

STEVE FORITANO
Director, Trial Practicum
Drake University Law School
Cartwright Hall
2507 University Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50311
steven.foritano@drake.edu
515/240-2964 (c)

Education:

Law: Juris Doctor
University of Iowa Law School, 1981, Iowa City, Iowa
Oral arguments as law student before the Iowa Supreme Court and the Iowa Court of Appeals. First student from Iowa to argue before the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Undergraduate: Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude
Kent State University, 1979, Kent, Ohio

High School: Archbishop Hoban High School, 1975, Akron, Ohio
National Honor Society, Scholastic Honor Award

Employment:

Drake University Law School - Director, Trial Practicum, 2017 to present
Practitioner in Residence, 2016 to present
Adjunct Professor, 2003 - 2016

Courses taught: Trial Advocacy 2003 -2025
Prosecution & Defense, 2015 to present
Criminal Procedure, 2016 - 2025
Ethics, 2017

Polk County Attorney, Des Moines, Iowa - Bureau Chief, General Trial Bureau, 1991 to 2015

This position included management of the General Trial Bureau, a division of the Polk County Attorney's office. The primary duties involved supervision and training of the lawyers responsible for the prosecution of felony offenses, ranging from first degree murder to forgery. This position also involved policy decisions and interacting with all branches of the criminal justice system, including judicial, corrections, law enforcement, the legislature, and the media. The bureau chief position included the investigation and prosecution of major criminal offenses, including murder, sexual abuse and kidnapping.

Major cases include: *State v. Piper I & II*, (serial hotel murders; featured on A&E's Cold Case Files and Investigation Discovery's Unusual Suspects); *State v. White*, (robbery/murder; featured in the book The Drake Diner Murders); *State v. Carr*, (child sexual abuse homicide); *State v. Carlson*, (domestic abuse homicide); *State v. Morris*, (strip club murder featured on TruTv's Forensic Files); *State v. Morales*, (child abuse homicide); *State v. Woolheater, Huser*, (murder for hire); *State v Moffitt* (murder raising insanity defense featured on NBC's Dateline).

United States Attorney, Southern District of Iowa - Special Assistant United States Attorney,
2000 – 2001; 2003 - 2015

Duties include federal criminal prosecution, primarily weapons related cases involving Project Safe Neighborhoods.

Iowa Department of Justice - Consumer Protection Division, 1988 to 1991

Practice involved a mix of civil and criminal litigation as an Assistant Attorney General. Responsibilities included representing the interests of individual consumers on behalf of the State of Iowa against persons and companies that violated the Iowa Consumer Fraud Act.

Major cases litigated with this division included a suit against a national corporation which claimed to be a charitable organization and in reality provided less than ten percent of the money that they received to charity. This company and lawsuit were featured on the CBS program Sixty Minutes.

Polk County Attorney - General Criminal Division, 1986 to 1988

Practice involved prosecution of criminal felony charges, with an emphasis on drug and robbery cases. Responsibilities also included handling the indictable misdemeanor docket.

Iowa Department of Justice - Civil Rights Division, 1984 to 1986

The primary responsibility of this position was to provide legal representation to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. Duties included representing the interests of persons discriminated against on the basis of race, sex, age, creed, color, national origin, religion or disability.

Major litigation involved sex and national origin discrimination claim against Hy-Vee grocery store chain. The case required a statistical analysis of employee promotions for ten stores in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa region. The Iowa Supreme Court recognized use of both the disparate treatment theory and the disparate impact theory. Major case litigation also included racial discrimination lawsuit, *Iowa Civil Rights Commission v. Chauffeurs, Teamsters, and Helpers, Local Union No. 238*, where the Iowa Supreme Court held that the Commission could award emotional distress damages for a violation of the Iowa Civil Rights Act.

Iowa Department of Justice - Criminal Appeals Division, 1982 to 1984

Practice involved representation of the State of Iowa in the Iowa appellate courts on criminal matters. Responsibilities emphasized legal research and writing and oral arguments before the Iowa Supreme Court and the Iowa Court of Appeals.

Other:

Drake University Law School, Coach, TYLA National Mock Trial Competition - 2000 to 2018.
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, 2021-2022
Honor Board, 2022 - 2023

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) – Advisory Committee, 2006 to 2009.
Blackstone Inn of Court - 1994 to 2009 (emeritus); President 2008 to 2009.
Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Committee – 2002 - 2009.
Education and Training Advisory Committee (EdTrAC) - 2004 to 2008.
Iowa Death Investigation Association – Advisory Committee – 2004 to 2006.

U.S. Department of Justice National Advocacy Center – Instructor, Civil Trial Advocacy - 2004.
American Prosecutors Research Institute – Instructor – Firearms Prosecution – 2004.
FBI National Academy Associates – Iowa Chapter - Speaker 2004.
Iowa County Attorneys Association -- Speaker, numerous times.

Awards:

The Order of Barristers – Drake University Law School, Honorary member - 2005, 2008.
Iowa County Attorney Association Award of Merit - 2003
U. S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Inspector General's Integrity Award – 1991
Metro Arts Expo - Merit Award, Best of Photography - 2011
Eagle Scout - 1970