

ALMA MAGAÑA

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Academic Appointments

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law	New York, NY
<i>Assistant Professor of Law</i>	2023-Present
<i>Harold A Stevens Visiting Assistant Professor</i>	2021-2023

- Courses: Evidence (Spring 2022, 2025 and Fall 2022, 2023), Criminal Law (Spring 2023, 2024 and Summer 2024, 2025)
- Service: Student Awards Committee, Adjunct Hiring Committee, Academic Standards Committee

Publications

Public Defenders as Gatekeepers of Freedom, 70 UCLA L. Rev. 978 (2023).

Diagonal Representation, 105 B.U.L. Rev. 53 (2025) (an invited response to Irene Oritseweyinmi Joe, *Administering Ineffective Assistance of Counsel*, 105 B.U.L. Rev. 1 (2025)).

Public Defender Discretion, 59 UC Davis Law Review 885 (2025)

Education

Penn. State University, Dickinson School of Law	Carlisle, PA
<i>Juris Doctor</i> , 2007	
Activities: Miller Center Public Interest Advocate; President, LLSA; Vice President, Public Interest Law Fund; Inmate Assistance Clinic	

Furman University	Greenville, SC
<i>Bachelor of Arts in Politics, Spanish, and Latin American Studies</i> , 2004	

Selected Lectures and Presentations

Expanding 6th Amendment Decisional Autonomy

- GO LILA Workshop, July 2025
- Culp Colloquium, Harvard Law School, June 2025
- Cardozo Junior Faculty Workshop, November 2024
- Cardozo-Fordham Metropolitan Junior Scholars Workshop, September 2024

Public Defender Discretion

- Culp Colloquium, Harvard Law School, May 2024
- Invited Presenter, Temple Law Faculty Colloquium, April 2024
- Decarceration Law Profs Workshop, June 2022

- Latina Scholars Workshop, June 2022
- Inaugural GO LILA Workshop, June 2022
- CrimFest, July 2022

Public Defenders as Gatekeepers of Freedom

- Invited Presenter, Boston University Law School, March 14, 2023
- Invited Presenter, University of Iowa Law School, November 3, 2022
- Invited Presenter, Case Western Reserve School of Law, April 2022
- Junior Faculty Workshop, Benjamin N. Cardozo School, February 2022
- Latina Scholars Workshop, February 2022
- LATCRIT, October 2021
- Junior Faculty Forum at University of Richmond Law School, October 2021
- CrimFest, July 2021
- Decarceration Law Profs Workshop, July 2021
- CrimWIP, July 2021

From Defender to Professor: What Do We Take From That Work; What Can We Offer?

Workshop on Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, SEALS Conference, July 2022

Professional Experience

The Legal Aid Society

New York, NY

Staff Attorney, Special Litigation Unit – Decarceration Project June 2018 – December 2020

- Developed and implemented strategies for challenging bail determinations in an effort to eliminate unconstitutional pre-trial detention, including through bail applications, bail packages, bail reviews, referrals to alternatives to detention, filing of bail writs, appeals, and motions for interim relief, and instructing attorneys on such strategies.
- Worked with social workers to develop bail packages by finding programming and presenting diagnoses and treatment plans.
- Supervised students from Cardozo Criminal Defense Clinic working on Decarceration Project assignments.

Staff Attorney (Felony-Certified), Criminal Defense Practice 2010-2015, 2017-2018

- Represented over 2,200 indigent clients from arraignment to resolution, including hearings and trials.
- Investigated cases, represented clients at proffer sessions and collateral proceedings, and strategized to provide holistic advocacy.
- Negotiated with prosecutors and judges to obtain favorable plea bargains and sentences.
- Worked with social workers and other Legal Aid staff members to ensure legal and non-legal client needs were met to the highest extent practicable.

Criminal Immigration Specialist (1 yr. rotation), Immigration Law Unit June 2015-August 2016

- Provided legal counsel to attorneys and non-citizen clients on the potential immigration consequences of their criminal cases.

Staff Attorney, Parole Revocation Defense Unit

Sept. 2007-Oct. 2010

- Represented over 1,200 indigent clients from arraignment to resolution.
- Advocated for clients in contested hearings, including witness examination, presentation of evidence, and negotiation of mutually-favorable dispositions.
- Worked with other staff members to secure access to alternative-to-incarceration programs and services.

Leonard Weinglass, Esq.

New York, NY

Volunteer Research Assistant

Spring 2007

Defender Corporation

Greenville, SC

Cherie T. Millage Public Interest Law Fund Fellow

Summer 2005

Admissions

State Bar of New York, Admitted 2008