>	December 2020
Mass. Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, <i>Standing Ovation Award</i>	September 2019
Mass. Juvenile Bar Association, <i>Book Award</i>	March 2019
Massachusetts State Senate Official Citation	May 2017

### **Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS), Lowell/Lawrence, MA**

*Youth Advocacy Division (YAD)*

*Trial Attorney*

May 2017- August 2018  
Providing quality representation to youth accused of committing crimes in delinquency proceedings in the juvenile court. Responsible for interviewing clients, drafting motions, conducting investigations and legal research, zealous in-court representation and trying cases.

### **Freitas & Freitas, LLP, Lowell, MA**

*Small Public Interest Law Firm*

*Partner*

October 2010- May 2017  
Provide representation in the areas of child welfare, juvenile delinquency, and health law for clients including drafting motions, memorandums in support of motions, conducting legal research, conducting client interviews, entering court appearances, trying cases, and managing own case load

### *CPCS Panel Membership*

Children and Family Law (CAFL) Mentor	October 2015
Juvenile Delinquency (YAD) Trial Panel Member	March 2015
Children and Family Law (CAFL) Trial Panel Member	December 2010

### **Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA**

*Social Justice Fellowship*

March 2010- September 2010  
*Graduate Legal Fellow:* Work with the faculty of the legal research and writing program as well as the social justice program conducting research and further developing the curriculum for Northeastern University School of Law's unique first year law program.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA**

*Juris Doctor*, February 2010

**Honors:** Graduate Legal Fellow at Northeastern University School of Law, 2010; Lawyering Fellow for Legal Skills in Social Context Program, 2009; Second Place, National Health Law Moot Court Competition, 2008; Law Merit Scholar (Dean's Scholarship) 2006-2010

**Activities:** Research Assistant for Northeastern University School of Law Professor Maze-Rothstein, 2009; JD/MPH Program Mentor, 2008 and 2009; Student Global Aids Campaign, 2006-2007

### **Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA**

*Master of Public Health*, February 2010

**Honors:** Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society Inductee, 2010

**Master's Thesis Project: Assessment of Advocacy Needs in the Pediatric Outpatient Clinic of the Floating Hospital for Children.** Identified the nature and frequency with which pediatric patients and their families encounter issues that require health-related legal advocacy as well as evaluated the hospital's newly implemented advocacy program, 2008

**Activities:** Research Assistant for Tufts University School of Medicine Professor Marcia Boumil, 2009; JD/MPH Program Mentor, 2008 and 2009; Medical-legal partnership

### **Boston University, Boston, MA**

*Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Psychology*, May 2004

**Honors:** Service Award, National Council on International Health, Boston University Chapter, May 2004

**Activities:** National Council on International Health, 2003-2004; Student Pugwash USA, Boston University Chapter, 2003-2004; Wizards Science Program, 2001-2004

## **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS/TRAININGS**

Freitas DF. Guest Speaker, (LAW 7526) *Juvenile Courts: Delinquency, Abuse, Neglect*, Northeastern University School of Law, May 22, 2023.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Importance of Diversity in the Legal Profession and Methods & Strategies to Combat Hidden Biases* (co-led workshop), Practicing with Professionalism, Massachusetts Bar Association, October 14, 2022.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Small Group Exercise: Admitting Documents and Tangible Evidence*, Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Trial Panel, Certification Training, September 30, 2022.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Small Group Exercise: Refreshing Recollection and Impeachment*, Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Trial Panel, Certification Training, September 30, 2022.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Small Group Exercise: Cross Examination*, Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Trial Panel, Certification Training, September 30, 2022.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Small Group Exercise: Motions in Limine*, Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Trial Panel, Certification Training, September 19, 2022.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Small Group Exercise: Developing Your Theory of the Case and Telling Your Client's Story*, Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Trial Panel, Certification Training, September 19, 2022.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *The Power of Youth Narratives* (co-led plenary), Colorado Office of the Child's Representative (OCR) Annual Conference, September 12, 2022.

Freitas DF. Panelist, *Ethics & the Attorney-Client Relationship Part III: Strategies for Analysis*, Colorado Office of the Child's Representative (OCR) Annual Conference, September 12, 2022.

Freitas DF. Panelist, *Ethics & the Attorney-Client Relationship Part II: The Foundation of Effective Representation*, Colorado Office of the Child's Representative (OCR) Annual Conference, September 12, 2022.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Litigating Racism in Child Welfare Cases* (co-led plenary), Colorado Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel (ORPC) 7th Annual Fall Conference, September 11, 2022.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *In Pursuit of Social Justice and Racial Equity: Becoming an Anti-Racist Children's Lawyer* (co-led plenary), National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) Conference, August 24, 2022.

Freitas DF. Guest Speaker, *Disrupt the Cradle to Prison Pipeline — Restorative Justice Course* (virtual), Northeastern University School of Law, June 23, 2022.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *The Intersection of Race and the Law, Part II: What Are We Doing About It?* (co-led training), MA Department of Developmental Services Training, June 1, 2022.

Freitas DF. Guest Speaker, *Juvenile Courts (LAW7526)*(virtual), Northeastern University School of Law, May 26, 2022.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *The Intersection of Race and the Law, Part I: Where Are We?* (co-led training), MA Department of Developmental Services Training, May 25, 2022.

Freitas DF. Panelist, *Children's Rights Panel* (virtual), Boston College Law School, April 20, 2022.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Mock Temporary Custody "72 Hour" Care and Protection Hearing*, Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Trial Panel, Certification Training, April 27 & 28, 2022.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Data Driven Advocacy: Data and Research as a Tool for Parent Representation* (co-led workshop). American Bar Association (ABA) National Conference on Parent Representation, April 7, 2022.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Applying Procedural Justice to Elevate Client Voices and Narratives* (co-led workshop). American Bar Association (ABA) National Conference on Access to Justice for Children and Families, April 5, 2022.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Adding a Social Worker to Your Team, Taking your Practice to the Next Level* (co-led virtual training). Children and Family Law Division (CAFL) Training, February 7, 2022.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Centering Client Voice and Experience to Access Racial Justice* (co-led virtual workshop). Children's Legal Services of San Diego, Inc., October 11, 2021.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Racial Justice for our Clients: Practical Tools for Lawyers* (co-led virtual plenary). National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) Conference, August 16, 2021.

Freitas DF. Guest Speaker, *Disrupt the Cradle to Prison Pipeline — Restorative Justice Course* (virtual), Northeastern University School of Law, July 12, 2021.

Freitas DF. Guest Speaker, *Disrupt the Cradle to Prison Pipeline — Restorative Justice Course* (virtual), Northeastern University School of Law, April 21, 2021.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *How to Counteract Racial Injustice in Your Next Criminal Plea & Sentencing* (co-led virtual 60-Minute Lawyer session), MCLE, March 19, 2021.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Bringing the Data to Life: Data as a Tool for Parent Representation* (co-led virtual workshop). New Mexico Children's Law Institute Virtual Conference, January 14, 2021.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Professionalism, Civility, and Maintaining a Principled Mindset* (co-led workshop), Practicing with Professionalism, Massachusetts Bar Association, November 19, 2020.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Mock Temporary Custody "72 Hour" Care and Protection Hearing*, Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Trial Panel, Certification Training, November 18, 2020.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Zoom for the Courtroom* (co-presenter), Greater Lowell Bar Association Training, November 2, 2020.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Making Least Restrictive a Reality* (co-presenter), National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) Annual Conference, August 26, 2020.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Zoom 102: Preparing Yourself and Your Client for a Zoom Hearing* (co-presenter), Children and Family Law Division (CAFL) Training, August 21, 2020.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Using Data to Raise Race* (co-presenter), CPCS Youth Advocacy Division (YAD) & Children and Family Law Division (CAFL) Training, August 13, 2020.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *MCLE Juvenile Practice Primer: The Nuts and bolts of Juvenile Practice* (co-presenter), MCLE continuing education course, July 30, 2020.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Representing Dually-Involved Youth in Congregate Care* (co-presenter), CPCS Youth Advocacy Division (YAD) and Children and Family Law Division (CAFL) Training, May 20, 2020.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Representing Youth in Congregate Care: Getting Young People Justice during COVID-19* (co-presenter), CPCS Youth Advocacy Division (YAD) & Children and Family Law Division (CAFL) Training, May 7, 2020.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Representing CAFL Clients in the Time of COVID* (co-presenter), Children and Family Law Division (CAFL) Training, April 24, 2020.

Freitas DF. Speaker, *High Tea with High Powered Women*, Middlesex Community College, March 11, 2020.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Representing Dually Involved Children* (co-presenter), Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Children Requiring Assistance (CRA) Trial Panel Certification Training, February 27, 2020.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Importance of Diversity in the Legal Profession and Methods & Strategies to Combat Hidden Biases* (co-led workshop), Practicing with Professionalism, Massachusetts Bar Association, February 7, 2020.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *CRA Cases: An Overview* (co-lecturer), Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Trial Panel Certification Training, September 25, 2019.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Importance of Diversity in the Legal Profession and Methods & Strategies to Combat Hidden Biases* (co-led workshop), Practicing with Professionalism, Massachusetts Bar Association, September 19, 2019.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Bringing the Data to Life: Data as a Tool for Parent Representation* (co-presenter), Colorado Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Fairness for Families: Assuring Procedural Justice in a Changing System, September 8, 2019.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Bringing the Data to Life: Data as a Tool for Parent Representation* (co-presenter), North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services Parent Attorney Conference: Build Your Toolkit, August 8, 2019.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Procedural Due Process* lecture and workshop *Burden of Proof and Dispositional Options*, Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Trial Practice Training, June 11, 2019.

Freitas, DF. Faculty, *Bringing the Data to Life: Data as a Tool for Parent Representation* (co-presenter), American Bar Association (ABA) National Conference on Parent Representation, April 12, 2019.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Crossover Youth: Marshalling the Data into Practice* (co-presenter), American Bar Association (ABA) National Conference on Access to Justice for Children and Families, April 10, 2019.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Representing Dually Involved Children* (co-led workshop), Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Children Requiring Assistance (CRA) Trial Panel Certification Training, February 14, 2019.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Importance of Diversity in the Legal Profession and Methods & Strategies to Combat Hidden Biases* (co-led workshop), Practicing with Professionalism, Massachusetts Bar Association, February 7, 2019.

Freitas DF. Panelist, *Overview: Presenting Your Expert Witness*, Presenting and Challenging Expert Opinions Training, Continuing legal education presentation sponsored by the Children and Family Law Division, November 28, 2018.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *The Attorney-Client Relationship and Your Reputation is Everything: How Lawyers Should Act* (co-led workshop), Practicing with Professionalism, Massachusetts Bar Association, September 27, 2018.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Privilege and Confidentiality* lecture (co-presenter), Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Trial Panel Certification Training, September 26, 2018.

Freitas DF. Guest Speaker, *Disrupt the Cradle to Prison Pipeline — Restorative Justice Course (LAW 7660-30013)*, Northeastern University School of Law, July 19, 2018.

Freitas DF. Guest Speaker, *Disrupt the Cradle to Prison Pipeline — Restorative Justice Course (LAW 7660-30013)*, Northeastern University School of Law, April 19, 2018.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Litigating School Threats Cases* (co-presenter), Continuing legal education presentation sponsored by the Youth Advocacy Division, March 28, 2018.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Representing Dually Involved Children* (co-led workshop), Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Children Requiring Assistance (CRA) Trial Panel Certification Training, February 13, 2018.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Practicing with Professionalism*, Massachusetts Bar Association, co-led 2 sessions of the mandatory course along with Cristina F. Freitas and Professor Francis Talty. September 28, 2017.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *“Smashing Ordinary Injustices: CAFL Hot Topics: Representing 18 and Over Youth”*(panelist), Committee for Public Counsel Services Annual Conference. May 16, 2017.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Third Annual Women’s Breakfast*, Lowell High School, March 28, 2017.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Mock Temporary Custody “72 Hour” Care and Protection Hearing*, Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Trial Panel, Certification Training, September 27, 2016.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Representing Dually Involved Children* (co-led workshop), Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Children Requiring Assistance (CRA) Trial Panel Certification Training, May 26, 2016.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Small Group Exercise: Ethical Issues in Representing Children*, Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Children Requiring Assistance (CRA) Trial Panel Certification Training, May 26, 2016.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Small Group Exercise: Interviewing and Counseling Youth in CRA Cases*, Children and Family Law Division (CAFL) Children Requiring Assistance (CRA) Trial Panel Certification Training, May 26, 2016.

Freitas DF. Faculty, *Mock Temporary Custody “72 Hour” Care and Protection Hearing*, Children and Family Law (CAFL) Division Trial Panel, Certification Training, April 13, 2016.

Freitas CF, Freitas DF. Presenter, *Voir Dire of Expert Witnesses*, Continuing Legal Education Presentation sponsored by the Middlesex/Essex County Children and Family Law Regional Coordinator, Massachusetts School of Law, December 5, 2014 (2 hours).

Freitas CF, Freitas DF. Presenter, *Scoping out the Expert*. Continuing Legal Education Presentation sponsored by the Middlesex Defense Attorneys, Inc. Lowell Juvenile Court, November 6, 2014 (1 hour).

### **PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS**

Cristina Freitas, Debbie Freitas, *It's Time To Raise The Age Of Juvenile Court Jurisdiction In Massachusetts. So, What's Holding Us Back?* Massachusetts Bar Association Section Review (Jan/Feb 2023).

Cristina Freitas, Debbie Freitas, *Moving From 'Prioritizing Racial Justice' To Prioritizing Racial Justice*, Massachusetts Bar Association Section Review (Jan/Feb 2022).

Cristina Freitas, Debbie Freitas. *Practice Tips Q&A: Congregate Care and COVID-19*, The National Association of Counsel for Children, 42(3) The Guardian 22 (Fall 2020).

Cristina Freitas, Debbie Freitas, and Alexandra Roark, *Bringing Data to Life: Data as a Tool for Parent Representation*, American Bar Association, ABA Center on Children and the Law, Child Law Practice Today, February 27, 2020.

Cristina Freitas, Debbie Freitas, and Alexandra Roark, *Expanding Abuse Prevention Order (209A) Jurisdiction to the Juvenile Court*, Massachusetts Bar Association Section Review (Jan/Feb 2020).

Cristina Freitas, Debbie Freitas, and Alexandra Roark, *Five Tips for Challenging Placement in a Residential Setting*, American Bar Association, Children's Rights Litigation Practice Points, September 6, 2019.

Cristina Freitas, Debbie Freitas, and Alexandra Roark, *Incorporating an Individualized Education Plan into Your Client's Defense*, American Bar Association Children's Rights Litigation Article, July 2, 2019.

Cristina Freitas, Debbie Freitas. *Rethinking School Discipline in the Context of Implicit Bias*, 25(2) Mass. Lawyers J. 34 (Nov/Dec 2017).

Cristina Freitas, Debbie Freitas. *In Search of a True Safe Harbor: Diverting Sexually Exploited Children from Delinquency Proceedings to Supportive Child Requiring Assistance Petitions*, 24(3) Mass. Lawyers J. 32 (Jan/Feb 2017).

Cristina Freitas, Debbie Freitas. *Crossover kids: The Intersection of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice*, 24(2) Mass. Lawyers J. 35 (Nov/Dec 2016).

Cristina Freitas, Debbie Freitas, *The Need for Juvenile Record Expungement in Massachusetts*, 23(5) Mass. Lawyers J. 26 (Jan/Feb 2016).

Cristina Freitas Debbie Freitas. *Child Welfare Law at a Critical Juncture in Massachusetts*. 22(5) Mass. Lawyers J. 16 (Jan 2015).

Debbie Freitas, Cristina Freitas, and Marcia Boumil, *From Foster Drift to Legal Orphans: The Need for Statutes That Reinstate Terminated Parental Rights*, 28 Am. J. Fam. L. 87 (2014).

Marcia Boumil, Cristina Freitas, Debbie Freitas, *Waiver of Therapeutic Privilege in Child Custody Litigation*, 22 Health Matrix 1 (2012).

Marcia Boumil, Debbie Freitas, Cristina Freitas, *The Toll of High Conflict in Guardian Ad Litem Practice*, 25 Am. J. Fam. L. 87 (2011).

Marcia Boumil, Cristina Freitas, Debbie Freitas, *Legal and Ethical Issues Surrounding Guardian ad Litem Practice*, J. L. & Fam. Stud., 13(1) J. L. Fam. Stud. 43 (2011).

Marcia Boumil, Debbie Freitas, Cristina Freitas, *Multidisciplinary Representation of Patients: The Potential for Ethical Issues and Professional Duty Conflicts in the Medical-Legal Partnership Model*, 13 J. Health Care L. & Pol'y, 107 (2010).

### **FEATURED IN THE NEWS**

Letter to the Editor: *DCF needs to find a way to serve more kids in their own homes*. D. Freitas, C. Freitas, K. Nemens. Boston Globe (November 4, 2022).

Interviewed and quoted in *Can a parent's right to a child be terminated via Zoom? High court to consider virtual hearings in child custody cases*, CommonWealth Magazine (January 30, 2022).

Interviewed and quoted in *Massachusetts distributes 80 percent of money for foster kids: Advocates ask Congress for more time to hand it out*, CommonWealth Magazine (November 28, 2021).

Interviewed and quoted in *State scrambles to get federal money to former foster youth: Clock runs out in September on millions of dollars in pandemic aid*, CommonWealth Magazine (August 18, 2021).

Interviewed and quoted in *'They already had the air mattress': Facing fewer options, DCF has planned for kids to sleep in the office*, The Boston Globe (June 9, 2021).

Interviewed and quoted in *A 7-Year-Old Was Accused of Rape. Is Arresting Him the Answer?*, New York Times (June 3, 2021).

Interviewed and quoted in *Mass. Has Been Tracking Impact of Police In Schools For A Year, But Reporting Has Been Spotty* (and accompanying radio piece), WBUR/NPR (September 18, 2020).

Featured in Texas Lawyers for Children (TLC) online resource center (September 2020).

Interviewed and quoted in *COVID-19 has largely spared the state's youngest. But in Massachusetts group homes, infections touch many more*, Boston Globe (June 29, 2020)

Interviewed and quoted in *Advocates Raise Concerns About Moving Kids In State Care To Protect Them From COVID-19*, GBH News (April 18, 2020)

Quoted in *Inhuman Trade: Systems in Place to Helping People Escape 'The Life,'* Wicked Local Weymouth (August 24, 2017).

### **VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**Youth Defenders Dismantling Racism, CPCS Youth Advocacy Division**, virtual September 2022-present  
*Member:* Work in collaboration with fellow defenders to develop materials, strategies, and communities of support to raise issues of racism, disproportionality, and lack of race equity in the delinquency system in Massachusetts.

**Family Justice Initiative, ABA Children & the Law Section**, virtual September 2021-present  
*Anti-Racist Toolkit Committee Member:* Working as part of a broad national effort by parents' and children's attorneys to develop concrete tools to litigate race equity in the child welfare field.

**Court Improvement Program, Supreme Judicial Court**, virtual February 2021-present  
*Cultural Humility Training Committee Member:* Collaborate under the leadership of the Court Improvement Manager to improve the quality of engagement with court-involved children & families by infusing cultural humility and racial equity.

**Racial Justice Task Force, CPCS Children & Family Law Division** August 2020-present  
*Steering Committee Member:* Work in collaboration with family defenders to develop materials, strategies, and communities of support to address issues of disproportionality and racism in the child welfare system

**Massachusetts Child Welfare Coalition**, statewide April 2020-present  
*Coalition Member:* Work with advocates and community members from across the state on meaningful reform of the current child welfare system and reduction of the harms and disparities currently associated with the system.

**Northeastern University School of Law Cradle-to-Prison Pipeline Project**, virtual April 2020-present  
*Advisory Board Member:* Advise and assist in developing and implementing strategies and initiatives aimed at dismantling the cradle to prison pipeline phenomena of systems-involved youth growing up to become incarcerated adults.

**UTEC, Lowell, MA** June 2019-November 2019  
*20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Committee Member:* Assist in planning, fundraising, and staffing the gala for this non-profit organization that ignites and nurtures the ambition of the most disconnected youth in our community.

**Debbie's Treasure Chest, Lawrence, MA** April 2019-present  
*Advisory Board Member:* Assist in developing and implementing strategies for community engagement and community support of disadvantaged and at-risk families as part of non-profit serving the local Merrimack Valley.

**Mock Trial Program, Massachusetts Bar Association**, various locations in MA January 2019  
*Mock Trial Judge:* Judge a high school mock trial competition meant to introduce students to the legal system and provide first-hand experience of a trial. Also provide opportunity for improving reasoning skill and speaking ability.

**Mock Trial Program, Department of Youth Services (DYS)**, Middleton, MA October 2017-May 2018  
*Volunteer Attorney and Coordinator:* Created and delivered mock trial curriculum to youth being held in pre-trial detention at DHS. Taught the youth legal skills, advocacy skills, and legal analysis. Prepared the youth for a mock trial experience.

**Brush Art Gallery and Studios, Lowell, MA** April 2017-2022  
*Volunteer Artist:* Create a 4x4 inch piece of artwork on a gallery canvas to be sold at the annual 4x4 event. The proceeds of this event provides a visual art student at UMass Lowell a \$1,000 scholarship.

**Lowell CSEC (Commercial and Sexually Exploited Children) Task Force** January 2017-2018  
*Task Force Member:* Work with community partners including the Department of Children and Families, the Lowell Police Department, the State Police, and other service providers in Lowell to identify youth at risk for CSEC in our community and local trauma-informed strategies for addressing this serious issue.

**Massachusetts Bar Association Juvenile and Child Welfare Section Council** Sept 2016- present  
*Section Council:* Meet monthly to identify and discuss areas of import to the juvenile delinquency and child welfare membership, plan conferences and other opportunities for continued learning, write scholarly pieces to bring attention to issues and support ongoing appellate and legislative efforts involving these subject areas.

2016: Council Member

2017: Council Member

2018: Council Member

2019: Co- Vice Chair

2020: Co-Chair and House of Delegates Member

2021: Co-Chair and House of Delegates Member

2022: Council Member

2023: Council Member

*Conference Co-Chair:* Develop and plan annual Juvenile and Child Welfare Conferences

2017 Conference: *Gault at 50: The Living Legacy*, UTEC, Lowell, MA

2018 Conference: *Where the Classroom Meets the Courtroom: Deconstructing the Cradle to Prison Pipeline*, UTEC, Lowell, MA

2019 Conference: *The Intersection of Mental Health and the Juvenile Court*, UTEC, Lowell, MA

2021 Symposium: *Better Legal Outcomes, Better Life Outcomes: Positive Youth Development in Practice* (virtual)

2022 Conference: *Fighting Systemic Inequality: Pushing the Needle Toward Racial Justice* (virtual)

2023 Conference: *Shutting Down the Pipeline: Proactive Representation of Youth in Need of Services*

**Massachusetts Bar Association Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee** Sept 2022- present  
*Committee:* Meet monthly to identify and discuss events and issues of import where diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging could be infused into the planning; engage all other section councils of the MBA in planning opportunities, and identify ways to increase diversity and equity in the legal profession.



**Lowell High School Partners in Achievement and Learning (PALS) Program**, Lowell, MA March 2016- present  
Mentor: Meet weekly afterschool with Lowell High School students during the semester to provide students an immersion experience in a law office, including courtroom observation, legal case analysis, and providing career guidance.

**Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)**, Lowell, MA July 2015- present  
*Participant:* Meet monthly in the Lowell Juvenile Court with stakeholders in the juvenile justice system to discuss data regarding statewide juvenile detention rates and patterns, craft multidisciplinary approaches to local juvenile justice and child welfare issues

**National Law Day**, Lowell, MA May 2015- present  
*Stoklosa School Team Co- Leader:* Once a year, deliver an educational program targeted at increasing civic responsibility by educating 100 eighth-grade students at a local middle school about their rights and important historical legal issues as well as current case law

**Portuguese American Club**, Lawrence, MA January 2014- present  
*Member:* Maintain and foster appreciation of the values and traditions of the Portuguese American community in Lawrence and preserve the Portuguese cultural heritage for the next generation of Portuguese Americans

**Lowell Juvenile Court Clerk's Annual Toy Drive for Children in Care**, Lowell, MA December 2013- present  
*Sponsor:* Provided hundreds of toys annually for the toy drive supporting the local area's children in foster care.

**Read Across America**, Lowell Community Charter Public School March 2012- 2021  
*Volunteer:* Read a designated book to a classroom K-6 and engage in a discussion about the relevant issues raised by the selected reading as well as explaining my role as an attorney in the community.

**Greater Lowell Bar Association**, Middlesex Shelter Dinners December 2012- 2020  
*Volunteer:* Decorated the shelter dining area, prepared individual food servings, and served dinner to individuals at the Middlesex Shelter in Lowell, MA

**Discovering Justice**, Lowell Public Schools Mock Trial Program October 2012- present  
*Volunteer Attorney:* Created and delivered afterschool legal curriculum to middle school students at the Stoklosa Middle School in Lowell, MA. Curriculum focused on learning basic legal principles and preparing a mock case for trial or appellate argument in the Lowell Juvenile Court each semester

### **SKILLS/MEMBERSHIPS**

Proficient in *Spanish* and *Portuguese*

Portuguese American Civic League of Lawrence, MA, Member 2002-2007

Portuguese American Club of Lawrence, MA, Member 2008-present

Admitted to the Massachusetts Bar, June 2010

American Bar Association, Member 2010-present

Massachusetts Bar Association, Member 2010-present

Greater Lowell Bar Association, Member 2011-present

Massachusetts Juvenile Bar Association, Member 2013-present

Coalition for Smart Responses to Student Behaviors, Member 2019-present

Massachusetts Child Welfare Coalition, Steering Committee (2020) and Member 2020-present

CPCS Children and Family Law Division COVID-19 Legal Response Team, 2020-present

CPCS Children and Family Law Division Racial Justice Task Force, Launch Committee and Member 2020-present

Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) Criminal Law Curriculum, Advisory Committee 2020- present

Northeastern University Cradle to Prison Pipeline Project (C2P), Advisory Board 2020-present

National Association of Counsel for Children, Member 2020-present

Admitted to the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, December 2021

CPCS Youth Advocacy Division Youth Defenders Dismantling Racism, 2022