

ADAM M. RUSNAK

382 W. 5th Avenue • Columbus, OH 43201
(330) 388-6917 • adam.rusnak@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

Deputy Chief, Capital Habeas Unit

Aug. 2020 – Present

Assistant Federal Public Defender, Capital Habeas Unit

Sept. 2019 – Aug. 2020

Research & Writing Attorney, Capital Habeas Unit

Dec. 2016 – Sept. 2019

- Supervise directly 4 investigators, and 3 paralegals, and 1 legal assistant.
- Collaborate with Unit Chief in supervision of 12 attorneys, and in the overall operation of entire unit, including hiring and evaluation of staff performance, setting unit priorities, staffing decisions, and major case matters. Spearhead training and onboarding.
- Represent capital clients in federal habeas and related matters. Legal research and drafting responsibility on pleadings, motions, and briefs at trial and appellate levels. Lead client meetings and develop litigation strategy. Review extensive case records and client life histories. Conduct interviews and investigation in the field with clients' family, jurors, prior counsel, and others. Draft clemency applications and present to Ohio Parole Board. Cultivate enduring client relationships, collaborate with experts, and coordinate with co-counsel.
- Obtained habeas relief in *Cassano v. Shoop*, 1 F.4th 458 (6th Cir. 2021), and *Jackson v. Cool*, 111 F.4th 689 (6th Cir. 2024), and defended against en banc and Supreme Court review.
- Principal drafter of appellate panel and en banc briefs, preliminary injunction motions, and trial briefs in challenge to Ohio's execution protocol. Delivered opening arguments and questioned multiple lay and expert witnesses in multi-day preliminary injunction hearings in federal court.
- Present at trainings nationally and in Ohio on ethics, best practices, and criminal case law.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, MORITZ COLLEGE OF LAW

Adjunct Professor – Legal Writing

Fall 2024

- Oversee section of twelve students. Provide instruction in planning, drafting, editing, and presenting arguments in mock appellate case.
- Meet regularly with students, edit drafts, discuss legal principles, and answer questions. Grade final drafts and assess appellate arguments.

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF COLUMBUS

Volunteer Attorney

Oct. – Dec. 2016

- Volunteer in Consumer Finance Group, focusing on foreclosure, credit card, student & pay-day loan, and automobile debt collection. Engaged in case acceptance, strategy, and client advising.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, COLUMBUS, OHIO

Law Clerk to Chief Judge R. Guy Cole, Jr.

Feb. – Sept. 2016

VORYS, SATER, SEYMOUR & PEASE, LLP, COLUMBUS, OHIO

Litigation Associate

Oct. 2014 – Feb. 2016

- Practiced in a variety of commercial litigation matters, including product liability, privacy and data security, and antitrust. Oversaw discovery, assisted in depositions, drafted pleadings, and negotiated with opposing counsel. Advised clients on data security and data breach and response.
- Drafted successful Ohio Supreme Court brief supporting language for marijuana legalization referendum. Drafted Ohio appellate briefs in support of landowners' adverse possession claim.
- Assisted victims of human trafficking in filing applications for T visas, led interviews, interfaced with law enforcement and social services organizations, and prepared application materials.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

Law Clerk to Judge Algenon L. Marbley

Sept. 2013 – Sept. 2014

SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD, LLP, WASHINGTON, DC

Litigation Associate; Summer Associate

Summer 2009; Oct. 2010 – July 2013

- Litigation Associate, with focus on commercial litigation and government investigations. Assisted in interviews and client presentations in GSA government contracting dispute. Reviewed and managed evidence in large investigations by PCAOB and SEC. Drafted successful motions for summary judgment in federal multi-party civil RICO suit.
- Supervised drafting of Supreme Court amicus brief in support of certiorari in *Vance v. Rumsfeld*, regarding availability of *Bivens* actions for American victims of torture abroad.
- Filed successful suit on behalf of elderly public housing residents seeking Fair Housing Act accommodations; appeared in DC court and examined witnesses. Appeared in immigration court and successfully obtained special immigrant juvenile status for minor client.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

Law Clerk

Summer 2008

- Drafted appellate briefs on entrapment and sufficiency of evidence, and constitutionality of career criminal sentencing enhancement. Responded to habeas corpus petition regarding incompetency and ineffective counsel.

ADMISSIONS

- Ohio (November 2010)
- District of Columbia (August 2011)
- Southern & Northern Districts of Ohio
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- United States Supreme Court

EDUCATION

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

J.D., *cum laude*

May 2010

Managing Editor – *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*

Student-advocate – *Harvard Defenders*

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

B.S., Mathematics, minor in Economics; B.A., Classics, minor in Italian

June 2007

Summa cum laude

Phi Beta Kappa

Graduate with Honors in the Arts and Sciences

PERSONAL

Eagle Scout, *Boy Scouts of America*. Enjoys backpacking, running, woodworking, and the violin.