

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 member, Criminal Law Society member, NLG Legal Observer

Achievements: Finalist, Inaugural Legislative Drafting Contest; Inaugural Crim Law Op-Ed author, SBA (Fall 2025)

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

Capstone: Geography of the Digital Courtroom: Law, Justice, & Media in the Age of the Internet

Activities: Study Abroad at Imperial College London, Fall 2018; Dean’s List; Sunrise Movement member

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming: “The Prison as a Classroom: Republican Gaeilge Classes in the 1920s”, *History Ireland*, 2026.

“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

The Mwalimu Center for Justice (formerly Capital Post-Conviction Project of Louisiana)

Legal Extern, April 2026 - Present

- Draft motions, briefs, petitions, research memorandums; manage appellate record, discovery materials, chronologies
- Meet with clients on death row

Breen & Pugh

Paralegal, March 2023 – April 2026

- Managed high volumes of records, video, and other discovery materials for Partner Jonathan M. Brayman
- Composed mitigation submissions, sentencing reports; copy-edit reports, filings, and briefs
- Assisted with paralegal training and attorney support, 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.

Intern, Capital Mitigation, November 2022 – May 2023

- 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

- Analyzed records and developed psychosocial biographies for Second Look Amendment resentencing hearings
- Assisted supervisory attorney on seven-count federal case in the trial division

CERTIFICATIONS

Non-Capital Mitigation (NOFSW), Appointed Representative (Social Security SSDI/SSI), SOAR (SAMHSA), Colbert-Williams (UIC)