



Denise Smith launched Smith Consulting Group, LLC in 2011, providing Forensic Social Work and Mitigation services focused on defense-based advocacy –giving a voice to truth and restoring dignity to the accused. Believing in second chances, Denise centers her mitigation practice primarily on serving post-conviction clients sentenced as juveniles and younger adults serving life in confinement. With over 20 years of forensic social work and mitigation experience, Denise lends her expertise to social work education as a Forensic Field Education Instructor with the Maryland Office of the Public Defender and Field Education Liaison with the University of Maryland School of Social Work. As a teacher and mentor, Denise devotes her work to shaping and influencing students' professional growth in understanding systemic oppression and cultural humility correlated with the criminal justice system and mass incarceration. She trains and provides coaching to mitigation professionals around the country. Social justice, defense-based advocacy, social work education, and mitigation professional development inspire and highlight her practice. Denise was elected as Chair of the National Alliance of Sentencing Advocates and Mitigation Specialists (NASAMS) Executive Committee in 2023.