

SHANE O'NEAL

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Education

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2015
Doctor of Jurisprudence,
Harvard Law and Policy Review, Articles Editor and Senior Citations Editor

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, Austin, Texas, 2010
Bachelor of Arts *with Honors*,
Majors: Government and Spanish Literature; Minor: Economics

Experience

O'NEAL LAW, Alpine, Texas
Solo Practitioner, 2021 – Present.
Represent clients in criminal matters in state and federal courts from trial through appeal, achieving acquittals in high-stakes trials and sentence reductions through appellate victories.

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, Alpine, Texas
Assistant Federal Public Defender, 2018 - 2021.
Research and Writing Specialist, 2017 - 2018.
Managed a heavy caseload, defending indigent clients against criminal charges in federal court. Tried cases to juries and the bench; wrote and argued appeals before the Fifth Circuit. Spoke on various criminal law topics at continuing legal education events.

JUDGE LYNN N. HUGHES, United States District Court, Houston, Texas.
Law Clerk, 2015-2016.
Managed one-half of a district court's docket. Drafted opinions and orders in criminal and civil cases, including Medicare fraud, drug suppression, and support of terrorism.

ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, Lawrence, Massachusetts.
Student Prosecutor, 2014-2015.
Tried four intoxicated driving cases to jury verdict. Argued against motions to suppress and dismiss.

HARVARD DEFENDERS, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
Student Advocate, 2012-2014.
Counseled low-income Bostonians on crimes ranging from interfering with a funeral procession to assault. Represented them in pre-indictment hearings before a Clerk Magistrate.

TEACH FOR AMERICA, Stevens Elementary School, Houston, Texas.
First Grade Bilingual Teacher, 2010-2012.
Taught core subjects to 50 low-income Spanish-speaking first graders.

Professional Distinctions

Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Criminal Appellate Law, 2025.
Fluent in Spanish.
Graduate of the National Criminal Defense College, Trial Practice Institute, Macon, Georgia, 2018.
Member, Criminal Justice Act Committee, WDTX, Pecos Division, 2019 – Present.
Member, Western District of Texas Disciplinary Committee, 2025 – Present.