



Parole Advocacy Initiative *presents*

Volunteer Attorney Training

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

12 - 2 p.m. EDT

Zoom Webinar

AGENDA



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY
THE SCHOOL OF LAW

Parole Advocacy Initiative
Volunteer Attorney Training
February 16, 2022 1:00PM-2:00PM
Via Zoom

Agenda

- I. 12:00-12:10pm: Welcome and Introductions (Natasha Vedananda, Esq.)
- II. 12:10-12:25pm: Background on Parole in New York State (Michelle Lewin, Esq.)
- III. 12:25am-12:40pm: Executive Law and Parole Regulations (Natasha Vedananda, Esq.)
- IV. 12:40am-1:15pm: Overview of Parole Appeals and Issues (Martha Rayner, Esq.)
- V. 1:15-1:30pm: Communication with Clients (Michelle Lewin, Esq.)
- VI. 1:30-1:40pm: Volunteer Attorney Experience (Rhiya Trivedi, Esq.)
- VII. 1:40-1:50pm: Q & A (All)
- VIII. 1:50-2:00pm: Next Steps (Natasha Vedananda, Esq.)

Presenter Biographies

Michelle Lewin is an attorney in New York State and a graduate of CUNY School of Law. Born and raised in Atlanta, Michelle has been active in anti-incarceration work since 2005. Prior to law school, she worked for the Fortune Society in their Alternatives to Incarceration program, and as a 1L she co-founded the Parole Preparation Project of the National Lawyers Guild. She is now the Executive Director of the Project, training hundreds of volunteers and working alongside people serving life sentences in New York State prisons in their struggle for parole release. She is the co-author of “Collaborating Across the Walls: A Community Approach to Parole Justice,” which was published in 2017 in the CUNY Law Review.

Professor Martha Rayner has been a clinical teacher at Fordham since 1998. She co-directs the Criminal Defense Clinic, which defends clients at the trial level, takes on the civil consequences of arrests, represents incarcerated persons seeking clemency, parole and in post-conviction matters, and engages in broad-based advocacy and litigation on behalf of clients indefinitely detained without charge by the United States military at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. She began practicing law as a public defender at the Legal Aid Society and went on to be one of the founding members of the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, a community-based, model public defender office that redefined public defense from the traditional notion of working within the span of arraignment to conviction, to a broader demarcation of pre-arrest to post-disposition “after care.” At NDS, she developed a special unit that provided representation to clients facing the civil consequences of criminal accusations. Areas of practice included family law, housing, civil rights, immigration, and forfeiture, from trial to appellate level. She is a proud member of the first graduating class of City University of New York School of Law and has taught in Fordham Law School’s Summer Ireland Program.

Rhiya Trivedi is a criminal defense attorney in New York State and long-time volunteer with the Parole Advocacy Initiative. Rhiya works at the Law Office of Ronald Kuby, where her practice includes actual innocence and wrongful conviction; First Amendment; false confession; and activist and movement defense work. Rhiya has an extensive pro bono practice and previously volunteered with the New Sanctuary Coalition. As a law student, Rhiya practiced in NYU's Immigrant Rights Clinic. She is a graduate of NYU School of Law.

Natasha Vedananda is an attorney in New York State and the pro bono coordinator of the Parole Advocacy Initiative. Prior to joining the movement for parole justice, Natasha was a legal aid attorney in Boston, where she defended tenants facing eviction. As a staff attorney at the Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association, Natasha mentored volunteer attorneys, an experience that informs her current role with the Initiative. Natasha is a graduate of New York Law School and author of "Learning to Heal: Integrating Restorative Justice into Legal Education," published in the 2020 NYLS Law Review.

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Appealing Denials of Parole Release in New York State: A Guide to Filing Administrative Appeals and Article 78s

Michelle L. Lewin

Martha Rayner

Steven Zeidman

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Recommended Citation

Lewin, Michelle L.; Rayner, Martha; and Zeidman, Steven, "Appealing Denials of Parole Release in New York State: A Guide to Filing Administrative Appeals and Article 78s" (2019). *Parole Preparation*. 1. <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/pp/1>

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