

CHRISTOPHER J. GOWEN

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LAW TEACHING

American University Washington College of Law

Washington, DC

Adjunct Professor of Law

May 2011 – Present

Taught courses for 26 semesters over the course of 16 years, including the 1 and 3 credit Externship Courses, Legal Ethics, Law Practice Management and served as an advisor / grader for independent upper level research and writing projects.

Created and designed the Law Practice Management course at Washington College of Law and have continued teaching it since 2016.

Taught Legal Ethics for multiple semesters, served on an ethics committee, and participated in several ethics' panels for the Reif Fellowship Ethics Essay competition.

Taught the Externship Program Seminars and contributed to the course textbook, *Learning from Practice*, developed by colleague Avis Sanders and other Law School Externship Directors.

Regularly serve as a judge for mock trial and trial advocacy competitions and have acted as a faculty advisor for students completing independent research projects, and for students facing disciplinary proceedings at the University.

Was recognized with the American University Adjunct Professor of the Year Award in 2013 and the Washington College of Law Adjunct Professor of the Year recognition in 2012.

University of Baltimore, School of Law

Baltimore, MD

Adjunct Professor of Law

Sep 2021 – Present

In the summer of 2021, a month before the start of the fall semester, a close friend and colleague, Professor Michael Specter passed away unexpectedly. Professor Specter taught Law Practice Management at the University of Baltimore School of Law (UB School Law) and he and I would guest lecture for each other and cover the other when needed at our respective institutions. At the time of his passing, the UB School of Law did not have a replacement professor, and they asked if I could step in for one semester which I agreed to do and taught LPM at both schools in the fall of 2021.

After a successful fall semester at University of Baltimore, I was asked to stay on and decided to honor my friend by teaching LPM at UB School of Law in the fall and at WCL in the Spring which I have done ever year since 2021.

At UB School of Law, I have assisted several students in obtaining post graduate employment and student clerkships. I have served as a panelist discussing how our law school can use AI within our curriculum and for client representations through our clinics.

LAW PRACTICE

Decaro, Doran, Siciliano, Gallagher & DeBlasis LLP

Bowie, MD

Of Counsel (Litigation & General Counsel Attorney)

Mar 2022 – Present

Practice includes plaintiff and defense matters involving civil negligence, professional malpractice, and products liability. I also handle school and university matters, including Title IX issues, abuse allegations, student discipline, and premises liability, as well as representation of small businesses and municipalities on employment discrimination claims, contract disputes, and policy drafting. In addition, I have provided general counsel services for Production Management One, a Maryland event production company, for over 15 years.

I have recovered a multi-million-dollar settlement for the widow of a 40-year-old husband and father of two whose death was caused by a defective medical device and negligent care. I successfully defended Namaste Indian Restaurant at trial against a supply company known for filing fraudulent, predatory actions against small businesses; the court not only ruled in *Namaste's* favor, but also ordered the Plaintiff to pay 100% of my client's attorney's fees after a finding of bad faith.

I negotiated a substantial recovery for an autistic minor who was sexually abused at a group home and served as a relator to the Maryland Attorney General's Office in connection with a false claims action that allowed the State to recover as well. I also tried a heavily contested inter-family estate dispute and obtained a verdict of more than \$2 million plus attorney's fees involving property that included a 250-acre parcel in Anne Arundel County.

I advise the *Gramercy Group* with regard to their general liability insurance terms and in developing and drafting insurance policies for Maryland and Washington, DC schools.

Production Management One

Gaithersburg, MD

General Counsel, Board of Directors

Jan 2009 – Present

Since January 2009, I have served as general counsel for a national event production company headquartered in Maryland, and I also served on its Board of Directors for two years.

In my general counsel role, I handle contract drafting and negotiation, employment and HR issues and disputes, policy development, defense of liability claims, and insurance and risk analysis, and I coordinate with outside M&A counsel when needed.

As a board member, I served as secretary from January 2024 through December 2025 and helped guide the company through ownership disputes, an owner buyout, and outside private equity investments.

Gowen Silva & Winograd PLLC

Washington, DC

Managing Partner

Apr 2012 – Jul 2022

Founded and served as the Managing Partner for a boutique Capitol Hill-based law firm. In that capacity, I personally handled several high-profile litigation cases, including:

(1) The controversial 2017 prosecution by the Trump administration and the Department of Justice against a group of Pakistani information technology workers that served Democratic members of the House of Representatives – *United States v. Imran Awan*.

(2) The Chevron–Ecuador environmental and racketeering lawsuits. Considered by many as the largest and most expensive lawsuit in United States history, this was a case that involved complex disputes covering almost every area of law. – *Chevron v. Donziger et. al*.

I represented attorney Steven Donziger and other members of the plaintiffs’ team who had represented Ecuadorian villagers in the underlying environmental litigation in Ecuador. In that case, the plaintiffs obtained an \$18 billion judgment against Chevron, which is considered the largest environmental judgment in history. The underlining claim was based on allegations that the company deliberately dumped crude oil and used questionable disposal practices that led to significant contamination in the Amazon region. The alleged environmental impact was frequently compared to major spills, where in our case the amount of crude deliberately dumped into below standard pits that leaked into the Amazon River was 7x greater than the amount of crude oil involved in the Exxon Valdez spill and the Deepwater Horizon explosion, combined.

After Chevron lost in Ecuador, the company sought to shift the fight to the United States by filing multiple actions against the plaintiffs’ lawyers, environmental experts, media consultants, a documentarian, and other members of the team that supported the Ecuador litigation.

I represented a bilingual law student in Greenbelt, Maryland, who, during his second year at the University of Michigan Law School, volunteered to work on the case in Ecuador. Chevron accused him of participating in a racketeering enterprise in the United States and of aiding Plaintiff counsel in committing fraud during the Ecuador proceedings. After I successfully represented my Maryland client, I was asked to join the trial team representing lead attorney Steven Donziger in a month-long RICO trial in the Southern District of New York.

(3) I represented a D.C. man involved in a 20-year relationship with a same-sex partner in D.C.’s seminal same-sex common law marriage case, successfully advocating that the Supreme Court’s landmark case, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, could be applied retroactively and therefore a same-sex common law marriage can be recognized if it was entered into before the legalization of same-sex marriages.

The American Bar Association

Senior Staff Attorney

Washington, DC

Jul 2008 – Sep 2011

Served as a Senior Staff Attorney supporting the Criminal Justice Committee. In that role, I helped draft amicus briefs in matters before the United States Supreme Court including cases involving the constitutionality of the Juvenile Life With Out Parole sentence. Additionally, I applied for and was awarded government grants from the Department of Justice and managed and directed the grants with a team of researchers. Other responsibilities included drafting and editing the ABA Criminal Justice Standards, moderating panel, conducting trainings for state funded criminal defense attorneys and speaking at conferences regarding the grant work performed by my team.

Locks Law Firm LLP

Trial Consultant

Philadelphia, PA

Nov 2006 – Jun 2007

Served as a trial consultant supporting the trial preparation for a complex products liability case

in Philadelphia. The case focused on the safety of a pharmaceutical drug and the adequacy of the warnings provided in connection with its use.

Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office

Miami, FL

Assistant Public Defender

Aug 2005 – Jul 2007

Assistant public defender under Bennett H. Brummer and Carlos J. Martinez in Miami-Dade County, Florida. There, I tried over 30 cases including 10 jury trials, and drafted and argued habeas petitions to prevent juveniles from being tried as an adult.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Hillary Clinton for President 2008

New York, NY

National Advance Lead

Jun 2007 – Jun 2008

Directed operations for then-Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's 2008 Democratic primary campaign for the U.S. presidency. Was originally located in Iowa for the caucuses starting in 2007 and remained with the campaign, throughout elections in every state and primary until the very end when Senator Clinton conceded and endorsed Barack Obama for President of the United States.

Office of President William Jefferson Clinton –

The Clinton Foundation, the Clinton Health Access Initiative; and the Clinton Global Initiative

New York, NY

Research Assistant/Advance Team Member

Mar 2003 – Jun 2007

Served as a traveling aid and speech writer for former President Bill Clinton's domestic and international travels while in law school and during my employment at the Miami Public Defender's office. During the summer between my first and second year in law school I completed a full time internship at the Harlem office where I performed research and fact checking for President Clinton's 2004 autobiography, *My Life*.

John Kerry for President

Miami, FL

National Advance Lead

2004

Served as a traveling aid and operations staff for Theresa Heinz Kerry and Elizabeth Edwards during Kerry Edwards campaign for Presidency.

Organization Work

Pennsylvania Bar Association Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee

Board Member

Consulted on and assisted drafting Legal Ethics opinions in response to member requests.

Anne Arundel County Tennis Association

Board Member / Vice President

EDUCATION

University of Miami School of Law, J.D., 2005 – Coral Gables, FL
Villanova University, B.S. Business Administration, 2000 – Villanova, PA

PRESENTATIONS

University of Baltimore, School of Law Baltimore, MD
Panelist – “Artificial Intelligence for Lawyers” December 2025

American University, Washington College of Law Washington, DC
Moderator – “The Chevron-Ecuador Story” April 2022

I moderated a panel discussion for WCL’s Environmental Law Society with Attorney Steven Donziger and other members of the trial team about the environmental justice and international comity disaster resulting from Chevron’s dumping of crude oil in the Amazon region.

Widener Law School: Pennsylvania Reentry Summit Harrisburg, PA
Panelist – “Exploring and Examining Innovative Reentry Strategies for the 21st Century” September 2011

Cardozo School of Law New York, NY
Panelist – “The Effects of Padilla,” “Beyond Immigration,” June 2011
“Padilla and the Future of the Defense Function”

National Conference – National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Reno, NV
March 2011
Panelist – “The New Judicial Colloquy, “Whether Judges Should Advise Defendants About Collateral Consequences Beyond Immigration”

Duke Law School – Forum for Law and Social Change, Durham, NC
Panelist – “Collateral Consequences of Arrest and Court Involvement for Youth” February 2011

American University, Washington College of Law Washington, DC
Speaker – “The Collateral Consequences of Criminal Convictions” February 2011

The American Bar Association – Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA
Moderator – “Privatization of Punishment” August 2010
I moderated a panel discussion about the trend toward private corporations developing and managing juvenile correctional facilities.

**Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
2010 Annual Conference**

Greenbelt, MD
June 2010

Moderator – “Criminal Mediation for Juveniles”

I moderated a panel discussion on effectively dealing with juvenile criminal sanctions in a mediation setting as opposed to a criminal court.

**National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
National Conference**

Las Vegas, NV
March 2010

Facility – “The Collateral Consequences of Juvenile Arrests,
Adjudications and Convictions”

DOJ – National Indigent Defense Symposium

Washington, DC

Moderator – “Privatization of Punishment”

February 2010

I moderated a panel discussion on the federal policy ramifications of privatizing juvenile correctional institutions.

Youth Court Defender Conference

Jackson, MS

Trainer – “Court Appointed Juvenile Public Defender
Annual Training”

September 2009

Mediation in Criminal Matters

Minneapolis, MN

Trainer

October 2008

I presented on the necessary steps to develop and maintain a criminal mediation program.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

“Collateral Consequences of Criminal Convictions,” National Institute of Justice –
Project Director, March 2012

“Racial Justice Improvement Project,” American Bar Association’s Criminal Justice
Section & Bureau of Justice Assistance – Project Member

“Mediation in Criminal Matters,” ABA Enterprise Foundation – Project Director

“Collateral Consequences of Juvenile Adjudications,” American Bar Association’s
Criminal Justice Section – Project Director

PUBLICATIONS

Fordham Urban Law Journal, Volume 39: *Collateral Consequences: How Reliable
Data and Resources Can Change the Way Law is Practiced* – March 2012

Duke Forum for Law & Social Change, Duke Law Journal, Volume 3: *The ABAs Approach to Juvenile Justice Reform: Education, Eviction, and Employment: The Collateral Consequences of Juvenile Adjudication* – February 2011

The American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section Newsletter, Volume 17 Issue 2: *A Call to Action for Juvenile Justice* – Winter 2008

The American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section Newsletter, Volume 18 Issue 3: *After Padilla* – Spring 2010

ABA Policy 102A (adopted by ABA House of Delegates): *Collateral Consequences for Juveniles* – February 2010

BAR ADMISSIONS

Maryland Bar – admitted July 12, 2012

District of Columbia Bar – admitted June 7, 2010

Florida Bar – admitted October 3, 2005

Pennsylvania Bar – admitted March 10, 2015

U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland – admitted January 7, 2013

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia – admitted March 5, 2012

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit – admitted April 22, 2013