

Emily Olson-Gault is Director and Chief Counsel of the ABA Death Penalty Representation Project. Prior to joining the Project as a staff attorney in 2008, Emily was in private practice, where she began working on death penalty cases as a volunteer lawyer. As Director of the Project, Emily recruits pro bono lawyers from the private bar to provide direct representation in capital cases. She also serves as a national expert on the ABA Guidelines for the Appointment & Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases and assists state agencies and lawmakers with developing and implementing standards for capital defenders. Emily routinely provides training and technical assistance to capital defenders and pro bono counsel and oversees the Project's systemic reform efforts. In addition to her work with the ABA, Emily is also an adjunct professor at Georgetown Law School where she teaches a habeas practicum course that introduces students to habeas law and how to address issues such as mass incarceration, systemic racism, and geographic disparity in the American legal system through individual direct representation as well as systemic litigation. Emily graduated from New York University School of Law in 2006. While in law school she worked on capital habeas cases and represented criminal defendants in federal court through NYU's clinical programs.