



Parole Advocacy Initiative *presents*

Volunteer Attorney Training

Thursday, June 16, 2022

12 - 1:30 p.m. EDT

Zoom Webinar

AGENDA



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY
THE SCHOOL OF LAW

Parole Advocacy Initiative
Volunteer Attorney Training
June 16, 2022 12:00PM-1:30PM
Via Zoom

Agenda

- I. 12:00-12:05pm: Welcome and Introduction to Parole Appeals (Natasha Vedananda)
- II. 12:05-12:15pm: The Trauma of Multiple Parole Denials (Kenneth Hailey)
- III. 12:15-1:05pm: Challenging Parole Denials in New York State (Martha Rayner and Natasha Vedananda)
- IV. 1:05-1:15pm: Volunteer Attorney Experience (Chris Fennell and Eve Rosahn)
- V. 1:15-1:20pm: The Need for Pro Bono Counsel (Kenneth Hailey)
- VI. 1:20-1:30pm: Q & A (All) and Next Steps (Natasha Vedananda)

About the Program

The Parole Advocacy Initiative (PAI) is a collaboration between the Parole Preparation Project and Fordham Law, that aims to increase the availability of high quality, pro bono counsel for incarcerated people appealing unjust denials of parole. Every year, the Parole Board denies parole to hundreds of people who have served their minimum sentence and are ready to return home. For those serving indeterminate life sentences, the repeated denial of parole is essentially a second prison sentence. Unlawful parole denials contribute to mass incarceration and the aging prison population; yet the Parole Board is largely insulated from scrutiny. Challenging parole denials in court is the only way to hold the Parole Board accountable and ensure that parole determinations are just.

This training will provide an overview of the parole appeals process, and attendees will receive a detailed Appeals Manual. We will be joined by Kenneth Hailey, a former client of a PAI volunteer, who will discuss his experience before the Parole Board and the benefits of having pro bono counsel. Also presenting are two current PAI volunteers, Chris Fennell and Eve Rosahn, to share their experience representing incarcerated clients in parole denial appeals.

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Speaker Bios

Professor Martha Rayner

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. 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.

Natasha Vedananda

Natasha Vedananda is an attorney in New York State and the pro bono coordinator of the Parole Advocacy Initiative. Natasha is based out of Fordham Law, where she works closely with the Parole Preparation Project. Prior to joining the PAI, Natasha was a legal aid attorney in Boston, where she defended tenants facing eviction. As a law student, she represented clients in the NYLS Criminal Defense Clinic and the Post-Conviction Innocence Clinic.

Kenneth Dennis Hailey

Kenneth Dennis Hailey came home in March 2021 after 32 years in prison. While inside, Kenneth earned his G.E.D, took a college course in psychology, and developed a passion for cooking—he earned a particular reputation for baking incredible cheesecakes. He loves to run and has completed three marathons to raise money for children with terminal diseases through the Tomorrows Children's Fund. Kenneth served as a mentor in the Delinquency Intervention Program, sharing his story with teenagers at risk of making the same catastrophic mistakes that he had, in the hope that they would choose a better path. He was also elected by his peers to sit on the Inmate Grievance Committee at Ulster C.F. He currently lives on Long Island, where he works in the pest management industry.

Chris Fennell

Chris Fennell is an attorney in New York State and associate at Jenner & Block. Chris was previously a litigator at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman where he served on the Pro Bono Committee. He maintains an active pro bono practice, representing people who are incarcerated in parole and clemency proceedings. During law school, Chris was a Pro Bono Scholar in Fordham's Criminal Defense Clinic where he defended indigent New Yorkers charged with misdemeanors and represented incarcerated persons seeking parole.

Eve Rosahn

Eve Rosahn is an experienced criminal defense attorney in New York State. For sixteen years, Eve worked in the Legal Aid Society's Parole Revocation Defense Unit as a staff attorney and director. From 2016-2017, Eve was the Chair of the Board of Directors for Alliance of Families for Justice, a non-profit dedicated to supporting, organizing and mobilizing the families of individuals incarcerated in New York state, and people recently released from prison. Since retiring in 2014, Eve has been an active PAI volunteer.