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2018 Statewide Conference | Legal Service Providers of Arkansas
Fighting Injustice

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Erin Cassinelli is an attorney practicing criminal defense in Little Rock, Arkansas with her law partner Jack Lassiter. Prior to forming Lassiter & Cassinelli in May 2009, Ms. Cassinelli was an associate attorney of Mr. Lassiter at the firm of Hatfield & Lassiter, beginning her work with Mr. Lassiter in 2004. Since beginning her career, Ms. Cassinelli has practiced primarily in the area of criminal defense, including white collar crime. She is admitted to practice in all Arkansas state courts as well as the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court.

A native of North Little Rock, Ms. Cassinelli graduated high school from Mount Saint Mary Academy and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 2002. Ms. Cassinelli earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law, where she served as Managing Editor of the UALR Law Review, and graduated with honors in May 2005.

Ms. Cassinelli has experience in both trial and appellate litigation at the state and federal levels, including a successful appeal to the United States Supreme Court. While her focus is primarily on criminal matters, she often represents clients in relation to health care matters, orders of protection, the occasional family law case, postconviction in state and federal courts, and applications for pardons and clemency. Recently, she has had the privilege of working with the Midwest Innocence Project on efforts to target wrongful convictions and free those wrongful imprisoned.

Session: Fighting Injustice

In this hour, we will discuss how dedication and determination results in justice in the real world. We will talk about some case examples and all of the years of litigation that can be necessary for justice to prevail. We will discuss that things are not always what they seem; what sometimes appears to be an unwinnable case can end up the most deeply personal and important win of all. Overall, it is most important to keep fighting despite whatever discouragement you may face. And to remember that your persistence and compassion can change the course of people's lives.

Presentation: [Fighting Injustice](#)

Background Documents:

1. [Jose Louis Ortiz v. State of Arkansas](#) - Petition for Writ of Error Coram Nobis and for Relief under Ark. Code Ann. § 16-90-111
2. [Jose Louis Ortiz v. State of Arkansas](#) - Order Honorable Judge Randy Philhours
3. [Jamie Lynn Blankenship v. Wendy Kelley](#) - Amended Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254
4. [Jamie Lynn Blankenship v. Wendy Kelley](#) - Order Granting Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus
5. [Laquanda Faye Jacobs v. Wendy Kelley](#) - Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus Under 28 U.S.C. §2254
6. [Miller v. Alabama](#)
7. [John Brown v. Wendy Kelley](#) - Petition for a Writ for Habeas Corpus Under 28 U.S.C. § 2254
8. [Reginald Early v. State of Arkansas](#) - Affidavit of Reginald Early
9. [John Brown v. Wendy Kelley](#) - Order Honorable Judge Billy Roy Wilson