

Emerson Toomey

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, Chicago, IL.

Juris Doctor Candidate, June 2028

Activities: Restorative Justice Society, Criminal Law Society, NLG Legal Observer

Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, IE.

Master of Philosophy in International History, April 2026

Dissertation: “Gan Teanga, Gan Tír”: The Jailtacht and Republican Nationalism during the Irish Revolutionary Period, 1916-1924

Northeastern University, Boston, MA.

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Minors in Law and Ethics (double minor), May 2022

PUBLICATIONS

“Miller: Mitigating Juvenile Life Without Parole”, UIC SBA Case of the Month Op-Ed, 1(1), Nov 2025.

“Supra-National and International Human Rights: Fundamental Notions.” *The Human Rights Ramifications of a United Ireland*. Dublin: Trinity College Dublin Free Legal Aid Clinic and Queens University Belfast, Feb 2025.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Breen & Pugh

Law Clerk/Paralegal, March 2023 – Present

- Manage high volumes of audio, video, and other discovery materials for Jonathan M. Brayman
- Compose mitigation submissions, sentencing reports; copy-edit reports, filings, and briefs
- Assist with paralegal training and attorney support across offices in the Monadnock building, as necessary

Legal Aid Chicago

Paralegal, Public Benefits Practice Group, January 2023 – June 2024

- Secured government benefits for 31 homeless clients with mental and physical disabilities
- Used trauma-informed approach to interview and advocate for clients; reviewed high volumes of medical records, wrote medical summary reports, filed disability applications and appeals

Phillips Black, Inc.

Capital Mitigation Intern, November 2022 – May 2023 (Part-time)

- Compiled qualitative geographic histories of clients using library, media, and microfilm archives
- Reviewed, transcribed, and analyzed medical, governmental, and educational records

The Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia

Investigative Intern, Special Litigation, June 2021 – December 2021 (Full-time)

- Conducted interviews, analyzed records, developed psychosocial biographies for IRAA hearings
- Assisted supervisory attorney on seven-count federal case in the trial division

CERTIFICATIONS

Non-Capital Mitigation (NOFSW), SOAR (SAMHSA), Colbert-Williams (UIC), PHRP (NIH)