

MICHAEL CHANCE MEYER

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EXPERIENCE

Shepard Broad College of Law, Nova Southeastern University

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Instructor, Critical Skills Program, September 2016-Present

- Assess and teach essential critical analysis, writing, and reading skills
- Teach Elements of Legal Analysis, a second-year skills course involving small-group and individualized workshops and writing labs
- Counsel students towards academic achievement and the successful practice of law through personal and targeted instruction and mentoring

Adjunct Professor, Sentencing Law, 2013-Present

- Instruct third-year students in the principles, theories, and history underlying American sentencing, particularly with regard to the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, in preparation for criminal litigation

Capital Collateral Regional Counsel-South

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Assistant Counsel, 2008-2016

- Represented death-sentenced defendants in postconviction proceedings in trial and appellate courts in state and federal jurisdictions
- Conducted oral argument in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- Specialized in research and writing, crafting arguments for class-wide constitutional challenges to Florida's death penalty scheme
- Created strategies to guide developments in constitutional law incrementally towards more robust rights for capital defendants

United States District Court for the Western District of Arkansas

Fort Smith, Arkansas

Law Clerk, Hon. Robert T. Dawson, 2007-2008

- Advised judge in all aspects of criminal and civil trials and ensured constitutionality of decisions
- Drafted post-*Booker* decisions analyzing sentencing discretion under the newly advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, such as *United States v. Coughlin*, 20 Fed. Sent. R. 215 (W.D. Ark. 2008)
- Travelled with court to assist the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, a so-called "border court," in adjudicating dockets overwhelmed with immigration cases

PUBLICATIONS

Twos the Devil: Hearing the Constitutional Infirmity of the Modern American Death Penalty in the Bygone Songs of Ozark Folklore, __ Miss. L.J. __ (2017) (forthcoming)

Sleight of Hand in Florida's New Death Penalty: Requiring, But Not Requiring, Jury Unanimity, JURIST - Academic Commentary, Mar. 21, 2017, <http://www.jurist.org/forum/2017/03/Chance-Meyer-death-penalty.php>

Hurst v. Florida's *Ha'p'orth of Tar: The Need To Revisit Caldwell, Clemons, and Proffitt*, 70 U. Miami L. Rev. 1118 (2016) (co-authored with Craig Trocino, Director of Miami Law Innocence Clinic)

The Newly Informed Decency of Death: Hall v. Florida Endorses the Marshall Hypothesis in Eighth Amendment Review of the Death Penalty, 45 Stetson L. Rev. 153 (2016)

Mitigation Paradigms: What Reduces Criminal Sentences, Explanation or Excuse?, 89-OCT Fla. B.J. 18 (2015) (feature article)

PRESENTATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

Evil or Broken: How to Better Understand Mental Illness in Murder and Sentencing, presenter, Empire State College, New York, NY (April 21, 2016)

How Proceduralism Kills Equity in Federal Habeas, guest speaker, Innocence Clinic of the University of Miami School of Law, Miami, FL (March 3, 2016)

Cruel and Unusual: Abolition by way of the Eighth Amendment, presenter, Death Penalty Abolition Conference, Consortium for Restorative Justice in Florida, Barry University, Miami, FL (April 10, 2015)

The Pitfalls of Legislative Attempts to Streamline Capital Punishment, co-presenter, Death Penalty Symposium, Inter-American Center on Human Rights, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL (October 7, 2014)

Death Row Inmates Sue To Block Florida Timely Justice Act, interview, WFSU, Florida Public Radio, Tallahassee, FL (June 27, 2013)

Attorneys Challenge Timely Justice Act, interview, WXTL, ABC News 27, Tallahassee, FL (aired June 28-29, 2013)

Westlaw National Conference, panelist, Miami, FL (2012) (discussing virtues and drawbacks of the then new WestlawNext platform for attorneys engaged in heavy research; selected for panel due to logging extensive hours of Westlaw research and diversely utilizing the research tools of Westlaw)

EDUCATION

Tulane Law School

New Orleans, Louisiana

J.D., 2007

Magna Cum Laude

Vanderbilt Law School

Nashville, Tennessee

Visiting student during Hurricane Katrina evacuation, Fall 2005

Middle Tennessee State University

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

B.S., Recording Industry, Minor in Mass Communication, 2003

Summa Cum Laude, 1st percentile

NOTEWORTHY CASES

***Lambrix v. Jones*, Case No. SC16-56 (Fla. [ongoing])**

Challenged execution of defendant sentenced under death penalty statute declared unconstitutional in *Hurst v. Florida*, 136 S. Ct. 616 (2016)

***Abdool v. Bondi*, 39 Fla. L. Weekly S421 (Fla. June 12, 2014)**

Drafted petition to Florida Supreme Court on behalf of 167 death-row inmates and four capital postconviction law firms challenging the constitutionality of Florida's Timely Justice Act

***In re . . . Capital Postconviction Rules*, SC13-2381, 2014 WL 3555967 (Fla. July 3, 2014)**

Drafted comments successfully challenging rule committee's proposal of reducing time periods in which capital defendants can bring claims based on newly discovered evidence and new rules of law

***Valle v. Florida*, 132 S. Ct. 1 (2011)**

Drafted cert petition to U.S. Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of execution following a prolonged period of incarceration, prompting a dissent from Justice Breyer, who would have granted a stay of execution to consider the case

***State v. William Thompson* (Case No. 76-3350B), *State v. Harry Phillips* (Case No. 83-435), *State v. Richard Randolph* (Case No. 88-1357)**

Presented oral arguments in consolidated hearings before Florida circuit court judges on the issue of whether *Porter v. McCollum*, 558 U.S. 30 (2009), represented a retroactive rule of constitutional law permitting capital defendants to receive reconsideration of their claims of ineffective assistance of counsel

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

State of Florida

State of Arkansas

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida

HONORS, AWARDS, ACTIVITIES

Extern to Hon. Carl J. Barbier, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana (August 2006-May 2007); TLS Moot Court Board; Phi Delta Phi of TLS; American Constitution Society; TLS Academic scholarship; honorable recognition from TLS Community Service Program for 165 service hours; Dean's List of MTSU; Phi Kappa Phi of MTSU; Phi Sigma Pi Honors Society of MTSU