Thirty years ago, the Office of the Appellate Defender (OAD) was founded with an ambitious and visionary mission: to be a champion for poor people convicted of felonies by providing exceptional representation, improving the quality of indigent defense in New York City, and pioneering innovative responses to emerging criminal justice issues.

Consistent with our mission, OAD committed itself to client-centered representation, and embraced a then-unique practice that included in-person client visits, the filing of reply briefs and the presentation of oral arguments in all but the most exceptional of cases. OAD ultimately deepened the holistic nature of its representation by becoming the first appellate defender to provide on-site medical, mental health, substance abuse, housing, education, and public assistance support to its clients; and by creating a Reinvestigation Project to promptly identify and challenge likely cases of wrongful conviction.

OAD also dedicated itself to the training of lawyers and law students likely to make a significant contribution to the ongoing struggle for the fair administration of criminal justice in New York City. OAD imposed term limits on its Staff Attorney positions in order to maximize the reach of its in-depth training; OAD developed a Criminal Appellate Defender Clinic with New York University School of Law in order to ground new lawyers in an understanding of the rigors of proper indigent appellate defense representation; and OAD created a Volunteer Appellate Defender (VAD) Program in order to leverage the talent and expertise of associates at leading New York City law firms in defense of poor people seeking to appeal felony convictions.

Thirty years later, OAD has secured countless in-court victories, and its alumni play influential roles in the administration of criminal justice in New York City and across the country. As this Directory powerfully demonstrates, OAD-trained attorneys have become state and federal public defenders, scholars, policy-makers, jurists, and private practitioners. OAD’s alumni hold leadership positions in national public interest organizations, large law firms, and even prosecutor offices. Former OAD staffers have relied on their experiences representing people convicted of felonies in becoming artists, writers, healers, and philanthropists.

Today, OAD stands as a national model of outstanding indigent appellate defense representation. It would not be the organization it is today were it not for the contributions made by each of the extraordinary individuals who has served our clients.

Thank you!

Christina A. Swarns
President & Attorney-in-Charge
Office of the Appellate Defender
Included in this first-ever OAD Alumni Directory are former staff members’ names, current place of business, and position while at OAD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Current Place of Business</th>
<th>Position at OAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anita Aboagye-Agyeman</td>
<td>The Legal Aid Society</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Abraham</td>
<td>New York Law School</td>
<td>OAD Supervising Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virmary Acosta</td>
<td>Con Edison</td>
<td>OAD Administrative Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexis Agathocleous</td>
<td>Innocence Project</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Akhter</td>
<td>The Laura and John Arnold Foundation (Criminal Justice Initiative)</td>
<td>OAD Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saadia Aleem</td>
<td>Syria Cross Border International Rescue Committee</td>
<td>OAD Senior Staff Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franz Allina</td>
<td>Committee to Protect Journalists</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roslyn Allison</td>
<td>OAD Financial Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosemary Almonte Guichardo</td>
<td>U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Solicitor</td>
<td>OAD Legal Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salina Kanai Althof</td>
<td>Attorney at Law, ALC</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloria Alvarez</td>
<td>Queens Library</td>
<td>OAD Paralegal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Arnholz</td>
<td>Partners HealthCare</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Axelrod</td>
<td>NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene</td>
<td>OAD Social Work Intern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Backus-Florio</td>
<td>MedOptions</td>
<td>OAD Social Work Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Baker</td>
<td>State Appellate Defender Office, Michigan &amp; Wayne State School of Law</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sujatha baliga</td>
<td>Impact Justice</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuart Banner</td>
<td>UCLA School of Law</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lara Belkin</td>
<td>The Food Law Firm</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan Birck</td>
<td>University of Michigan Law School</td>
<td>OAD Legal Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Booth</td>
<td>Brooklyn Defender Services</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tina Mazza Ralls</td>
<td>Curtin &amp; Heefner LLP</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Ogbara Reeves</td>
<td>Dentons US LLP</td>
<td>OAD Intern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palma Repole</td>
<td>Ethical Culture Fieldston School</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
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<td>Amy Robinson</td>
<td>Giskan Solotaroff &amp; Anderson</td>
<td>OAD Intern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Rochat</td>
<td>Holistic Healing</td>
<td>OAD Social Work Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Roffe</td>
<td>New York Presbyterian- Weill Cornell Medical Center</td>
<td>OAD Social Work Intern</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Joshua Rosenkranz*</td>
<td>Orrick, Herrington &amp; Sutcliffe LLP LLP</td>
<td>OAD Attorney-in-Charge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Rossi</td>
<td>Westchester Community Foundation</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Rothstein</td>
<td>Maryland Office of the Public Defender</td>
<td>OAD Senior Staff Attorney &amp; Social Work Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caroline Rule</td>
<td>Kostelanetz &amp; Fink LLP</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reena Sandoval</td>
<td></td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lenisha Scotland</td>
<td>Catholic Charities, Brooklyn Community Center</td>
<td>OAD Intern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jahaan Shaheed</td>
<td>Federal Community Defender Office, Eastern District of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel V. Shapiro</td>
<td>United States Attorney's Office, District of New Jersey</td>
<td>OAD Intern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rahul K. Sharma</td>
<td>Office of the Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of Virginia</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devon Skeens</td>
<td>Appalachian Research &amp; Defense Fund</td>
<td>OAD Legal Intern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natalie J. Sobchak</td>
<td>Pace Women’s Justice Center</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gregory I. Solomonow</td>
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<td>OAD Intern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avi Springer</td>
<td>Rubin, Kidney, Nyer &amp; Vincent</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Stead</td>
<td>Rebecca Stead Books</td>
<td>OAD Staff Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Stephens-Davidowitz</td>
<td>United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York</td>
<td>OAD Senior Staff Attorney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Samantha L. Stern  
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We have tried to include information that is as comprehensive and up-to-date as possible; however, we acknowledge that there are some people whose information we do not have. If you have any edits or additions to this Directory, please contact Carolyn Norris at cnorris@oadnyc.org or (212) 402-4120.

Alicia Young
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* Current OAD Board Member