

# Samantha Cherot

1404 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

907.334.4414  
samantha.cherot@alaska.gov

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## EXPERIENCE

### **State of Alaska Public Defender Agency, Anchorage, AK**

*Public Defender*, September 2019-Present.

Chief administrator of 13 offices throughout the state that provide representation to indigent persons charged with misdemeanor and felony crimes at trial and appellate levels, persons whose parental rights are at issue in Child in Need of Aid (CINA) cases, persons who are involuntarily committed to the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API), and juveniles who face delinquency charges. Supervision of over 100 attorneys and 72 staff. Prepares a yearly budget for the agency in coordination with the Department of Administration. Represents the agency before the legislature on bills involving substantive and procedural aspects of criminal and civil law that impact the agency. Serves as a member of the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission.

*Assistant Public Defender*, August 2015-September 2019 in the Civil Division.

Represented indigent families, primarily parents, in CINA cases in all legal proceedings. Represented individuals at API in involuntary commitment and forced medication proceedings. Provided training for new attorneys in the Criminal Division and for practitioners across agencies handling CINA cases.

*Assistant Public Defender*, October 2010-November 2013 in the Criminal Division.

Represented indigent individuals, primarily at the felony level from arraignment through post-conviction. Gained extensive trial experience. Regularly achieved acquittals, misdemeanor reductions, and dismissals through motion work and negotiations. Supervised all support staff for the Anchorage Criminal Trial Unit.

### **Cashion Gilmore LLC, Anchorage, AK**

*Attorney*, December 2013-July 2015.

Represented individuals charged with misdemeanor and felony crimes throughout Alaska. Represented individuals in custody and divorce cases. Supported partners in more general civil litigation matters, including personal injury and medical malpractice cases.

### **Cook Inlet Housing Authority, Legal Division, Anchorage, AK**

*Attorney*, October 2009-October 2010.

Advised Cook Inlet Housing Authority and Cook Inlet Lending Center on employment and labor law, landlord-tenant and construction law issues. Designed and updated policies and training materials for various departments. Tracked relevant legislation and regulations.

### **Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, Civil Litigation Firm, San Francisco, CA**

*Attorney*, October 2008-July 2009.

Represented schools, law enforcement agencies, and other government entities in employment, labor, and education law matters. Advised clients on all employment and labor law issues. Designed training materials and trained public governmental entities on employment law issues.

### **Gutierrez, Preciado, & House LLP, Civil Litigation Law Firm, Pasadena, CA**

*Attorney*, September 2007-July 2008.

Represented schools, law enforcement agencies, and other government entities in defending employment discrimination, personal injury, civil rights, and contract disputes. Represented clients in unemployment insurance appeals hearings.

**CIVIC**

- YWCA Alaska, *Board of Directors Member 2016-2019, President 2018.*
- Alaska Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, *Board of Directors Member 2014-2017, Vice-President 2016.*
- Success Inside and Out Program, *Steering Committee Member, 2011-2016.*
- California Bar Foundation, Public Interest Scholarship Recipient, 2006.
- Court Appointed Special Advocate, 2002-2004.

**EDUCATION**

**California Western School of Law**, San Diego, CA  
Juris Doctor, April 2007; Employment and Labor Law Concentration, *with honors*

**Santa Clara University**, Santa Clara, CA  
Bachelor of Science in Political Science, Minors in French and International Studies, June 2002

**ADMISSIONS**

Alaska Bar, 2010  
California Bar, 2007 (inactive)