

Carol A. Kolinchak

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EDUCATION

1990-1993 Northeastern University Law School, Boston, MA
Juris Doctor

1978-1982 Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
B.A. in Accounting

BAR

MEMBERSHIPS

1993 State of Louisiana
United States District Court for the Eastern and Middle Districts
United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
United States Supreme Court

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2017-Present Carol A. Kolinchak, Attorney at Law, New Orleans, LA

Owner

Represent criminal defendants at all stages of proceedings in state and federal court; consultant to Louisiana Center for Children's Rights on *Miller v. Alabama* and *Montgomery v. Louisiana* litigation strategies; in partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative, represent *Graham*-impacted individuals in Louisiana, including developing and implementing successful reentry plans.

2016-2017 Louisiana Public Defender Board, Baton Rouge, LA

Trial-Level Compliance Officer

Developed and implemented protocols and plans for evaluating and monitoring district public defender offices for compliance with board-adopted guidelines and standards for the delivery of public-defender services. Coordinated public defender implementation of *Miller v. Alabama* and *Montgomery v. Louisiana* decisions, including developing board-approved performance standards for representation of juveniles facing life without parole, drafting template pleadings, training district defender offices and participating in development of national litigation strategy.

2014-2015 Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, New Orleans, LA

Special Counsel

Led the development, implementation, and coordination of litigation strategies and legal-advocacy efforts that resulted in justice reform in Louisiana. Developed litigation and advocacy strategies to remove children from Orleans Parish Prison and improve education opportunities and conditions for all youth incarcerated in Orleans Parish. Coordinated litigation, advocacy, and legislative efforts to end juvenile life without parole in Louisiana, including implementation of the *Miller v. Alabama* and *Graham v. Florida* decisions. In partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative, represented *Graham*-impacted individuals in Louisiana, including developing and implementing successful reentry plans. Provided state-wide training on litigating *Miller* and *Graham* cases.

2008-2014 Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana, New Orleans

Legal Director

Developed litigation strategy and legal advocacy efforts for statewide nonprofit organization known for its pioneering work reforming Louisiana's juvenile justice system. Lead counsel in litigating unconstitutional conditions of confinement, improving juvenile indigent defense, and challenging the school-to-prison pipeline, as well as overseeing the direct representation of juveniles pre-adjudication, post-disposition and in adult court. Responsible for supervision and training of legal staff and interns. Provided state-wide training on litigating *Miller* and *Graham* cases.

2004-2007 Capital Post Conviction Project of Louisiana, New Orleans

Deputy Director

First hired in 2004 as senior staff attorney. Promoted to deputy director, responsible for staff development and training as well as direct supervision of attorneys and interns in 20-person office responsible for providing representation to all death-sentenced inmates in state and federal post-conviction proceedings in Louisiana.

2002-2004 Law Office of Carol A. Kolinchak, New Orleans

Sole Practitioner

Represented criminal defendants at all stages of proceedings in state and federal court.

1997-2002 Orleans Parish Conflict Panel, New Orleans

Attorney

Represented indigent defendants charged with capital crimes in Orleans Parish. Primarily responsible for preparation and presentation of penalty phase of capital trials.

1995-1997 Louisiana Crisis Assistance Center, New Orleans

Staff Attorney

Represented indigent defendants charged with capital crimes throughout Louisiana.

1993-1995 Loyola Death Penalty Resource Center, New Orleans

Staff Attorney

Represented death row inmates in post-conviction appeals in state and federal courts as well as clemency hearings before the state pardon board.

1991-1992 Southern Center for Human Rights, Atlanta, GA

Legal Intern

Assisted attorneys representing clients on death row in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana at both the trial and appellate level, in state and federal courts. Also assisted attorneys litigating prison and jail conditions in those four states.

**OTHER
EXPERIENCE**

2006-2007 **ACLU of Louisiana, New Orleans**

Cooperating Attorney

Successfully sued the City of New Orleans in federal court over unconstitutional parade permit fees for the Social Aid and Pleasure Club Task Force and their members.

2006-2007 **St. Augustine Catholic Church, New Orleans**

Attorney

Drafted appeal on behalf of St. Augustine Catholic Church against the Archdiocese of New Orleans, to challenge the closure of St. Augustine, the oldest African American Catholic Parish in the United States. Part of negotiating team that successfully forged a settlement, reopening the parish.

AWARDS

2011 **Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers**

Recipient of the Lucy McGough Juvenile Justice Award

**COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

2011-13 **National Lawyers Guild, LA Chapter, New Orleans**

President

2008-2009 **Roots of Music, Inc., New Orleans**

Founding Board Member

2008-2010 **Project Rising Sun, New Orleans**

Board Member

2006-2007 **Arabi Wrecking Krewe, Inc., New Orleans**

Secretary, Board Member, Legal Committee

2006-2013 **Resurrection After Exoneration, New Orleans**

Board Member