

# MEREDITH B. ESSER

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## EDUCATION

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**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER**, Washington, DC  
Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, May 2010

Honors:                      Order of the Coif  
                                    Recipient of the International Association of Trial Lawyers  
                                    Student Advocacy Award

Bar Admissions:        New York, Florida

**LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE**, London, UK  
Master of Science in Gender Studies, *with distinction (highest honors)*, December 2005

**DARTMOUTH COLLEGE**, Hanover, NH  
Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Studio Art, *cum laude*, June 2003

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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### University of Wyoming College of Law

*Assistant Professor of Law*  
*Director, Defender Aid Clinic*

**July 2023 – Present**

### University of Denver Sturm College of Law

*Clinical Teaching Fellow, Civil Rights Clinic, Denver, CO*

**July 2022 – May 2023**

- Supervised students in major civil rights litigation against the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) including in federal district court and appeals before the Fifth and Tenth Circuit Courts of Appeal.
- Developed and taught seminar component of clinical course on topics including appellate litigation, Eighth Amendment rights and remedies; client interviewing and counseling; trauma-informed lawyering; prison law and prison abolition.

*Adjunct Professor of Prison Law & Policy, Denver, CO*

**Spring 2018 & Spring 2019**

- Developed and led seminar course on the constitutional rights of incarcerated people.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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Meredith Esser, *Extraordinary Punishment: Conditions of Confinement and Compassionate Release* (May 23, 2023), FORDHAM LAW REVIEW, forthcoming 2024. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4410197>.

## **PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

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### **Federal Public Defender of Colorado and Wyoming**

**Feb. 2016 - July 2022**

*Assistant Federal Public Defender, Appellate Division, Denver, CO*

Represented indigent clients in the Districts of Colorado and Wyoming and before the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Notable litigation wins:

- *United States v. Braxton*, 61 F.4th 830 (10th Cir. 2023) (holding that inevitable discovery doctrine did not apply to gun seized pursuant to warrantless search of defendant's backpack)
- *United States v. Broadway*, 1 F.4th 1206 (10th Cir. 2021) (reversing denial of motion for sentence reduction under the First Step Act's crack-cocaine provision)
- *United States v. Giannukos*, 908 F.3d 649 (10th Cir. 2018) (reversing and remanding defendant's gun convictions after trial for illegal possession of firearms because district court plainly erred in incorrectly instructing the jury regarding the definition of constructive possession)
- *United States v. Uram*, 96-cr-00102-ABJ, ECF No. 503 (D. Wyo. November 2, 2022) (order granting immediate compassionate release and vacating sentence of life imprisonment)
- *United States v. M.L.* (D. Alaska) (order granting immediate release and vacating 120-month sentence for survivor of institutional sexual abuse while in custody)

### **Federal Public Defender of Eastern Washington and Idaho**

**Sept. 2014 - Feb. 2016**

*Assistant Federal Public Defender, Trial Division, Spokane, WA*

Represented indigent clients in the Districts of Eastern Washington and Idaho and before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

### **Arnold & Porter LLP**

**Nov. 2012 - Aug. 2014**

*Litigation Associate, New York, NY*

Conducted commercial civil litigation in state and federal court; maintained active pro-bono practice including challenging conditions of confinement in federal supermax prison (ADX) and working under court-appointed monitor in landmark New York stop & frisk cases.

**JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS**

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**The United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit**

**Aug. 2011 - Sept. 2012**

*Law Clerk to the Honorable Rosemary Barkett, Miami, FL*

**The Superior Court of the District of Columbia**

**Sept. 2010 - Aug. 2011**

*Law Clerk to the Honorable Russell F. Canan, Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division, Washington, DC*