

AGUSTIN R. PEÑA

333 H. Street, Suite 4000, Chula Vista, CA. 91910

Agustin.pena@sdcdca.org

(619) 753-5558

PROFESSIONAL

Member of the bar, State of California, SBN: 285967

San Diego La Raza Lawyers, At Large Director (2020 – Present)

California Western School of Law Alumni Association, Board member (2020 – Present)

EDUCATION

California Western School of Law, Juris Doctor, April 2012

- Legal Skills Appellate Competition Finalist, 2010
- Lynch Appellate Competition Finalist, 2011
- President, La Raza Law Students Association, 2010-2011
- California Western School of Law A.I.M. Program *Mentor*, 2011
- California Western School of Law Buddy Program *Mentor*, 2010-2012
- Japan Relief Fundraiser, Co-Organizer, 2011

San Diego State University, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, June 2009

- Dean's List, Fall 2008

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

San Diego County District Attorney's Office

Deputy District Attorney IV:

November 2012 – Present

Assigned to Major Narcotics Division where I prosecute cases involving drug sales and transportation. Work closely on proactive investigations with state, local and federal agencies. Previously I was assigned to the Family Protection Division where I prosecute cases involving domestic violence and elder abuse. I conduct preliminary hearings and jury trials to verdict, negotiate cases, and handle felonies from filing charges through sentencing. Conduct court hearings by presenting evidence in accordance with state and federal law. I have handled cases ranging from misdemeanor offenses to serious and violent felonies such as robbery, assaults, homicides, crimes against peace officers, fraud, identity theft, and sex offenses. Work closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, direct investigations and evidence gathering. I have also prosecuted cases involving juvenile offenders, litigated adjudication hearings, handle multiple defendant matters. Provide community presentations on matters relating to criminal justice in English and Spanish. I was selected to be on the hiring committee and interviewed numerous candidates D.D.A. I and II positions and recently served as an advisory board member of the District Attorney's Office Committee on Racial Equity (C.O.R.E)

San Diego City Attorney's Office

Neighborhood Prosecution Unit:

August 2012 – November 2012

Conducted misdemeanor trials, assisted the vice team in drafting affidavits for arrest warrants, and orders to show cause. Conducted legal research, and draft memoranda for supervising attorneys.

San Diego County District Attorney's Office

August 2011 – April 2012

Certified Legal Intern:

Worked with the Gang Prosecution unit in conducting preliminary examinations, researched, drafted and argued legal motions, and sentencing memoranda. Interviewed civilian witnesses and provided informal translation services for Spanish-speaking witnesses. Interviewed civilian and law enforcement witnesses. Conducted legal research and provided investigative assistance in obtaining evidence.

Legal Aid Society

January 2011 – July 2011

Legal Intern:

Assisted domestic violence victims in petitioning for, and obtaining, restraining orders: researched procedural policies and guidelines, and provided drafting assistance. Assisted Spanish-speaking victims: explained legalities pertaining to restraining orders. Assisted Spanish-speaking petitioners and respondents with unlawful detainers.

Casa Cornelia Law Center

May 2010 – November 2010

Legal Intern:

Assisted victims of torture, rape, physical abuse, and political and religious persecution in determining eligibility for asylum. Researched federal statutes under Title 8 of the United States Code and the Immigration and Nationality Act. Drafted legal motions and declarations. Assisted with trial preparation: translated for Spanish-speaking victims and prepared them to testify about the abuse for which they sought asylum. Translated foreign legal documents such as birth certificates, marriage certificates, county records, school records, and other government-issued documents.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Abraham Lincoln University, *Adjunct Professor*

2021 – Present

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Classes taught include: Family Law, Torts I & II, Contracts I & II, International Business Law, and Immigration Law. Duties include, hosting class discussions, fostering critical thinking and grading online assignments. I make myself available to individual students via office hours and help guide students pursue future aspirations, including legal studies.

Thomas Jefferson SOL, Adjunct Professor of Law

Classes taught include: Legal Writing II, California Rules of Evidence, and Federal Rules of Evidence. Duties include, live lectures, meeting students during office hours, mentoring upper class and first year law students, bar prep.

California Western School of Law: Instituto Latinoamericano de Derecho y Justicia

August 2016 - 2022

Adjunct Professor of Law

The Instituto Latinoamericano de Derecho y Justicia was a federally funded, collaborative effort between the United States and numerous Latin American countries aimed at reforming their respective judicial systems. In this program, I taught litigation and oral advocacy skills as well the Federal Rules of Evidence. My duties included monitoring student performance, class preparation, curriculum development, fostering an inclusive learning environment, conducting live lectures, responding to student questions, implementing instructional strategies and techniques, and grading final exams.

California Western School of Law:

February 2015- 2022

Workshop Instructor and Judge:

Trained Latin American attorneys, judges, law students, and other criminal justice stake holders in efforts of helping facilitate judicial reform. Preside over mock trials, provide feedback, and assist with logistics. I have worked with students from a broad range of cultural, academic, and professional backgrounds.

Ashford University

Adjunct Professor, September 2012 – 2018

Undergraduate instructor of Juvenile Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, and Crime Prevention. Duties included: Grading student papers, respond to questions, provide feedback, foster analytical thinking, provide academic mentorship and motivation, as well as career advice and direction.

California Western School of Law: Street Law

Program Instructor, 2010

Taught in the Street Law program at Hoover High School. Educated at-risk youth on the U.S. legal system, substantive and procedural due process. Promoted the development of critical thinking and advanced communication skills through class presentation and debate. Coached mock trial.

Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility

Teacher, June 2006 - July 2009

Taught state-required curriculum to students between 10 and 18 years old, provided academic advice to college-bound students, conducted G.E.D. prep, after school tutoring, and provided one-on-one lessons to special education students. Focused student on college preparation, positive decision-making, anger management, and personal growth in order to reinforce the need for productive life choices, and to prevent recidivism.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Read, write, and speak Spanish fluently.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

San Diego La Raza Lawyers

2009 – Present

I have been involved with the organization since law school and I am currently on the board of directors. We participate in issues close to the Latino community, have provided thousands of dollars in scholarships to law students, and volunteer in many community events.

General Community Volunteer

2005- Present

As a motivational speaker I have presented at colleges, universities, and local high schools. I have assisted governmental and non- governmental entities with strategic gang intervention, developed community partnerships and organized numerous anti-violence rallies. Given keynote speeches at different leadership conferences and served on professional panels for California Western School of Law, UCSD, and USD Law School, and SDSU.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Professional Security Consultants

Assistant Director of Security, November 2003 – March 2006

Promoted from security officer to supervising lieutenant and subsequently Assistant Director of security. Established and led a tactical team to local shopping centers to enforce anti-gang policy. Obtained an exposed firearms permit, C.P.R., A.E.D., and O.C. spray certification.

AWARDS

California Western SOL: Pro Bono Honors Society, Member, 2011, 2012.

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California Western SOL: Public Service Honors Society, *Member*, 2011, 2012

Casa Cornelia La Mancha Award, *Recipient*, 2011

California Western SOL: Josi Dixon Public Interest Law Foundation Grant, *Recipient*, 2011

La Raza Lawyers of San Diego, *Scholarship Recipient*, 2009

La Raza Lawyers of San Diego, *Scholarship Recipient*, 2012

State Bar of California: Wiley W. Manuel Certificate for Pro Bono Legal Services, *Recipient*, 2011, 2012

San Diego Business Journal's "Emerging Generation," *Award Recipient*, 2014

San Diego Union Tribune, Latino Champions Awards: Civic Leader, *Finalist* 2015

California Western SOL: "Mentor Award for Diversity Leadership," *Award Recipient*, 2015

San Diego Business Journal's "Leaders in Law," *Award Recipient*, 2021

California Western School of Law: Professor of the Year, 2022