

MARGARET FENT BODMAN, JD

Columbia, SC | [REDACTED]

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Children's Law Center, Joseph F. Rice School of Law, Columbia, South Carolina, Senior Resource Attorney (October 2016 – present)

- Adjunct Faculty, Children's Law Concentration, Joseph F. Rice School of Law, University of South Carolina
 - *Children & The Courts*: teach a perspective course covering three components of the legal system: the child as a victim of abuse and neglect within the child welfare system, the child as a victim of criminal abuse and neglect and, the child alleged to have committed delinquent conduct and brought into the juvenile justice system.
 - *Children's Law Externship Class*: facilitate class discussion with students in various children's law related externship placements including judicial, government agencies, non-profits, and private law firms. Class discussion relates to observations of substantive issues as seen applied in placements.
- Investigations & Prosecutions Team Leader
 - Supervise the investigations trainer and the Children's Justice Act Task Force Coordinator.
 - Develop and implement numerous multi-disciplinary trainings regarding the recognition, response, investigation, and prosecution of all forms of child abuse and neglect, including fatalities.
 - Ensured the implementation of over 500 training courses and trained over 11,400 professionals.
- ChildFirst® SC, Forensic Interviewing Training Program Coordinator
 - Serve as the State Coordinator to the Zero Abuse Project, a nationally recognized forensic interview program, which is supported through training, peer review, and mentoring within our state.
 - Coordinate, host, and teach South Carolina's initial, basic ChildFirst® forensic interviewing training program.
- Children's Justice Act Task Force
 - Supervise the Task Force Coordinator.
 - Serve as a workgroup staff member implementing task force recommendations.
 - Provide oversight for the completion of multiple projects.
 - Developed and conduct "*Medico-legal Infant Death Investigations*," a three-day training for coroners, law enforcement, and prosecutors.
 - Developed and host a simulation training for coroners and law enforcement on "*Conducting Reenactments in Child Death Investigations*."
 - Produced a competency tool & developed accompanying training to be used by attorneys and judges to assist in assessing a child's competency in court in a developmentally appropriate way.
 - Assisted in the development of the state's "*Child Abuse Response Protocol*" and accompanying self-paced training.

- Juvenile Justice Team
 - Assist with the provision of multiple trainings for juvenile justice professionals, including:
 - “*Shield of Care*” (training for DJJ employees regarding the recognition and response to suicide within juvenile detention facilities)
 - “*Legal 101*” (basic training for DJJ Juvenile Correctional Officers)
 - “*Legal Update*” (training for DJJ Juvenile Correctional Officers)
 - “*Courtroom Presentation Skills*” (training for DJJ Clinicians)
 - “*Kid’s Law*” (In-service training for DJJ Education Staff)
- Grant Projects
 - Title II Formula Grant Program No. 2018-JF-FX-0010 (\$159,611). *Identifying and Responding to Juvenile Victims and High-Risk Juveniles of Sex Trafficking in South Carolina*. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, US Department of Justice through the SC Department of Public Safety Office of Highways Safety and Justice Programs, FFY 2018 - 2020.
 - Title II Formula Grant Program No. 4J000620, No. 4J000619, No. 4J00A820/4J00B821 (\$209,866). *Addressing Minority Youth Contact with Law Enforcement: An Approach to Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the South Carolina Juvenile Justice System*. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, US Department of Justice through the SC Department of Public Safety Office of Highways Safety and Justice Programs, FFY 2023 - 2025.

Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor’s Office, Columbia, South Carolina, Assistant Solicitor (January 2005 – October 2016)

- Violent Crimes Division
 - Prosecuted hundreds of violent crimes including armed robbery, aggravated assault, sexual assault, and murder.
- Special Victims Unit
 - Focus on crimes against children and sexual assaults against adults.
 - Served as a member of the Richland County Multi-disciplinary Team providing guidance on the prosecution of child abuse cases.

National College of District Attorneys, Columbia, South Carolina, Assistant Director of Programs (June 1999 – December 2004)

- National Advocacy Center Trial Advocacy Programs
 - Developed trial advocacy courses for national audiences of prosecutors of all levels of experience.
 - Conducted approximately 42 training courses per year, averaging 40 students per course and 15 visiting faculty.
- Traditional Continuing Education Trainings
 - Developed and implemented substantively focused continuing education trainings for prosecutors at various sites around the United States on topics including prosecuting sexual assaults, forensic evidence, and prosecuting homicides.
 - Coordinated site locations at hotels, recruited expert faculty presenters, solely responsible for logistics and hosting of the training at remote sites.

Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office, San Antonio, Texas, Assistant Criminal District Attorney (November 1991 - December 1998)

- Misdemeanor and Felony Trial Experience
 - Tried over 70 jury trials to verdict, including offenses ranging from driving while intoxicated to murder.
- Juvenile Justice Experience
 - Assigned to the juvenile division for approximately two years.
 - Primarily involved in the disposition of juvenile delinquency petition allegations by way of jury trials involving violent crimes.
- Appellate Experience
 - Assigned to the appellate division of the District Attorney's Office for a total of four years.
 - Researched and authored approximately 30 appellate briefs on various issues challenging criminal convictions.
 - Argued approximately 15 cases in front of the Fourth Court of Appeals, San Antonio, Texas.
 - Argued three cases in front of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals – the highest court in Texas for Criminal Appeals; one of which was a death penalty appeal.

EDUCATION:

B.S., Fordham University, Bronx, New York (1988)

J.D., St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio, Texas (1991)

BAR ADMISSIONS:

Supreme Court of Texas, November 1991 (*inactive status*)

Supreme Court of South Carolina, January 2005

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Presenter, *National Association of Counsel for Children*, Cross-Examination of Expert Witnesses, Live Webinar, December 2023

Faculty, *National Institute on the Prosecution of Sexual Violence in Indian Country*, U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for the United States Attorneys' Office of Legal Education, April 12-15, 2016

Faculty, *2015 Training of the Trainer Trial Advocacy*, Kosovo Judicial Institute and the U.S. Department of Justice / Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training, Pristina, Kosovo, June 29 - July 2, 2015

Faculty, *National Institute on the Prosecution of Domestic Violence in Indian Country*, U.S. Department of Justice Executive Office for United States Attorneys, Office of Legal Education, January 2015

Faculty, *Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners' Expert Witness Training*, U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for United States Attorneys, August 2014

Faculty, *Proyecto Diamante Faculty Development Course*, U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for United States Attorney, February and March 2012

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

LEAD Supervisory Essentials, completed seven class program curricula through the USC Office of Organizational and Professional Development

Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Leadership Training, University of South Carolina, November 2024

State Coordinator, *National Association of Counsel for Children*, 2022 - present

Member, Children's Law Committee, South Carolina Bar Association, 2022 – present

Mentor, South Carolina Bar Association, 2023 – present

Volunteer Coach, *Middle School Mock Trial Competition*, South Carolina Bar Association, 2018 - 2019

Member, *South Carolina Children's Justice Act Task Force*, 2010 – 2016

Member, *Statewide Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Protocol Task Force*

AWARDS

2013 Criminal Justice Award, *South Carolina Victim Assistance Network*

2010 Participant of the Year, *Richland County Multi-Disciplinary Team*