

Kelly Shea Delvac

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BAR ADMISSIONS

<i>State Bar of California:</i>	No. 340461	Admitted December 2021
<i>Supreme Court of the United States:</i>	No. 323588	Admitted December 2024

EDUCATION

Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law	Malibu, CA
<i>Juris Doctor, cum laude</i>	May 2021

GPA/Rank: 3.711 / Top 15% / Dean's List

Honors: Pepperdine Award, highest honor awarded to a graduating student
National Law Review Law Student Writing Competition, Winner (2020)
Pepperdine Law Inspirational Leadership Award (2019)

Journal: *Pepperdine Law Review*, Associate Editor for Digital Media

Clinic: Ninth Circuit Appellate Advocacy Clinic; briefed and argued a civil rights appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Activities: Trial Team; Moot Court Problem Writer; Phi Delta Phi Honor Society

Thomas Edison State University	Trenton, NJ
<i>Bachelor of Arts, Sociology</i>	June 2018
<u>GPA:</u> 4.0	

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Pepperdine Caruso School of Law, Quattrone Wrongful Convictions Appellate Clinic	Malibu, CA
<i>Director and Adjunct Professor of Law</i>	August 2026–Present
<i>Co-Director and Clinical Fellow</i>	January 2026–July 2026

Direct a nationally focused appellate clinic specializing in post-conviction advocacy involving actual innocence and systemic issues affecting wrongful convictions. Teach and develop a semester-long clinical curriculum on state and federal post-conviction procedure, amicus advocacy, causes of wrongful convictions, and litigation strategies used to obtain exonerations. Supervise 7–10 law students each semester in sophisticated legal research, case strategy, and appellate advocacy in active matters, and oversee the Clinic's litigation docket and collaborations with law firms, innocence organizations, and public defenders in state and federal courts.

Miller Barondess, LLP	Los Angeles, CA
<i>Associate Attorney, Appeals and Litigation</i>	September 2024–Present

Represent clients in high-stakes civil and appellate litigation, draft briefs and dispositive motions in state and federal courts, and advise on litigation and appellate strategy in complex matters.

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California	Los Angeles, CA
<i>Law Clerk to Magistrate Judge Margo A. Rocconi</i>	September 2022–August 2024

Researched and drafted orders and bench memoranda in discovery disputes, habeas petitions, Social Security appeals, civil rights cases, and criminal detention matters. Prepared the court for hearings and settlement conferences by synthesizing complex factual records and legal questions into clear recommendations.

Trinity Law School*Professor, Bar Exam Workshop*

Santa Ana, CA

September 2023–July 2024

Revised the Bar Exam Workshop curriculum to reflect current exam requirements, graded practice essays, provided detailed feedback, and offered individualized tutoring and mentoring to prepare students for bar passage.

California Supreme Court*Staff Attorney, Criminal Central Staff – Habeas Division*

San Francisco, CA

September 2021–September 2022

Drafted memoranda for the Justices analyzing habeas corpus petitions and criminal appeals, with particular focus on wrongful conviction claims. Recommended dispositions in complex and high-stakes criminal matters.

Kravis, Graham, & Zucker*Law Clerk*

Los Angeles, CA

December 2020–September 2021

Drafted appellate briefs, writ petitions, habeas petitions, and resentencing requests in state and federal courts involving criminal appeals and post-conviction matters.

National Registry of Exonerations*Research Assistant*

Los Angeles, CA

May 2019–December 2020

Researched and coded wrongful conviction cases for the National Registry of Exonerations, with particular focus on the role of false or misleading forensic evidence in wrongful convictions.

Los Angeles District Attorney's Office*Certified Law Clerk, Conviction Integrity Unit & Appeals Division*

Los Angeles, CA

August 2019–August 2020

Reviewed claims of actual innocence and assisted with appeals and exoneration proceedings, including drafting briefs and arguing before the Superior Court Appeals Panel.

Pepperdine Law*Research Assistant to Dean Naomi Goodno*

Malibu, CA

May 2019–May 2020

Researched criminal statutes and legislation on deepfakes and other emerging technologies. Drafted memoranda and supported the development of faculty scholarship in criminal law.

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California*Judicial Extern to Magistrate Judge Karen E. Scott*

Santa Ana, CA

May 2019–July 2019

Drafted Reports and Recommendations on habeas, 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and *Bivens* claims, prescreened pro se complaints, and analyzed petitions for Social Security attorney's fees.

PUBLICATIONS

- *Liberty and Just[Compensation] for All: Wrongful Conviction as a Fifth Amendment Taking*, 53 CONN. L. REV. (2021–2022).
- “Be Still and Know that I Am God”, THE CHRISTIAN LAWYER, Spring 2021, at 36.
- *California Wrongful Incarceration Compensation Law: A History Still Being Written*, 44 MANITOBA L.J. 194 (2021), reprinted in 16 CAL. LEGAL HIST. 265 (2021), DOI:10.29173/mlj1302.
- *Human Rights Abuses in the Enforcement of Coronavirus Lock-Down Measures: A Catalyst for Change*, 8 INDON. J. INT’L & COMP. L. 85 (2021).

- *Human Rights Abuses in the Enforcement of Coronavirus Security Measures*, NATIONAL LAW REVIEW (May 25, 2020), <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/human-rights-abuses-enforcement-coronavirus-security-measures>.

PRESENTATIONS

- Panelist, “Reimagining Justice: A Conversation about Just Mercy,” Pepperdine Law (July 16, 2020).

AMICUS BRIEFS

- Brief of Amici Curiae Quattrone Wrongful Convictions Appellate Clinic et al. in Support of Petitioner, *Juan Martinez v. United States*, No. 26-68 (U.S. Aug. 2026).
- Brief of Amicus Curiae Quattrone Wrongful Convictions Appellate Clinic of Pepperdine Caruso School of Law in Support of Petitioner Rodney Reed, *Ex parte Rodney Reed*, No. WR-50,961-12 (Tex. Crim. App. Aug. 3, 2026) (Capital Case).
- Amicus Brief of Quattrone Wrongful Convictions Appellate Clinic in Support of Petitioner Albert Jones, *In re Albert Jones*, No. RIC2000912 (Cal. Super. Ct., Riverside Cnty. June 2, 2026) (Capital Case).
- Brief for Amici Curiae Local Government Legal Center et al. in Support of Respondent, *Ames v. Ohio Department of Youth Services*, No. 23-1039 (U.S. 2024).

SELECTED REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- *Inland Empire Waterkeeper v. Corona Clay Co.*, Nos. 24-6090 & 24-6199 (9th Cir. Aug. 5, 2026) (Ninth Circuit reversed denial of new trial and remanded for further proceedings concerning whether Temescal Creek constitutes “waters of the United States” under *Sackett v. EPA*; counsel for Defendant-Appellant).
- *Gonzales v. County of Los Angeles*, No. 24STCV03333 (Cal. Super. Ct., L.A. Cnty. Oct. 29, 2025) (summary judgment granted in favor of defendant County on whistleblower retaliation claim; counsel for Defendant).
- *Sernas v. Cantrall et al.*, No. 10-17610 (9th Cir. May 25, 2021) (Ninth Circuit reversed *sua sponte* dismissal of appellant's § 1983 complaint; counsel for Plaintiff-Appellant).

AWARDS & HONORS

- Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America, Commercial Litigation (2025, 2026).
- 2025 Distinguished Amicus Service Awards, International Municipal Lawyer's Association.

ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lone Star Circus

Performer, Coach, Production Coordinator

Dallas, TX

March 2007–December 2016

Created and performed aerial and acrobatic acts, coached young performers, and coordinated productions.

Fellowship Bible Church Dallas

Dallas, TX

Curriculum Writer and Children's Large Group Producer & Host July 2006–September 2013

Designed and wrote multi-year curricula for children's ministry programs and produced weekly large-group services for over 200 children, integrating education, faith, and performance.

East-West Ministries

Dallas, TX

Short-Term Mission Trip Coordinator

March 2005–July 2017

Organized and led more than 100 international mission teams, including logistics, recruitment, training, and cross-cultural preparation.

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

- Christian Legal Society, Los Angeles Chapter — President, 2021–2024.
- Up With People International Alumni Association — Cast B 1999–2000.