

RENEE J. LIZARRAGA

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BAR ADMISSION

State Bar of California, Member No. 311473

EDUCATION

University of Southern California Gould School of Law

Juris Doctor, May 2016

GPA: 3.74

Honors: Hale Moot Court Honors Program

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Bachelor of Arts, English and History, December 2007

EXPERIENCE

Santa Barbara County Public Defender

Santa Maria, CA

Deputy Public Defender

Jan. 2018 – Present

Represent adult clients facing misdemeanor charges and juvenile clients facing misdemeanor and felony charges in all court appearances, including trial (adjudication). Handle pretrial discovery, negotiate plea agreements, conduct legal research, prepare motions, develop defense strategy and gather facts to support theory of defense. Meet with clients regularly to discuss and further develop defense strategy and maintain relationship.

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

Los Angeles, CA

Associate; Summer Associate

Oct. 2016 – Jan. 2018; Summer 2015

Developed strategies for and conducted white-collar criminal investigations. Drafted reports detailing investigation findings. Performed legal research and drafted legal briefs, motions, and memoranda. Prepared discovery responses. Researched and drafted year-end updates for different practice areas including SEC enforcement and cybersecurity. Represented pro bono clients in immigration matters. Assisted with associate recruiting, including interviewing candidates and providing feedback to hiring committee.

Post-Conviction Justice Project, USC Gould School of Law

Los Angeles, CA

Certified Student Attorney & Student Supervisor

Aug. 2015 – Sept. 2016; May 2014 – May 2015

Presented oral argument at the California Court of Appeal in a case involving post-conviction relief for a juvenile sentenced to life without parole. Litigated petition for writ of habeas corpus seeking resentencing for a juvenile life without parole client in state court. Conducted extensive case investigation, developed expert witnesses, and prepared witnesses for testimony. Conducted hearings before the parole board. Worked with clients to prepare for hearings before the parole board and filed supportive briefs. Litigated habeas petitions challenging parole denials. Assisted with summer hiring of new students, including interviewing.

Legal Writing and Advocacy, USC Gould School of Law

Los Angeles, CA

LL.M. Legal Writing Fellow

Aug. 2015 – Dec. 2015; Aug. 2014 – Dec. 2014

Assisted in teaching legal writing and advocacy.

Law Offices of Mike Razi, APC

Los Angeles, CA

Office Manager/Legal Assistant

Summer 2014; Sept. 2010 – July 2013; Feb. 2006 – Aug. 2008

Provided attorney with administrative support, managed caseload and calendar of events, and prepared forms for filing. Assisted with all aspects of hiring, including posting available job positions, reviewing resumes, and interviewing candidates. Trained new employees and assisted with finding group insurance policy for employees.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: Spanish.