

Benjamin M. Charlton

EXPERIENCE

Maryland Office of the Public Defender – Forensic Mental Health Division, Baltimore, MD

Assistant Public Defender III, October 2023-present

Litigate issues surrounding the mental health of indigent criminal defendants, including competency, criminal responsibility, and mitigation. Aid attorneys across Maryland representing clients with these legal issues.

Attorney Trainer, January 2023-present

Train attorneys at beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. Lead skills training and develop training lectures on specific subject matters of expertise. Consult on high-profile cases from around the state of Maryland.

Maryland Office of the Public Defender for Baltimore City, Baltimore, MD

Assistant Public Defender III, September 2020-October 2023

Litigated significant Circuit Court felony caseload, including multiple jury trials in life cases. Worked with student law clerks, second chairs, experts, and administrative staff to coordinate and prepare cases.

Maryland Office of the Public Defender for Anne Arundel County, Annapolis, MD

Assistant Public Defender II, September 2017-September 2020

Litigated jury trials

Assistant Public Defender I, September 2015-September 2017

Litigated district court misdemeanor cases

Maryland Office of the Public Defender for Prince George’s County, Upper Marlboro, MD

Law Clerk, January 2014-May 2014, September 2014-December 2014

Office of the Public Defender for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church, Arlington, VA

Intern, February 2011-September 2011

Prince William County Public Schools, Manassas, VA

Special Education Teacher, October 2005-August 2008

Created individualized lesson plans for students to accommodate particularized needs and keep in line with mandated curriculums.

OTHER ASSOCIATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access, Governor’s Appointee, October 2023-present

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Mental Health Committee, Member, December 2024-present

Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 2025 Annual Conference Speaker – Death Penalty Track,

Selecting and Preparing Mental Health Experts for Trial

EDUCATION

George Mason University School of Law, Arlington, VA

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, May 2014

Activities: *Journal of Law, Economics, and Policy*, Managing Editor (2012-13); Moot Court Board; Trial Advocacy Board

Michigan State University, James Madison College of Public Policy, East Lansing, MI

B.A. Degree, Double Major in Political Theory/Constitutional Democracy and International Relations, May 2004