

CODY ELIJAH HARNISH

SUMMARY

An experienced and passionate defense attorney with a proven reputation for handling large caseloads on complex issues. Dedicated to the art of storytelling, being part of a team, and advancing a positive work environment. Rated top defense attorney in the Army - West Region.

Citizenship U.S.

Bar Kansas. Washington (Admission by Motion submitted)

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

U.S. Army JAG Corps, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA

Trial Defense Counsel; Captain

May 2018 - Present

First chaired over 35 cases. Tried 15 felony cases, including murders and violent sex crimes before judges and juries. This includes 3 bench trials, and 12 jury trials with a 66% acquittal rate. Litigated over 25 sentencing cases, where witnesses are called and the rules of evidence apply. Secured 7 dismissals and 9 alternative dispositions, guaranteeing clients avoided federal convictions. Most recent jury trial was a full acquittal in a false confession case.

Researched, wrote, filed, and argued over seventy motions. Motions covered complex constitutional and evidentiary issues such as the right to confrontation, speedy trial violations, and the production of evidence. Successfully pierced the veil of 513 evidence, suppressed statements made to FBI, and compelled appointment of defense experts. Developed an expertise in 412 related matters.

Worked with expert consultants in forensic DNA, digital forensic examinations, forensic psychology/psychiatry, false confessions, and recidivism. Presented evidence in these advanced fields to juries in a coherent and meaningful manner.

A member of the Army's Complex and Capital Litigation team. Trained in developing and presenting mitigation evidence at sentencing, dramatically reducing confinement for clients. Selected to serve as Senior Complex Litigator to the Army Trial Defense Western Region. Rated "Most Qualified" out of 11 regional attorneys. Named Top Advocate at 2019 Army-wide Trial Advocacy Competition.

The Office of the Attorney General, Washington, DC

Public Safety, Juvenile Division; Law Clerk

Jan-Apr 2013

Jan-Apr 2012

Assisted in various trial matters related to robbery and homicide cases with juvenile offenders. Researched and drafted memoranda and motions for the prosecution team on issues pertaining to Fourth and Fifth Amendment issues. During the investigative process, and in response to Defense motions, interviewed witnesses, victims, and police officers. Work-Product received positive recognition from the DC Superior Court.

Supreme Court, New York County, Criminal Term

The Honorable Analisa Torres, Judicial Internship

May-Aug 2012

Drafted decisions and memoranda for the Honorable Analisa Torres on Fourth and Fifth Amendment issues. Sole judicial intern responsible for evidentiary research. Assisted three fellow interns with research and on criminal procedure questions. Worked extensively on the subject of sex offender registration (SORNA).

American University Washington College of Law

Legal Rhetoric Classroom Dean's Fellow

Aug 2011-Jun 2013

Prepared and gave presentations on citation rules and writing strategies to first-year law students. Assisted the professor in proofreading student drafts and assignments. Graded all research, citation, and writing exams. Tutored students in research, writing, and oral advocacy skills.

EDUCATION

American University Washington College of Law

Doctor of Jurisprudence

Mock Trial Honor Society: Executive Tournament Director and Competition Advocate

National Finalist - Fordham Trial Advocacy Competition

Legal Rhetoric Classroom Dean's Fellow

University of California Los Angeles

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Bruin Woods - Teen Counselor, Zeta Beta Tau

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

- Basic Trial Advocacy Course Jul 2018
- Defense Counsel Course 101 Aug 2018
- Defense Counsel Course 201 Nov 2018
- Trial Lawyers College – Direct Examinations Jan 2019
- Advanced Trial Communications Course Apr 2019
- Intermediate Trial Advocacy Course Nov 2019
- Advance Strategies for Defending Sexual Assault Cases Feb 2020
- Making the Case for Life – NACDL Dec 2020