



MALIKEYA KHANTRECE

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LEGAL/ADVOCACY WORK EXPERIENCE

Narratives for Justice, LLC Founder & CEO, Western Pennsylvania, January 2025- present

Lead a mitigation firm for services comprised of legal research and analysis, thorough life history investigations, case-specific defense strategy, trial preparation, and sentencing advocacy. The central focus of NFJ is to conduct fact and mitigation investigations to defend, humanize, and convey the accurate narrative for those in our community facing the the loss of liberty and possibly death.

Office of the Federal Public Defender, Western District of Pennsylvania, Capital Habeas Unit Investigator/Mitigation Specialist December 2019 – December 2024

Case preparation in federal habeas proceedings in representing clients sentenced to death, conduct multi-generational life history investigations inclusive of interviewing clients, witnesses, family members; reviewing medical, educational, criminal, and prison records; records collection; and development of the social history report in mitigating against the death sentence.

Venning & Associates

Life History Investigator/Mitigation Specialist

Trial preparation and assistance, witness searches, witness interviews, individualized sentence recommendations, records collection, genealogy reports; case subject includes capital felony, post-conviction, life without parole, rape, attempted murder, and child rape.

Khantrice Mitigation, Inc.

Founded mitigation firm for services comprised of legal research and analysis, thorough life history investigations, case-specific defense strategy, trial preparation and participation, and sentencing advocacy.

Training Marbles Inc., Columbus, OH, May 2016 – 2017

Vice President, Human Resources

Facilitate professionally contracted trainings on workplace diversity, employment law, and emotional intelligence; responsible for development and dissemination training program/model on racial bias in the workplace and community; develop and facilitate workforce development plan for the historically 'unemployable,' i.e., convicted re-entry candidates, survivors of human trafficking, and candidates facing various other barriers to employment. Conduct employment investigations, compensation analyses, small business reorganizations, and performance planning. Develops workplace policy based on changing federal and state laws.

Wright & Schulte, LLC, Dayton, OH, November 2015 – March 2016

Paralegal/Law Clerk

Facilitated personal injury and §1983 claims in high profile police brutality, criminal defense, and personal injury cases. Interviewed clients, potential clients, witnesses, doctors, and law enforcement officers for negotiation and trial preparation; reviewed police reports, medical records, and other supporting evidence in personal injury and catastrophic injury analysis; prepared demand packages; performed analysis and compilations for expert witnesses, prepared and filed legal motions and other court documents, prepared direct and cross examination for trial, prepared and coached witnesses and clients for trial; wrote speeches and training presentations for founding partner Michael Wright, Esq.

Montgomery County Juvenile Public Defender's Office, Dayton, OH, August 2014 – May 2015

Legal Intern

Reviewed daily list of juveniles detained and incarcerated the night before to assign defense prepare them for afternoon arraignment. Interviewed detained juveniles on the arrest and detainment and summarized for the public

defenders to advocate release and dismissal of charges. Obtained information on guardianship of the detained to prepare as many family members as possible to attend arraignment and be responsible for the juvenile upon release.

Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, Dayton, OH, May – August 2014

Legal Extern

Co-facilitated first gender-specific specialized felony docket for women with felony charges incurred due to addiction. Drafted judicial opinions in all pro se litigation actions, including declaring vexatious litigation on *pro se* filers. Observed felony criminal trials as well as general felony criminal docket. Attended pre-trial meetings in judge's chambers with attorneys. Represented justice and staff attorneys in community meetings to reduce recidivism and prostitution prevention.

Law and Leadership Institute, Dayton, OH, June 2014 – May 2015

Faculty

Educated local high school students on the legal profession through an intensive college preparatory program on law and leadership. Taught critical academic skills in studying, test-taking and writing. Taught strategy for college entrance exams. Taught emotional intelligence, strategy in meeting college level expectations, Secured weekly speakers on legal education, legal careers, and non-traditional legal paths. Planned and supervised college visits in the Ohio area.

Kettering Foundation, Dayton, OH, January 2014 – May 2015

Research Assistant

Special Appointment by Chief Legal Counsel and Vice President Maxine Thomas, Esq. Conducted research, events, and community conversations concerning the public opinion of the judicial system, both in the Dayton area and nationwide, and how that public opinion affects democracy and individual citizenship. term and long-range fiscal and workforce planning for the Office of the President.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Pittsburgh

Adjunct Faculty, Urban Studies, current academic year 2024/2025

Visiting Faculty, Urban Studies, 2022 – 2024

Faculty Advisor to the Black Legal Studies student organization

Introduction to Law, Criminal Justice, & Society (LCJS)

Race, Gender, Class, and Criminal Justice

University of Dayton School of Law

Adjunct Professor of Law, Spring and Fall, 2019

Legal Research & Writing

Race, Racism, and American Law (critical race theory)

National Federal Defender Services Organization,

Training Division, Leadership Forum, April 2022

Presenter, Panelist

Building and Maintaining Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Federal Defender Offices

National Association for Public Defense,

Rise, Resist, Represent Conference, March 2022 Presenter

How Community Engagement is an Act of Anti-racism

Foothills Community College

Guest Lecturer, College of Humanities, Fall 2021

“The Big Lie: American Educational Curriculum’s War with Truth & Reconciliation”

Prisoner’s Rights Clinic (PRC), Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Clinic (CRRJ), Boston, MA, November 2018 – August 2018

Research Assistant

PRC - research national American Parole Revocation policy by state to compile a final report on procedure, statutory right to counsel if applicable, any updates or changes therein since 2007, and the means by which updates occurred (through litigation or amended laws). CRRJ – research cold cases or incidents during the Jim Crow Era of racially motivated hate crimes, particularly lynching, summarize investigative findings and apply substantive analysis to the electronic archives for the newly launched CRRJ website and blogs.

Program on Human Rights & the Global Economy (PHRGE), Boston, MA, September 2017 – November 2017

Sanctuary City Research Assistant

Report to Assistant Director to collaborate with the Boston American Civil Liberties Union and Massachusetts Immigrant, Refugee and Advocacy Coalition (MIRA) to create a comprehensive database of activists, advocates and law enforcement in support of and in opposition to “Sanctuary City” initiatives in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Research and analyze current ordinances, mandates, and declarations of safe communities to create a model for those intending to implement and or enact. Present and report research found in culture analysis, and make recommendations to advocates.

VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Co-founder, Pittsburgh Participatory Defense Hub, December 2022 – present

Hub of community organizers in support of people facing criminal charges, their families, and communities in order to impact outcomes of cases and transform the landscape of power in the criminal legal system.

Presiding Judge, American Mock Trial Association, 2021 – present

Member, National Defense Practitioner Race & Ethnicity Task Force (DPRETF), 2021 – present
Co-chair, Community Engagement Subcommittee

Task force that seeks to develop and support efforts to apply, implement, and utilize recent research and other information about racial bias in the criminal justice system, and society as a whole, to improve the chances of our clients. The Task Force was formed in early 2017, initiated in part in response to conferences addressing race and the criminal justice system held in recent years. Task Force participants work to operationalize and make “practical” important lessons in this area and to develop strategies that enhance our ongoing defense advocacy and litigation..

Board Member, Your Best Self August 2018 – 2020

Your Best Self is a 501(c)3 that bridges resources and hosts social gatherings to provide life and social skills for residents with disabilities, while fostering community inclusion.

Life Skills Course Facilitator, Jeremiah Program, November 2017 – August 2018

Create and facilitate Life Skills and Empowerment courses to single mothers who are pursuing a higher education full-time and managing family, social, and personal obligations. Coursework includes; financial management, emotional intelligence, and positive parenting.

Board Member & President, Goodwill Service Board, January 2017 – December 2017

Volunteer court appointed special advocate for children who have been exposed to or have suffered severe abuse and/or neglect. Investigates all aspects of children’s lives and makes recommendations to the court concerning the child’s future and immediate custodial needs.

Guardian Ad Litem, 2012 Franklin County CASA, October 2012 - Present

Volunteer court appointed special advocate for children exposed to or victims of severe abuse and/or neglect. Investigate all aspects of children’s lives and make recommendations to the court concerning the child’s future and immediate custodial needs.

Speaker, Salvation Army Anti Human Trafficking Speakers Bureau, Abolition, OH, October 2012 - Present

Certified to train various sized groups in domestic and international human trafficking awareness. Regularly facilitate Human Trafficking 101 course.

EDUCATION

Antioch University, Seattle, WA

Ed.D., Anticipated completion date Spring of 2025

Multicultural & Anti-Racist Education

Activities: University Anti-Racist Task Force, voting member, Truth, Racial Healing, & Transformation (TRHT) Advisory Board and co-founding member

Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA

LL.M., December 2018

Concentration in Human Rights

Activities: Voting Member, Committee Against Institutional Racism, Student Bar Association, Curriculum Committee, Clerkships Committee

University of Dayton School of Law, Dayton, OH

J.D., December 2015

Activities: President, Women's Caucus; Co-President and Co-Founder, Human Rights Advocacy Organization; Member, Black Law Student Association; Member, Lambda Legal Student Association

Honors: Best Attorney Ohio Attorney General Mock Trial, 2015 Outstanding Community Engagement, 2015

Ohio Dominican University, Columbus, OH

B.A., Business Administration/Management, December 2010