

# Joseph M. Thomas

550 E. Earll Drive, Apt. 7, Phoenix, AZ 85012

(303) 709-6887 · jmthomas@student.phoenixlaw.edu

## EDUCATION

**Phoenix School of Law**, Phoenix, AZ

Candidate for Juris Doctor, April 2014

### **Activities:**

*Phoenix Law Review* – Executive Board Managing Editor, Volume VII

Oversees the complete process for two out of the four print issues: selection/solicitation of content; editing for both *Bluebook* and grammar; and preparation for publication.

Phoenix School of Law Moot Court Team - Director of Writing and Research

Phoenix School of Law Student Defense Council –

Represents students charged with violating Phoenix School of Law's Honor Code.

**University of Colorado**, Boulder, CO

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Dec. 2009

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

**Mexican Capital Legal Assistance Program**, Phoenix, AZ

Aug. 2013 – Present

*Researcher*

Works on a study funded by the Mexican Foreign Ministry to determine if there is discrimination in Arizona's death penalty. Researches first-degree murder cases at the Clerk of the Superior Court of Maricopa County, combing through the record looking for information on ethnicity of the defendant / victim, what aggravators were charged, among other data points.

**Equal Employment Opportunity Commission – Litigation**, Phoenix, AZ

May 2013 – Aug. 2013

*Legal Intern*

Drafted administrative subpoena; joint motion to compel discovery / application of order to show cause why administrative subpoena should not be upheld. Analyzed issues and wrote memoranda on reasonable cause findings concerning national origin discrimination, sex discrimination and retaliation within Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990; and the Age Discrimination Employment Act (ADEA) of 1976. Cite checked briefs before they were filed in federal district court. Researched the legality of novel employment discrimination claims and assessed the likelihood of success at trial.

**Federal Public Defender – Capital Habeas Unit**, Phoenix, AZ

Jan. 2013 – May 2013

*Legal Extern*

Performed legal research on constitutional claims for habeas petitions. Drafted memoranda on complex criminal Indian jurisdictional issues to be used in federal court. Participated in mootings an attorney who was preparing to make an oral argument in front of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Wrote a *Bluebook* guide to cite checking for Capital Habeas Unit law clerks. Co-presented a CLE lecture to the Criminal Justice Act (Federal Public Defender contract attorneys) explaining the cases: *Florida v. Harris*, *Bailey v. United States*, and *Chaidez v. United States*.

**Paul G. Ulrich**, Phoenix, AZ

Dec. 2012 – Feb. 2013

*Research Assistant*

Conducted research for a law review article on the subject of *Miranda v. Arizona*. Edited the article for content, style, and organization. Mr. Ulrich argued for the defendant Ernesto Miranda in the retrial and subsequent appeal in the *Miranda* case.

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**Arizona Justice Project**, Phoenix, AZ May 2012 – Dec. 2012  
*Case Investigation Team Member – Legal Extern*  
Researched and investigated post-conviction claims of manifest injustice or actual innocence. Prepared memos and presented recommendations to supervising attorneys. Researched case law and wrote briefs about the likelihood of a successful post-conviction relief appeal.

**Probate Lawyers Assistance Project (PLAP)**, Phoenix, AZ Nov. 2011 – May 2012  
*Intake Coordinator – Legal Intern*  
Diagnosed potential client issues and determined if the issues were probatable in nature. Briefed issues for attorneys in preparation for client meetings. Tested the technology and infrastructure of PLAP for potential problems before it was released to the public.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Joseph Thomas Photography**, Denver, CO Mar. 2006 – Nov. 2011  
*Founder & Owner*  
**Colorado Daily**, Boulder, CO May 2004 – Dec. 2006  
*Reporter*  
**National Snow and Ice Data Center**, Boulder, CO Aug. 2001 – May 2003  
*Research Assistant*

## SKILLS, INTERESTS, AND ACTIVITIES

Advanced Westlaw Certified, WestlawNext Certified, LexisNexis Certified - Professional Research, Playing Pick-Up Basketball Games, Tent Camping in National Parks, Landscape Photography, Blitz Chess, Cooking Southwestern Foods, and Acts as a mentor to 1Ls in Phoenix School of Law's Mentor / Mentee program.