

Emerson Toomey

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL. Juris Doctor, June 2028.

Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, IE. MPhil in International History, April 2026.

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

Advisor: Dr. Daniel Geary

Northeastern University, Boston, MA. BA in Philosophy (minors, Law and Ethics), May 2022.

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

Advisor: Dr. Patricia J. Williams (in collaboration w/ UAL College of Communication)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Interests. Socio-legal-linguistic carceral studies and vulnerable populations; art and media in the carceral system; abolition and alternatives to incarceration; identity and politics of the Irish language.

PUBLICATIONS

2025 With Abigail Donohoe. “Supra-National and International Human Rights: Fundamental Notions.” *The Human Rights Ramifications of a United Ireland*. Dublin: Trinity College Dublin FLAC.

FELLOWSHIPS

2018 Organizing Leadership Fellow, The Hub Project
Washington, D.C./Chicago, IL

MEDIA APPEARANCES

2020-2025 Political commentary; featured in the New York Times, Teen Vogue, The Hill, Vox, Mother Jones, The Verge, The Boston Globe, Harvard Political Review.
2018 Gun control advocacy; featured in the New York Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Chicago Sun-Times, The Chicago Reader.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2024-2025 Archival research (English/Irish) in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Britain.
2022-2023 Capital mitigation archival client research across several Western states.

TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

2021-2024 Undergraduate and law school application revision and guidance.
2022-2023 English and Social Science curriculum/homework for middle grades.
2014-2018 Education specialist, camp and grades K-6 at Lincoln Park Zoo. Responsible for the first bilingual (English-Spanish) event and revision of institution disability and service animal policy.

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RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2023-2025 **Paralegal** **Breen & Pugh**
- Support trial defense cases in IL, CA, OK.
 - Compose mitigation submissions, sentencing reports; copy-edit reports, filings, and briefs.
 - Conduct investigation work for a variety of cases, including misdemeanor, federal, civil.
 - Assist with paralegal training and attorney support across various offices as necessary.
- 2023-2024 **Paralegal, Public Benefits Practice Group** **Legal Aid Chicago**
- Secured government benefits for 31 homeless clients with mental and physical disabilities.
 - Used trauma-informed approach to interview clients; wrote medical summary reports.
 - Reviewed records, completed and submitted applications and reconsideration requests.
- 2022-2023 **Capital Mitigation Intern** **Phillips Black, Inc.**
- Compiled qualitative geographic histories of clients using library, media, and microfilm archives.
 - Transcribed, summarized, and analyzed interview footage of clients in various contexts.
 - Obtained and analyzed clients' social, medical, governmental, and educational records.
- 2021-2021 **Investigative Intern** **Public Defender Service for Washington, DC**
- Conducted interviews, collected evidence, analyzed records.
 - Developed psychosocial biographies of clients and their families for federal hearings.
 - Secured the full release of and housing and social services for two clients.
- 2019-2023 **Political and Digital Strategy Consultant** **Self-Employed**
- Provided research, digital strategy, outreach, special projects, and fundraising services.
 - Delivered 2.4m impressions, 3k followers, and \$8.6k for a national Senate campaign.
 - Clients included Massachusetts Senator Ed Markey and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.

Other Work Experience

Barista, Starbucks (2022-2023), Finance Assistant, Durkan Consulting (2019-2021), Events and Operations Co-Op, Markham Group (2020), Intern for Senior Director of Operations, Lincoln Park Zoo (2016)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SKILLS

Certifications	Non-Capital Mitigation (NOFSW), Colbert-Williams (UIC), PHRP (NIH), SOAR (SAMHSA)
Languages	Irish (A2)
Professional Memberships	National Defender Investigator Association, Oral History Network of Ireland, Society for Linguistic Anthropology
Skills	Adobe Acrobat, CIOX, USAfx, CJCC JUSTIS, JusticeText, LegalServer, IPRO Eclipse SE