

# MICHAELA R.M. STROUT

Vanderbilt Law School • 131 21st Avenue South • Nashville, TN 37203

## EDUCATION

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### **Harvard Law School, J.D., *magna cum laude*, May 2019**

Honors: Four Dean's Scholar Prizes (Administrative Law, Wildlife Law, Race and Federalism, Criminal Justice Institute–Advanced Clinical); James Vorenberg Equal Justice Summer Fellowship Award Recipient; Recognized at Graduation for Over 1,000 Hours of Pro Bono Service During Law School

Activities: Team Leader, Harvard Defenders Organization; Teaching Assistant for 1L Course, *Lanyering for Social Justice*

### **Bowdoin College, B.A. in Biology, Minor in Spanish, May 2014**

Honors: Sarah and James Bowdoin Scholar (GPA within top 20% of student body); National Scholar-Athlete for all eligible seasons

Awards: Women's Squash Team Most Improved Player (2010-2013), Most Valuable Player (2014); All-Conference Sportsmanship Award (2014); College Squash Association National Wetzel Award Winner (2014)

Activities: Varsity Squash (Captain); Acapella Group Soloist; Generous Enthusiasts, Freshman Mentor

## EXPERIENCE

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### **Vanderbilt Law School, Nashville TN**

August 2023 -- Present

*Academic Appointment, Instructor in Law*

Courses Taught: Legal Research & Writing I and II

### **Open Table Nashville, Nashville, TN**

December 2022 – Present

*Member of the Board of Directors*

Volunteer as member of board of directors for Open Table Nashville, an organization dedicated to disrupting cycles of poverty and homelessness, providing outreach and support to unhoused neighbors, and advocating for radical inclusivity and housing stability for all.

### **Public Defender of Metropolitan Nashville & Davidson County, Nashville, TN**

October 2019 – August 2023

*Assistant Public Defender*

Represented indigent clients in various stages of the criminal legal process including bail hearings, preliminary hearings, pre-trial motion litigation, jury trials, and sentencing proceedings. Successfully litigated appeal of illegal General Sessions sentence and challenged the constitutionality of the city's treatment of unhoused neighbors during the Covid-19 pandemic through a writ of certiorari and evidentiary hearing before the Davidson County Criminal Court. Trained new attorneys on creative litigation and advocacy.

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND INTERNSHIPS

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### **Criminal Justice Institute at Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA**

October 2018 – May 2019

*Clinical Student-Attorney*

Represented adult and juvenile indigent clients in Boston city trial courts from pre-arraignment through disposition under 3L supervised practice license. Conducted investigations, negotiated with district attorneys, drafted and filed motions, represented clients in court, and prepared cases for trial. Co-chaired jury trial with juvenile client wrongfully accused of three firearms-related offenses, obtained not guilty verdicts on all counts.

### **Harvard Defenders, Cambridge, MA**

September 2017 – May 2019

*Team Leader and Student-Attorney*

Represented indigent clients in criminal probable cause hearings with licensed attorney supervision. Conducted all aspects of case development from investigation to argument at probable cause hearings. Translated for Spanish-speaking clients. Served as team leader for other student-attorneys in development of case strategy and preparation for client representation.

### **Public Defender of Metropolitan Nashville & Davidson County, Nashville, TN**

June 2018 – August 2018

*Summer Legal Intern*

Assisted with defense of indigent clients facing charges from minor misdemeanors to serious felonies. Prepared for and conducted proceedings such as sentencing motions, preliminary hearings, and bench trials as summer intern under supervised practice license.

**Tennessee Office of the Post-Conviction Defender, Nashville, TN**

May 2018 – June 2018

*Summer Legal Intern*

Assisted with legal research and writing projects regarding active death penalty post-conviction appeals in the state of Tennessee. Traveled to Memphis, Tennessee to observe post-conviction evidentiary hearing for petitioner on death row. Met with petitioner on death row and drafted petition for a writ of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court to challenge his unconstitutional sentence.

**United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, Boston, MA**

June 2017 – August 2017

*Summer Judicial Intern for the Honorable Allison Burroughs*

Conducted legal research and drafted bench memoranda regarding wide variety of legal topics, including police brutality claims under § 1983, habeas corpus petitions, antitrust and patent litigation, and jurisdictional and standing disputes.

**Nutter, McClennen & Fish, Boston, MA**

June 2014 – August 2016

*Litigation Case Assistant*

Researched and analyzed technical scientific literature for use in complex medical product liability litigation. Translated for Spanish-language *pro bono* immigration cases. Assisted with all other aspects of case litigation at a large law firm.

## **LANGUAGES AND INTERESTS**

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Fluent in Spanish (ILR 4). Interests include racket sports, woodworking, the ocean, and her dogs.