JOANN M. SAHL

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

October 2008 – Present

University of Akron School of Law
Akron, Ohio 44325

Assistant Director, Legal Clinic
Director, Civil Litigation Clinic

Supervise students who participate in Civil Litigation Clinic. Clinic represents low-income clients with housing problems. Students interview, investigate and represent clients in court.

As Assistant Director of Clinic, supervise students involved in Summit County Jail Inmate Assistance Program. Students visit Summit County Jail, interview inmates and provide written legal information to inmates.

Director, Clemency Project

Supervise students involved in Clemency Project. Project provides assistance to low-income clients who are seeking a pardon from the governor of Ohio. Students interview clients and assist with preparing pardon applications. The project is staffed by volunteer law students.

Pro Bono/Community Service Coordinator

Administer pro bono/community service program for law students. Assist law students with finding pro bono and community service placements. Collaborate with community partners to discover opportunities for law students. Plan and organize yearly law school community service activity, Akron Law Cares.

Trial Team Director

Administer program for top 10 trial team program in country

Site Supervisor, Law and Leadership Institute

Administer year-round diversity pipeline program that encourages high school students to attend law school.

March 1999 – October 2008

Staff Attorney, Housing Unit
Community Legal Aid Services, Inc.
Akron Centre Plaza
50 S. Main Street, 8th Floor
Akron, Ohio 44308

Represented clients in housing, expungement and clemency cases. Representation included appearances in court and before administrative agencies. Conducted community presentations on a variety of legal topics.

Major Projects:

*Akron Municipal Court Proj*ect: Worked collaboratively with Akron Municipal Court judges and personnel to establish a bi-weekly clinic at the court. The clinic is directed to attendees who have been sued for credit card debt or for eviction.

Clemency Project: Began a project in an eight-county region to assist low-income clients with seeking a pardon from the governor of Ohio. The project is directed to clients who have multiple criminal convictions and are ineligible for an expungement.

Financial Information and Legal Education (FILE): Developed a financial literacy power point and presentation. The presentation is aimed at low-income people who face impediments to self-sufficiency. The presentation includes information on credit reports and credit repair, expungements and clemency, bankruptcy, identity theft and drivers license suspensions. This program is now funded by a grant from the City of Akron.

Social Welfare Practitioner Training: Organized and presented a landlord-tenant training for all social welfare practitioners in eight-county region. Purpose of presentation was to educate social welfare practitioners on landlord-tenant issues faced by their clients.

October 1996-
August 1998

Staff Attorney, Housing Unit
The Legal Aid Society of Columbus
1108 City Park Ave.
Columbus, Oh 43206

Represented clients who were facing eviction or foreclosure in Municipal and Common Pleas courts. Conducted

interviews and investigations, prepared discovery and pleadings, devised litigation strategy and tried numerous cases. Represented clients with disability discrimination issues involving the following federal law: Americans With Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Amendments Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

October 1995-
October 1996

Contract Work
Denver, Colorado

Prepared projects on a contract basis. Projects included a capital appeal to the California Supreme Court; a capital state habeas to the California Supreme Court; a double murder appeal to the Colorado Court of Appeals; death penalty motions' practice for Colorado trial court; a capital habeas brief to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals; and briefs to Ohio Appellate Courts.

August 1993-
May 1995

Chief Appellate Counsel
Death Penalty Section
Ohio Public Defender Commission
8 E. Long Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Supervised eleven attorneys involved in litigating capital cases on direct appeal and in the state post-conviction process in the Ohio courts. Represented clients before the Ohio Courts of Appeals and the Ohio Supreme Court. Also represented clients in the Federal District Court, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. Provided legal assistance to attorneys throughout Ohio involved in capital trials and appeals. Recruited, interviewed, hired, and trained new employees for the Death Penalty Section.

October 1992-
August 1993

Supervisor
Death Penalty Section
Ohio Public Defender Commission

Supervised on an interim basis a staff of thirty-seven attorneys, mitigation specialists, criminal investigators and support personnel involved in representing clients convicted of capital crimes. Provided legal assistance to trial and appellate attorneys representing capital clients throughout Ohio and elsewhere. Represented clients in state direct appeals process and state post-conviction.

March 1990 - October 1992	**Chief Appellate Counsel** Death Penalty Section Ohio Public Defender Commission Supervised eight attorneys and two law clerks involved in direct appeals of capital cases in Ohio courts. Represented clients before the Ohio Courts of Appeals, Ohio Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court. Provided legal assistance to attorneys throughout Ohio involved in capital appeals. Recruited, interviewed, hired, and trained new employees for the Death Penalty Section.
November 1986 - March 1990	**Assistant State Public Defender** Ohio Public Defender Commission Represented clients in state direct appeals and in state post-conviction cases. Reviewed transcripts, identified issues, prepared strategy and drafted motions, appellate briefs and post-conviction petitions.
September 1986 - December 1986	**Adjunct Professor** The University of Akron School of Law Instructed approximately thirty students in legal research, analysis and writing in Basic Legal Communications. Taught approximately twenty students appellate brief writing and oral argument skills in Intermediate Legal Communications.
April 1985 – August 1996	**Staff Member Appellate Review Office/ Legal Clinic Program** The University of Akron School of Law Reviewed transcripts, identified issues, researched and prepared appellate memoranda and briefs.
1982 - 1983	**Faculty Research Assistant** Ohio State University Assisted Professor Lawrence Baum with research for book on the federal court system.

NOTABLE CASES

United States Supreme Court

Successfully briefed and argued *Ohio v. Huertas*, 498 U.S. 336 (1991) - resulted in State's appeal being dismissed as improvidently allowed.

Ohio Supreme Court

State v. Jeffrey Lundgren, 73 Ohio St. 3d 474 (1995)
State v. Derrick Evans, 63 Ohio St. 3d 231 (1992)
State v. Von Clark Davis, 63 Ohio St. 3d 44 (1992)
State v. Reginald Jells, 53 Ohio St. 3d 22 (1990)
State v. Ediberto Huertas, 51 Ohio St. 3d 22 (1990), *certiorari granted* 498 U.S. 807 (1990), *certiorari dismissed* 498 U.S. 336 (1991)
State v. Arthur Tyler, 50 Ohio St. 3d 24 (1990)
State v. Joseph Murphy, 49 Ohio St. 3d 293 (1990)
State v. David Brewer, 48 Ohio St. 3d 50 (1990)

Other Reported Decisions

State v. Clifford Williams, 73 Ohio St. 3d 153 (1995)
State v. Jose Loza, 71 Ohio St. 3d 61 (1994)
State v. Charles Lorraine, 66 Ohio St. 3d 414 (1993)
State v. Joseph Murphy, 65 Ohio St. 3d 554 (1992)
State v. William Wickline, 50 Ohio St. 3d 114 (1990)
State v. Rhett DePew, 38 Ohio St. 3d 275 (1989)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS:

Residential Evictions
Akron Bar Association CLE
December 14, 2011

Birth of the Clemency Project: I Finally Listened
Midwest Clinician's Conference
November 11, 2011

Clemency and Expungements
Recovery Zone Radio
November 1, 2011

Getting Ohio Back to Work
Akron Bar Association CLE
October 28, 2011

PUBLISHED WRITINGS: Ohio State Bar Association "Law You Can Use" Articles on Expungement and Clemency

EDUCATION

August 1983 - June 1986
The University of Akron School of Law
Degree: Juris Doctor (1986)

September 1979 - June 1983
The Ohio State University
Degree: Bachelor of Arts
Major: Political Science

BAR ADMISSIONS Ohio, Colorado, United States Supreme Court, Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, Federal District Court, Northern District of Ohio, Federal District Court, Southern District of Ohio

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Ohio Supreme Court

Member and Vice Chairman
Ohio Supreme Court Rule 20 Committee on the Appointment of Counsel for Indigent Defendants in Capital Cases

American Bar Association

Member

Ohio State Bar Association

Member

Akron Bar Association

Member, Board of Trustees
(July 2007 to June 2010)

Finance Committee
(July 2007 to June 2010)

Chairman, Municipal Court Committee
(July 2005 to June 2008)

Committees: Diversity, Pro Bono, Municipal Court

Summit County Youth Emancipation Task Force (Member)

Summit County Reentry Resource Council (Member)

University of Akron Institutional Review Board (Member)

National Association of Pro Bono Professionals (Member)

Clinical Legal Education Association (Member)