

HEATHER N. SUTTON-LEWIS

University of Colorado Colorado Springs | hsuttonl@uccs.edu | 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy

EXPERIENCE

Assistant Teaching Professor, College of Public Service Aug. 2024-present
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

- Teach Undergraduate Criminal Justice and Social Policy courses.
- Coach the UCCS Mock Trial Team.

Assistant Public Defender Nov. 2015-Jun. 2024
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, Ft. Myers, FL

- Advocate for clients' rights and interests during all phases of the criminal justice process from pretrial negotiations through all court proceedings and appeals.
- Draft successful motions and briefs securing favorable results for clients by conducting thorough legal research and presenting compelling legal arguments.
- Coordinate a large caseload of complex criminal cases successfully and efficiently.
- Communicate effectively with attorneys, judges, clients, and law enforcement.

Partner/Attorney Jan. 2012- Nov. 2015
TURNER & SUTTON-LEWIS, P.A., Ft. Myers, FL •

- Founding partner of a general practice law firm.
- Managed all criminal appellate matters by conducting extensive legal research on complex issues, drafting briefs, and participating in oral arguments.
- Represented children in juvenile delinquency cases from arrest through trial.

Assistant Public Defender Sept. 2008-Dec. 2011
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, Ft. Myers, FL

- Litigated the Early Resolution Court docket for third degree felony cases.
- Handled all criminal appeals for the entire 20th Judicial Circuit.
- Represented patients in involuntary commitment hearings at the local psychiatric hospitals.

Law Librarian Jan. 2005- May 2007
BPP LAW SCHOOL LIBRARY, London, England

- Aided students and professors with legal research questions and issues.
- Conducted legal research projects.
- Taught seminars to students and staff on U.S. law and legal research.

Assistant Appellate Defender Sept. 2002- Aug. 2004
OFFICE OF THE STATE APPELLATE DEFENDER, Chicago, IL

- Oversaw criminal appeals from direct appeal through post-conviction.
- Wrote successful briefs, motions, and other documents for filing in the Illinois Courts.
- Argued cases before the Illinois Appellate Court.

Staff Attorney Sept. 2000- Sept. 2002
COOK COUNTY JUVENILE COURT, Chicago, IL

- Managed large docket of child abuse and neglect cases.
- Conducted legal research and writing for the Judge.
- Served as a liaison between Judge, Attorneys, and Parties.

BAR ADMISSION

Admitted to the Florida Bar, May 2008

Admitted to the Illinois Bar, November 2000 (inactive, in good standing)

EDUCATION

THOMAS M. COOLEY LAW SCHOOL, Lansing, Michigan, USA

Juris Doctor Degree, May 2000, *Magna Cum Laude*

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, June 1996