

**KAREN L. DANIEL**  
Center on Wrongful Convictions  
Bluhm Legal Clinic  
Northwestern University School of Law  
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### **Education**

Harvard Law School, J.D. 1981  
University of California at Davis, B.S. 1978

### **Professional Legal Experience**

#### **NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Chicago, Illinois**

Clinical Professor of Law (2009 to present)  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Law (2000 to 2009)

#### *Bluhm Legal Clinic/Center on Wrongful Convictions*

Clinical faculty member/senior staff attorney: Responsible for teaching wrongful convictions clinic course and supervising second and third year law students in the representation of criminal defendants in various stages of post-judgment proceedings (including direct appeal, state post-conviction, DNA and fingerprint testing, federal habeas, executive clemency, and expungement), focusing on the Center on Wrongful Conviction's mission of identifying and rectifying wrongful convictions and other serious miscarriages of justice.

#### **PRIVATE PRACTICE, Oak Park, Illinois**

Solo practitioner (1997 to 2000)

Provided representation to indigent criminal defendants on appeal through contracts with the Office of the State Appellate Defender; performed criminal appellate legal work in private cases.

#### **OFFICE OF THE STATE APPELLATE DEFENDER, Chicago, Illinois**

Assistant Appellate Defender (1981 to 1984 and 1986 to 1996)

Represented indigent criminal defendants in the Illinois Appellate and Supreme Courts; supervised less experienced attorneys and summer law interns.

#### **OFFICE OF THE COOK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER, Chicago, Illinois**

Assistant Public Defender (1984)

Represented parents in abuse and neglect proceedings before the Cook County Juvenile Court.

## **Significant Court Cases**

2003: Secured the release of a wrongfully convicted man who served 27 years in prison, based on post-conviction DNA testing.

2003: Secured the release of a twice wrongfully convicted man by obtaining exonerating DNA evidence in one case and an acquittal on retrial in another case.

2004: Successfully represented an innocent client in federal habeas corpus proceedings, resulting in the release from prison of a former death row inmate who had been incarcerated for 17 years.

2006: Exonerated a client of a wrongful conviction through post-conviction DNA testing.

2006: Successfully represented an innocent client in federal habeas corpus proceedings and during a post-conviction reinvestigation by the state's attorney's office, resulting in the dismissal of all charges after more than nine years of wrongful incarceration.

2008: Won reversal of murder conviction in the Illinois Supreme Court on appeal from the denial of post-conviction relief, based on a Brady violation. Charges were thereafter dropped in January 2009.

## **Publications and Presentations**

Northwestern University School of Law, *Tenuous Circumstances*, moderator (Chicago, IL 3/12/08)

Northwestern University School of Law, *Waiting for Justice*, moderator (Chicago, IL 2/21/08)

Chicago Sun-Times, *Wrongful convictions—and wrongfully denied compensation* (12/7/07)

NPR's All Things Considered, *DNA, Exoneration and Compensation: A Discussion*, roundtable discussion of legal issues relating to exoneration, panelist (Chicago, IL 6/13/07)

Northwestern University School of Law, *The Wrong Man*, moderator (Chicago, IL 2/16/07)

Chicago Sun-Times, *Wrongfully Convicted People Get Pittance for Years in Prison*, author (8/11/06)

Fox News Chicago, segment on Julie Rea Harper case, interviewee (Chicago, IL 5/12/06)

Duquesne University 6th Annual Forensic Science and Law Conference, *When Innocence Isn't Enough: Procedural Bars to Post-Conviction Forensic Testing*, presenter (Pittsburgh, PA 4/21/06)

A Current Affair, segment on Michael Evans case, interviewee (Chicago, IL 10/19/05)

MSNBC, segment on recent DNA exonerations, interviewee (Chicago, IL 8/4/05)

WLS-TV, segment on eyewitness identification error, interviewee (Chicago, IL 9/11/03)

**Admitted to Practice**

Illinois State Bar

United States Supreme Court

United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

United States District Court for the Northern and Central Districts of Illinois