

Lauren A Freeman

4338 N. Oakley Avenue, Chicago, IL 60618 • 312.320.9419 • LaurenFreeman@FreemanLegalConsulting.com

SUMMARY

A Chicago Police Board Hearing Officer and former Cook County Assistant State's Attorney with three decades of prosecutorial litigation and investigative review experience.

EXPERIENCE

February 2018- present, Freeman Legal Consulting and Expert Witness Services, LLC,
Chicago, Illinois, *Principal*

- Offering case assessment/review, investigative assistance, expert witness services, and litigation support, for plaintiffs, prosecutors, and defendants alike, in cases alleging prosecutorial misconduct, malicious prosecution, abuse of process, and wrongful conviction.

January 2019- present, Chicago Police Board, Chicago, Illinois, *Hearing Officer* (part-time)

- Selected to preside over hearings for the Chicago Police Board, an independent civilian board responsible for deciding the most serious disciplinary charges brought against Chicago Police Officers.

October 1987- April 2017, Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Chicago, Illinois *Assistant State's Attorney (A.S.A.)*- "Retired" after 30 years of service:

April 2005 – April 2017, *Special Prosecutions Bureau – Professional Standards Unit*

- Became the senior member of a very small group of A.S.A.s focusing solely on the felony misconduct investigative review and prosecution of law enforcement officers throughout Cook County for a variety of crimes. Handled numerous high-profile cases from investigative review through trial including the widely publicized Anthony Abbate and Jefferson Tap cases. "First chaired" the prosecutions of Chicago Police Department (CPD) Commander Glenn Evans, CPD Sgt. Edward Howard, CPD Officer Michael Bergeson, Illinois State Police (ISP) Trooper Juan Lopez, CPD Evidence Custodian Pamela Brown and Cook County Correctional Officers Kenyatta Sanders and Rico Palomino, as well as many others. In 2004 and 2005, oversaw the investigation and subsequent indictment of several of the CPD Special Operations Section (SOS) officers in two of their many cases.
- Reviewed numerous officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths which took place in Cook County for possible criminal conduct committed by the officers.
- Worked closely with investigators and supervisors from the CPD Bureau of Internal Affairs (IAD), the Independent Police Review Authority (IPRA, now known as the Civilian Office of Police Accountability or "COPA"), the Illinois State Police Public Integrity Task Force (PITF), the Illinois State Police Division of Internal Investigations (DII), and the Cook County Sheriff's Office of Professional Review (OPR), as well as other municipal agencies. Developed familiarity with investigative files from all of these agencies as well as a thorough understanding of *Garrity v. New Jersey* issues and use of force continuums.
- Voted Grand Jury subpoenas, drafted indictments, bond proffers, and motions, and interviewed countless complainants, witnesses, police officers, and correctional officers. Subpoenaed relevant documents and reviewed all available evidence in every case, requested additional investigation if needed, and drafted detailed, confidential charging recommendation memorandums, many of which were reviewed by the elected State's Attorney.

April 1997 – April 2005, *Special Prosecutions Bureau – Governmental and Financial Crimes Unit (now the Public Corruption and Financial Crimes Unit)*

- Worked with numerous state and local law enforcement agencies to review investigations, and if appropriate, to indict and prosecute public officials and public employees for work-related felony misconduct and financial crimes. Involved persons/defendants included numerous Chicago and suburban police officers, corporate bookkeepers, Cook County Jail correctional officers, Secretary of State employees, CHA and City of Chicago workers, City Auto Pound employees, licensed attorneys, and numerous embezzlers. Offenses ranged from Insurance Fraud and Theft, to Bribery, Official Misconduct and Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault.

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- Apart from GFCU work, first-chaired two First-Degree Murder jury trials (one of them capital).
- Admitted to Capital Litigation Trial Bar as lead counsel prior to abolition of the death penalty in Illinois.

June 1992 – April 1997, *Felony Trial Division*

- Tried approximately 26 felony jury trials including six First-Degree Murder, six Attempt Murder and three Armed Robbery cases as well as hundreds of pre-trial motions and bench trials.

October 1987 – April 1997, *Additional Former Assignments*

- Additional assignments included the Sex Crimes/Child Exploitation Unit, Night Narcotics Prosecutions, the Preliminary Hearings Unit, the Grand Jury Homicide/Sex Unit, Misdemeanor Prosecutions, the Criminal Appeals Division, and as a Team Supervisor in the Felony Review Unit.

September, 1985 – June, 1987, *Baker & McKenzie*, Chicago, Illinois

- *Law Clerk*; Drafted various pre-trial motions and memoranda in medical malpractice, Structural Work Act, and civil rights cases.

Summer, 1985. *Asher, Pavalon, Gittler & Greenfield, Ltd.*, Chicago, Illinois

- *Law Clerk*; Drafted complaints, interrogatories, motions and memoranda of law in fields of medical malpractice, products liability, and personal injury.

EDUCATION

Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, Chicago, Illinois *Juris*

Doctor, May 1987

- Member of Regional Champion Mock Trial Team; Competed in National Mock Trial Competition, San Antonio Texas.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Bachelor of Arts in History, May 1984

CERTIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

- Member National District Attorneys Association
- Member Illinois Prosecutors Bar Association
- Member Chicago Bar Association; Judicial Evaluation Committee
- Member American Bar Association
- Attended the National Association of Attorneys General Training and Research Institute (NAGTRI) Effective Practices and Protocols for Officer-Involved Shootings Symposium, June, 2016
- Attended the Prosecutors' Center for Excellence 14th Annual Best Practices Meeting, January, 2020

July 31, 2020

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