



Kara Celeste Crutcher

Professional Goals

My goal is to contribute to movements for justice through fierce civil rights litigation, by supporting community organizers with their legal needs, and through policy advocacy..

Contact Information

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Academic History

University of Michigan:

Juris Doctor, Master of Social Work - 2020

- Editor in Chief, Michigan Journal of Race and Law
- Student Rights Project, Board Member
- Prison Creative Arts Project, Facilitator
- 2018 Alden J. "Butch" Carpenter Memorial Scholar

Admitted to practice law in Illinois. Federal court admissions include the Northern, Central, and Southern Districts of Illinois.

University of Pennsylvania:

Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, Minor in French Studies - 2012

- Rainbow Push Scholar
- Hype Dance Team
- F-Word Literary Magazine

Work Experience

Community Justice & Civil Rights Clinic, Northwestern University School of Law - Chicago, IL

Assistant Director/Clinical Legal Fellow (Aug. 2021-present)

- Litigate civil rights cases on behalf of individuals involved with the criminal justice system and/or that face other forms of systemic oppression. I primarily work on matters involving the rights of incarcerated individuals, the rights of victims of police misconduct, First Amendment claims, *Monell* claims, and other matters on behalf of marginalized community members.
- Support community organizations (such as Good Kids Mad City, Equity & Transformation Chicago, Affirming Care for Trans People in Cook County Jail, Cannabis Equity Illinois Coalition, etc.) with legal, organizing, and policy needs.
- Utilize my background as a Chicago native, former organizer, and somatic practitioner to inform how I teach seminars and provide supervision to law students.

Jenner & Block - Chicago, IL

Associate Attorney: Nov. 2020-Aug. 2021; Summer Associate: May 2019-Aug. 2019

- Researched and drafted motions, client alerts, memos, and firm research papers on the topics such as the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act, cannabis law, insurance law, and education law.
- Worked on a wide range of pro bono matters including 8th amendment claims, asylum claims, and student's rights claims.

Community Economic and Development Clinic - Ann Arbor, MI

Student Attorney (Jan. 2019-May 2019)

- Counseled clients on the process of acquiring property from the Detroit Land Bank Authority.
- Drafted and presented materials on the structural options for establishing a community land trust.
- Reviewed and negotiated client contracts with city entities, and advised clients based on their community based needs.

Michigan Children's Law Center

Baby Court Coordinator (Sept. 2016-Aug. 2017)

(Baby Court is a interdisciplinary team of judges, lawyers, therapists, and social workers that work with families in the foster care system.)

- Implemented program analysis and evaluation skills to examine the ways the Baby Court program could increase family reunification rates.
- Assisted infant mental health therapists in conducting research projects assessing the success of the Baby Court model.

Skills

- Client counseling
- Legal research and writing
- Client interviewing
- Group facilitation
- Program evaluation
- Policy drafting
- Policy analysis
- Community organizing

Activities

- Affirming Care for Trans People in Cook County Jail, volunteer, 2021-present
- Cannabis Equity Illinois Coalition, volunteer, 2020-present
- National Lawyers Guild, legal observer, 2015-2016, 2021
- Interplay (facilitator of a somatic practice), 2016-present
- Clinical Massage Student at Soma Institute, Oct. 2022-present
- The Hood Incubator, Writer/Editor, 2022-present

Interests

- Community lawyering
- Abolition
- Joy as Resistance
- Cannabis equity
- Theater of the oppressed
- Creative movement and somatics
- Emergent strategies
- Beyoncé