

# Maya Szilak

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## EDUCATION

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

Juris Doctor, May 1998

CALI Award Excellence In International Human Rights Law

**Bar Admission:** Admitted Illinois Bar, May 1999

**Tulane University • New Orleans, Louisiana**

Bachelor of Arts, English and History, December 1991

## EXPERIENCE

**John Howard Association of Illinois • Chicago, Illinois**

Research and Policy Counsel, June 2014- present

- Work in partnership with other advocacy groups and community members to promote targeted criminal and juvenile justice policy reform efforts and legislative initiatives on specific issues (for example, increasing independent oversight of juvenile pretrial detention facilities and facilitating voting in jail for pretrial detainees) through independent research, community outreach, published policy papers, recommendations, public presentations, education and monitoring reports.

Director of the Adult Prison Monitor Project, May 2011- June 2014

- Monitor and Inspect Illinois Correctional Facilities, Gather Data Through Comprehensive Facility Questionnaires, and Review and Interview Inmates, Inmates' Family Members, Staff and Administrators to Assess Living Conditions, Care, Rehabilitation Programs, Care, and Treatment.
- Compose and Publish Reports on Illinois' Correctional Facilities Detailing Findings From Monitoring Visits and Making Recommendations Grounded in National and International Human Rights Standards and Emerging Research and Developments in Social Science, Law, Medicine, and Criminal Justice.
- Train Citizen Volunteers to Participate in Prison Monitoring Visits. Perform Community Outreach and Participate in Presentations Aimed at Educating the Public, Other Criminal Justice Advocates, and Government Officials On Conditions in Illinois Correctional Facilities.

**Office of the State Appellate Defender • Chicago, Illinois**

Assistant Appellate Defender, January 2003 - May, 2011

- Represent Indigent Clients in Direct and Post-Conviction Criminal Appeals.
- Compose Briefs, Petitions for Rehearing, Petitions for Leave to Appeal, Petitions for Writ of Certiorari, Clemency Petitions, and Present Oral Arguments before the Illinois Appellate Courts, the Illinois Supreme Court, and the Illinois Prisoner Review Board.
- Act as Assistant Supervisor, Reviewing and Editing the Work Product of New Assistant Appellate Defenders and Preparing Them for Oral Arguments.

- Provide Continuing Legal Education to Assistant Appellate Defenders On Topics Including: “Remedies for Breaches of Guilty Plea Agreements;” “Proper Procedures for Filing Petitions for Writ of Certiorari; and “Confrontation Challenges to the Admission of Autopsy Protocols by Non-Testifying Medical Examiners.”
- Serve as Member of Hiring Committee, Interviewing New Attorney Applicants and Grading Their Legal Writing and Analysis.

**Bullaro and Carton, Chartered • Chicago, Illinois**

Associate Attorney, May 2002 – January 2003

- Represent Corporate Clients in Complex Civil Litigation In the State and Federal Courts.
- Compose Trial and Appellate Pleadings, Prepare Discovery, Settlement, Mediation, and Trial Materials, and Appear in Court

**Illinois Appellate Court, First Judicial District • Chicago, Illinois**

Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Justice John P. Tully

October 1999- May 2002

- Draft Opinions, Orders, and Bench Memos for Panel of Three Appellate Court Justices Deciding Criminal, Civil and Administrative Appeals.
- Review and Edit Draft Orders Submitted by Research Staff Attorneys.
- Conference, Review, and Provide Memoranda to Appellate Court Justices on Petitions for Rehearing and Oral Arguments.

**Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois • Chicago, Illinois**

Law Clerk/Legal Intern May 1997-May 1998

- Perform Legal Research, Analysis, and Draft Legal Memoranda To Assist the Agency’s Attorneys In Prosecuting Violations of the Attorney Code of Ethics and the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct.

**Sample Reports and Publications:**

**John Howard Association of Illinois:**

*“Kane County Juvenile Justice Center Monitoring Report”* (2017), available at:

<http://www.thejha.org/sites/default/files/JHA%20Kane%20County%20Juvenile%20Justice%20Center%20Report%20Nov%202017.pdf>

**John Howard Association Special Report:**

*“In Their Own Words: Young People’s Experiences in the Criminal Justice System and Their Perceptions of Its Legitimacy,”* (2014), available at: <http://thejha.org/sites/default/files/JHAIInTheirOwnWords.pdf>

**John Howard Association Special Report:**

*“A Price Illinois Cannot Afford: Tamms and the Costs of Long-Term Isolation,”* (2012), available at: <http://thejha.org/sites/default/files/TammsReport.pdf>