

The New Hires - 2020



SANTA CLARA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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Katherine Carey graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Occidental College in 2013. She received her law degree from Stanford Law School in 2019. Ms. Carey co-founded Stanford Law Students Against Gendered Violence and established the school's first class on human trafficking law, which included a spring break trip to Thailand to learn from practitioners, a trip she planned. Ms. Carey served as co-president of Women of Stanford Law and board member for the Stanford University Sexual Assault and Relationship Abuse Advisory Board (through which she helped update the law school's Title IX orientation programming). She was a member of the Domestic Violence Pro Bono Project and an inaugural Frederick Douglass legal fellow at the Human Trafficking Institute.

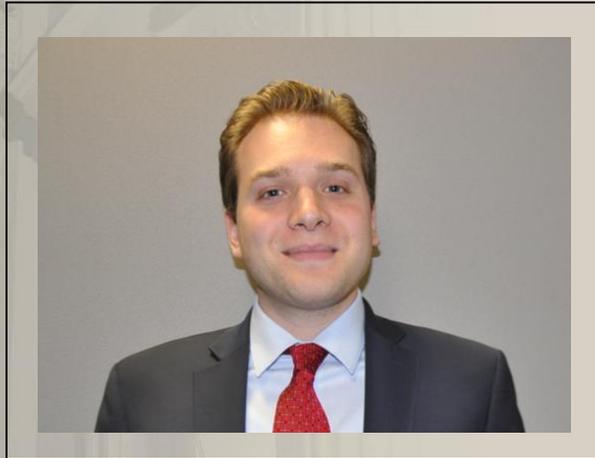
Ms. Carey began her career in this Office in 2018 with the Stanford Prosecution Clinic. She returned that same summer as a 2L honors law clerk and, more recently, as an honors post bar law clerk. During her time at the Office, she conducted two pro-per bench trials in one week, nine suppression motions, and six preliminary hearings.

During her first summer of law school, Ms. Carey interned in the Criminal Division of the California Attorney General's Office in San Francisco. Before law school, she worked in the anti-domestic violence and human trafficking fields for three years. First, as the administrative assistant and data evaluator at My Sister's House, a domestic violence shelter in Sacramento. Next, as an executive associate and global hotlines research associate at Polaris, and then as the special projects officer at Free the Slaves, both in Washington, D.C. While living in D.C., she also volunteered as a tour guide at the National Zoo and coordinated Occidental's local Alumni in Admissions program.

The daughter of two state prosecutors based in Sacramento, Ms. Carey's first ever show-and-tell item in kindergarten was a stack of Miranda Rights cards she distributed to her classmates. However, it wasn't until she started working in the anti-human trafficking field, after being inspired by a college class, that she decided to become a lawyer. Helping survivors directly—such as safety planning with a woman who wanted to leave her abusive husband and called the domestic violence hotline Ms. Carey staffed—inspired her.

“Seeing what a difference it made in survivors' lives to have a prosecutor who understood trauma, and the ways it affected them, made me want to become a prosecutor and help survivors have a more positive and productive experience with the criminal justice system.”

Ms. Carey loves to travel, but when she's at home, she can often be found crafting or curled up reading with her dog, Ben, and two cats, Apple and Captain (who has one eye).



David Castillo graduated from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI in 2016. Mr. Castillo was president of the MU Writing Society and secretary for the MU Board Gaming Society. Mr. Castillo graduated cum laude from Santa Clara University, School of Law in 2019. Mr. Castillo received the Witkin Award Certificate – Criminal Law, Witkin Award Certificate – Constitutional Law, CALI Award Certificate – Mediation & Labor Law, and the Excellence in Legal Analysis and Writing Award. He co-founded SCU Law Eats, (a volunteer group dedicated to make sure cash-strapped law students could get the meals they needed), was a mentor for the SCU La Raza Law Student Association, and participated on the Internal Mock Trial Team and in the Galloway Moot Court Competition. Mr. Castillo was also an Honors Moot Court quarterfinalist and Santa Clara Law Review senior articles editor. His article, “Unpacking the Loot Box: How Gaming’s Latest Monetization System Flirts with Traditional Gambling Methods” was published in the Santa Clara Law Review.

Mr. Castillo began his career at this Office as a summer law clerk in 2017 drafting pre-trial and post-conviction motions, officer-involved shooting reports. He also analyzed and translated inmate phone calls and interrogations conducted in Spanish, which he speaks fluently.

In 2016, Mr. Castillo was a legal intern at the Law Offices of Raul Ray in San Jose. He was a legal intern for the City of San Jose’s Office of the City Attorney, Litigation Department where he successfully conducted a full bench trial. Mr. Castillo was also a legal extern for the Hon. Nathan Mihara, California Sixth District Court of Appeal, in San Jose in 2019.

The San Jose native first began thinking about law as a career listening to the dinner table stories of a family friend who was a San Jose police officer. Later, at Bellarmine Prep, he studied St. Thomas Aquinas and his writings about justice. It resonated powerfully with him as he sometimes felt the deep unfairness of people being bullied just because they could not physically stand up to their perpetrator.

His parents are “over the moon” about his new job serving his home community.

“To my dad, he and his parents did not know many Mexicans who became attorneys,” Mr. Castillo said. “To have someone in our family in one of the most respected professions, they were so proud.”



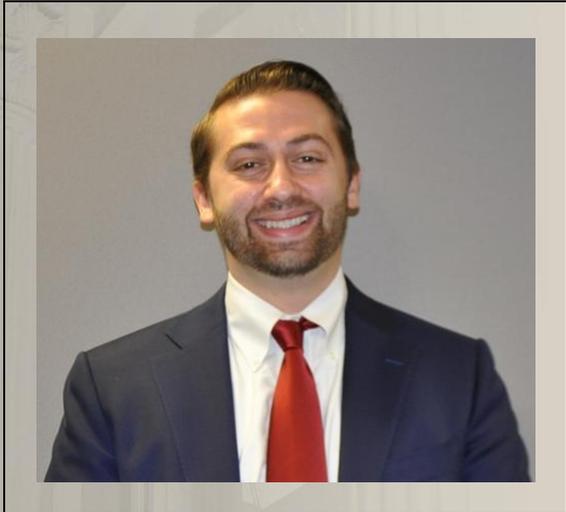
Melissa Castillo graduated from the University of California, Davis in 2014. In 2019, she received her law degree from Columbia Law School in New York, where she was named a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar for superior academic achievement. She was also awarded the Lowenstein Fellowship for extraordinary commitment to social justice and human rights, and the Jane Marks Murphy Prize for excellence in clinical advocacy. During her time at Columbia, Ms. Castillo was a staff editor for the Columbia Human Rights Law Review, a pro bono coordinator for the Jailhouse Lawyers Manual, and a legal intern for the Incarceration and the Family Clinic. She was a student member of the New York City Bar Association Criminal Justice Operations Committee, co-president of the Criminal Justice Action Network, and professional development public interest chair for Empowering Women of Color. As a 1L, Ms. Castillo joined Columbia's Asylum and Refugee Law Moot Court team, placed amongst the top three teams internally, and went on to represent Columbia at the National Competition at UC Davis.

Ms. Castillo began her career at this Office as a summer law clerk for the Homicide and Lifer Hearings units in 2017. She returned as a 2L honors law clerk for the Misdemeanors, Motions, and General Felonies units in 2018. That summer, Ms. Castillo successfully tried a misdemeanor jury trial. In 2019, she returned as an honors post bar law clerk.

In law school, Ms. Castillo interned at the Latino Justice Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. Prior to law school, she worked as a paralegal and legal assistant for two law firms in the Bay Area and volunteered as a Reentry Advisor for the California Reentry Program at San Quentin State Prison.

Having grown up in Indio, a small migrant community in Southern California, Ms. Castillo attributes her interest in prosecution to seeing a lack of representation in local law enforcement. Then she met her high school mock trial coach – a Riverside County prosecutor – a woman of color. When Ms. Castillo watched her at trial, she was inspired to follow in her footsteps.

"Here was a woman who looked like me, who looked like the community law enforcement serves, and she made me believe that I, too, could represent my community," Ms. Castillo said. "In a system that disproportionately polices people of color, there aren't enough people that look like us at the counsel table. I want to change that."



Joseph Eisenberg graduated from Santa Clara University in 2014. He received his law degree from SCU's School of Law in 2019. While there, he was an Honors Moot Court external board member, a coach, and one of three representatives from SCU to compete in the 2018 Clara Barton International Humanitarian Law Competition in Washington, D.C. The team won 2nd place. During Mr. Eisenberg's final year of law school, he was a pupil in the Judge William Ingram Inn of Court in San Jose.

Mr. Eisenberg began his career at this Office in 2018 as a law clerk in the General Felonies Unit. He returned a year later as a post bar law clerk and was assigned to the Sexual Assault Unit.

In 2019, Mr. Eisenberg was a fellow at the Panetta Institute for Public Policy where he worked on a joint research project regarding the Mueller Investigation and an individual research project focusing on national security and the Syrian conflict. He was a judicial intern for the Supreme Court of New York, Kings County in 2018. He was an ASP fellow for SCU School of Law's Office of Academic & Bar Success.

In 2017, Mr. Eisenberg was a legal intern for the Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office assigned to the Expungement Team and an administrative assistant for SCU's Provost's Office. Prior to that, he was an assistant director, Chapters and Groups, for SCU's Alumni Office for two years.

Mr. Eisenberg was born in Palo Alto, but raised in Bellevue, WA. When he was a child, his family was struck by a criminal tragedy when his maternal grandmother, grandfather, great-grandmother and great-aunt were killed by a drunk driver. His mother gave a victim impact statement at the trial. "That crime has affected my entire family for my entire life," Mr. Eisenberg said.

His grandmother on his father's side was the positive inspiration that led to his becoming a prosecutor. Dorothy Eisenberg – a first generation American with immigrant parents from Eastern Europe went on to become a judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of New York - instilled in her grandson the ability to think critically and the importance of justice.

"My goal was to try and get some experience in all three branches of the legal system," Mr. Eisenberg said. "What it really came down to was that the prosecution side has the most power to affect change in the community."

Memo



Adrian Ferrari graduated from Dartmouth College in 2014. In college, he was named a James O. Freedman Presidential Scholar and elected student body president. In 2019, Mr. Ferrari received his law degree from the UCLA School of Law. In law school, Mr. Ferrari was a Dean’s Merit Scholar, a board member of OUTlaw (the school’s LGBTQ student association), and a volunteer at the El Centro legal clinic, where he helped immigrant victims of domestic violence apply for relief from deportation. He competed as a member of the Mock Trial External Team and was awarded the prize of Top Advocate for the school’s internal mock trial competition during his third year.

Mr. Ferrari began his career in this Office as a 2L honors law clerk in the summer of 2018. More recently, he returned as an honors post bar law clerk. During his time at the Office, he conducted a simple battery jury trial, 12 preliminary hearings, and three suppression hearings.

In 2017, Mr. Ferrari was a law clerk for the Public Integrity Division for the Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office. Before law school, he was the regional organizing director for FWD.us in San Francisco, advocating for Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform. In 2013, Mr. Ferrari served as a White House intern in the Office of Public Engagement, advancing President Obama’s agenda on LGBTQ issues during his second term. Mr. Ferrari also previously served as a chambers intern for the Hon. John McAdam Mott at the District of Columbia Superior Court.

Mr. Ferrari developed an interest in politics and public policy in high school and resolved to dedicate his career to government service. While working in Washington, he learned that state and local governments are often better situated than the federal government to serve their constituents and directly improve peoples’ lives.

Speaking about why he chose prosecution as his path to government service, Mr. Ferrari said: “Prosecutors get to make really important choices and if they don’t put a lot of thought, effort, and time into them it can have disastrous consequences. When I learned about prosecutors’ fidelity to justice, I thought to myself: That’s what I want to be.”

A native of Santa Clara County, Mr. Ferrari’s parents met as teenagers at Los Altos High School. Mr. Ferrari’s family has lived in Los Altos Hills for over 100 years, and in the Bay Area for even longer. He is thrilled for the chance to work toward equity and justice in the place he calls home.



Joel Gorman graduated from San Jose State University in 2012. He received his law degree from Golden Gate University in San Francisco in 2019. While there, he received the CALI Award in Civil Procedure and Lawyering: Trade Secrets.

Mr. Gorman began his career at this Office as a law clerk in the Gangs Unit in 2018. It was while working in the Gangs Unit that Mr. Gorman discovered he wanted to become a prosecutor. After holding a defendant to answer for stealing a young mother's vehicle, Mr. Gorman knew he had found his calling. As an honor's law clerk that summer, he was assigned to General Felonies, Narcotics, and the Misdemeanor units, where he prosecuted his first trial. Mr. Gorman then returned as an honor's post bar law clerk.

Mr. Gorman worked as a senior group counselor for the Santa Clara County Probation Department for the last 11 years. This experience has given him a unique perspective of the Criminal Justice System, as he was responsible for the care, custody, behavior modification, and welfare of detainees at Juvenile Hall. Mr. Gorman excelled in leading other staff in general supervision, emergencies, and as an instructor of a variety of subjects, such as defensive tactics to gender bias.

The Gilroy native with a love of ice hockey became a probation officer – and eventually a prosecutor - by a fortunate mistake. Taking classes at Gavilan College at night and moving furniture by day, he first wanted to be a police officer. In one class he either had to tour the County morgue or Juvenile Hall. He got lost and was late for the morgue, so he ended up at Juvenile Hall where he learned that group counselors made \$26 an hour.

It was a great job, but Mr. Gorman found himself regularly inspired by what he saw of the prosecutors in the courtroom.

"They were the staunch defenders for the rights of the victims and the community," he said. "That had a lot of meaning and was aligned with my soul and my personal philosophy."

He said his probation experience, his knowledge of programs and the everyday struggles of convicted people, left him with a holistic perspective of the criminal justice system.

"I saw what happens to defendants after the lawyers have gone away," he said. "Now this person has to function in the world."



Blake Hannah graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 2012. She received her law degree from The George Washington University Law School in 2016. While there, she was an editorial staff member for the American Intellectual Property Law Association Quarterly Journal and a 2013 Thurgood Marshall Scholar.

Ms. Hannah comes to our Office from the Monterey County District Attorney's Office. She began her career there as a post bar law clerk in 2016. Later that year, she was hired as a prosecutor and tried 14 jury trials, argued 18 juvenile jurisdictional hearings, and handled over 40 preliminary hearings, while assigned to the General Misdemeanors, Domestic Violence, Juvenile, and General Felonies units. She co-chaired a one-strike sexual assault case where the first-chair required emergency surgery right before the close of evidence. After Ms. Hannah's closing, the defendant was found guilty and sentenced to 105 years-to-life in prison.

"That was nerve-wracking but the most rewarding thing I've done as a prosecutor," she said.

In 2015, Ms. Hannah was a law clerk for the Ventura County District Attorney's Office. Before that, she was a law clerk for Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc. in Los Angeles in 2014.

Ms. Hannah's family suffered financial hardships when she was 16-years-old. Instead of giving up on her dream to attend college, she took the California High School Proficiency Exam and enrolled in community college, all while getting an office job to help support her family. At 18, she ended up transferring to UC Berkley as a junior. When she turned 21, she negotiated scholarships and worked as an administrative clerk and, later, as a paralegal at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP to support herself.

It was there she began to forge a career as an intellectual property lawyer. The work was intellectually interesting, but she found that she wasn't fulfilled. Later, doing a preliminary hearing for an auto burglary case at Ventura County DA's Office as an intern she was terrified. She wasn't a great public speaker. However, she found the fulfillment she was searching for by helping the victim in that case. She didn't want her fear of public speaking to get in the way of the career she knew she was meant for, so she worked hard and overcame her fear. She now coaches high school mock trial so she can help others to become comfortable with public speaking.



Emily Lessard graduated magna cum laude from the University of California, San Diego, in 2016 where she was a member of the UCSD Trial Team and worked as a volunteer for the Alzheimer's Association of San Diego and the Children's Advocacy Institute focusing on improving the lives of children and youth in the foster care system. Ms. Lessard received her law degree from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law in 2019. During her time at Berkeley, Ms. Lessard was the senior articles editor for the Berkeley Journal of Criminal Law and ran the Berkeley Law Trial Team as student director. She and her colleagues are the reigning Western Regional Champions of the 2019 National Trial Competition, as Berkeley's program remains one of the top-ranked law school trial teams in the country.

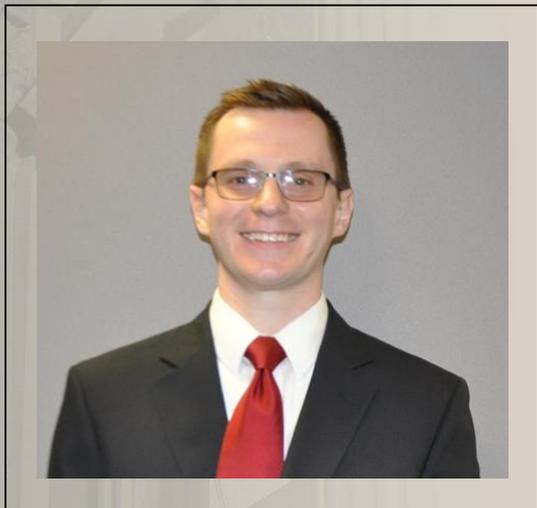
Although she took criticism from classmates at Berkeley for wanting to be a prosecutor, Ms. Lessard remained steadfast in her choice to serve the community as a deputy district attorney.

"If you try to dissuade good people from becoming prosecutors, then who will be left to fill these jobs?" she said. "At the end of the day, we all want the same thing; a safe place to live with our families and friends and a better world for our children. The community needs to see prosecutors as real people who care about the same things that they do, and who earn their respect by serving the under-served in an intelligent and compassionate way."

To achieve this goal, Ms. Lessard began her career at this Office in the summer of 2018 as a 2L honors law clerk where she successfully conducted a two-count misdemeanor battery jury trial involving two separate victims. She also rotated through the Misdemeanor, General Felonies, and Narcotics units. A year later she returned as a honors post bar law clerk.

Ms. Lessard interned as a certified law clerk for the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Offices in San Francisco in 2017 and Oakland in 2018. While in Oakland, Ms. Lessard worked on the trial team for a serious child sex case involving international criminal conduct and the prepping of witnesses, law enforcement, and evidence from a rural town in Southern England. The experience fueled her desire to prosecute felony sex crimes and advocate for victims of sexual abuse throughout her career.

As a Bay Area native from Vallejo, California, Ms. Lessard is familiar with the long-term effects rampant crime has on vulnerable communities. She was the first person in her immediate family to go to college and her path in life was heavily influenced by caring for her severely autistic little brother. "I've been protecting him my whole life; he's non-verbal, so I've always been his advocate," she said. "It's what made me want to do this job - to stand up for people who have been wronged and have no voice."



Mark Nagel graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2009, where he represented over 27,000 students as student body president. Mr. Nagel graduated magna cum laude from the University of Illinois College of the Law in 2017. He was the admissions editor for the University of Illinois Law Review. Mr. Nagel's acceptance of the National Science Foundation "CyberCorps" scholarship enabled him to focus his legal studies and career on cyber security and law.

Mr. Nagel comes to our Office from the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office in Rancho Cucamonga and Victorville where he has been a deputy district attorney since 2018. He has represented the People in 17 jury trials with charges ranging from DUIs to child molestation.

In 2017, Mr. Nagel was a post bar law clerk for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office in their Cybercrime Division. He drafted a preliminary hearing brief for a felony computer intrusion case, including analysis of complex digital evidence.

Mr. Nagel was an intern for the Hon. Joan H. Lefkow, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, in Chicago in 2016. That same year, he was a legal intern for the Federal Trade Commission in San Francisco. In 2015, he was a legal intern for U.S. Senator Dick Durbin's Judiciary Committee staff in Washington, D.C.

Public service and law enforcement are hardwired into in Mr. Nagel's Midwestern family. His grandfather was a deputy sheriff, his uncle served on the state highway patrol, and his aunt was a trial court clerk. They are all, he said, extremely proud.

His equal love of technology, born out of tinkering with the family computer, led him first to Southern California and – now to Silicon Valley.

"I've found a way to combine public service, law enforcement and technology," Mr. Nagel said, noting the Office's REACT Task Force and High Tech Crimes Unit. "Santa Clara County is the best place in the world to have that kind of focus."

Mr. Nagel is a member of the International Association of Privacy Professionals.



Vietnam Nguyen graduated summa cum laude from the University of the Pacific in Stockton in 2008 where he was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society. Mr. Nguyen received his law degree from the University of California, Davis School of Law in 2011.

Mr. Nguyen began his career at this Office as a bar certified legal intern in 2010. He returned in 2011 as a post bar legal intern.

Since 2016, Mr. Nguyen has worked as an assistant district attorney for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. While there, he prosecuted 14 jury trials and managed a caseload that included attempted murder and three strikes cases. He was most recently assigned to the Crime Strategies Unit.

In 2013, Mr. Nguyen was a deputy district attorney for the Yolo County District Attorney's Office in Woodland, where he prosecuted 26 jury trials – 16 in one year - and was assigned to the Neighborhood Court Program. In 2012, he was a volunteer deputy city attorney for the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, Criminal Division, where he conducted four jury trials. Mr. Nguyen was a judicial law clerk for Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Philip H. Pennypacker in 2012. He was a bar certified legal intern for the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office in 2010 and in 2009, a legal intern for the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office in Stockton.

The son of Vietnamese refugees grew up in East-side San Jose where the family of nine lived in a two-bedroom apartment. Mr. Nguyen thinks back to the day when his older brothers came home bloodied, badly beaten. His parents frantically called police. He never knew until years later they had been attacked by a gang. But the day had great significance for him anyway. Soon after that he went to elementary school and filled out an assignment about what he wanted to be when he grew up. "Lawyer," he wrote to his teacher's surprise. His mother, a seamstress, had darned the idea into his head. We need a lawyer in the family, she told him, someone who knows the law.

Now, Mr. Nguyen is coming home, as he puts it. He and his wife – an immigration attorney who was just elected president of the Northern California Vietnamese Bar Association – just had a beautiful baby girl, Sophia.

Mr. Nguyen is a member of the National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors Association, Asian Pacific American Bar Association – Silicon Valley, and Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California. When he isn't trying cases, the fluent Vietnamese speaker enjoys weightlifting, basketball, and spending time with his two Shiba Inu dogs.



Shanthi Rajagopalan graduated summa cum laude and undergraduate valedictorian from Hawaii Pacific University in Honolulu in 2013. She received her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, VA in 2018. Ms. Rajagopalan was the executive director of the Virginia Journal of Criminal Law and the South Asian Law Student Association's vice president of social and community outreach. She volunteered at the Virginia Innocence Project. While a member of the Extramural Moot Court, Ms. Rajagopalan's team was awarded the title of overall champion of the 2017 Thurgood Marshall Memorial Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C.

Since late 2018, Ms. Rajagopalan has served as a deputy district attorney for the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office. She has conducted 10 jury trials ranging from DUIs, Domestic Violence, and Assault with a Deadly Weapon cases. Her most recent assignment was with the Juvenile Unit. Ms. Rajagopalan was a summer law clerk in CoCo the year before. She researched and briefed diverse issues, including asset forfeiture, discovery, competence, and gang enhancements.

She began her career in this Office in 2016 as a summer law clerk under former prosecutor, turned Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge, Nahal Iravani-Sani.

In 2015, Ms. Rajagopalan worked on corporate immigration related matters as an assistant paralegal for Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen, & Loewy, LLP, in Santa Clara. In 2014, she was a session legislative aide to Hawaii State Representative Della Au Belatti. She was a judicial extern for Hawaii Supreme Court Justice Simeon R. Acoba in 2013.

Ms. Rajagopalan was raised in South San Jose. While watching Indian crime dramas together, her grandmother predicted she would be in law enforcement. At first though, she wanted to be a doctor. She took all the right human biology classes in high school, but her neighborhood and its issues began seeping into her consciousness. She recalls seeing a memorial on the street adjacent to hers. She never knew who was shot or stabbed there. It stuck with her.

"You see the police cars, hear about the shootings and the gangs," the fluent Tamil speaker said. "You see how the families are being affected by that. What could I do to help improve the quality of life where I grew up?"

Years later, she had just got a conviction on a tough domestic violence trial. The victim, who had been strangled after years of abuse thanked her for her help through the whole process. "In the past she wasn't heard," Ms. Rajagopalan said. "I was so happy to finally bring her some justice, breaking the cycle for her. That was one of the moments where I was really glad that I chose the profession that I did."



Celia Rowland graduated with honors from the University of California, Irvine in 1985. While there, Ms. Rowland was a member of Sigma Delta Pi, the Spanish Honors Society, and was Commencement Speaker for her class in the School of Humanities. Ms. Rowland received her law degree from the University of California, Davis in 1988. She graduated in the top 25% of her class, awarded third Top Oral Advocate, She was an editor for The Law Review and a member of the Moot Court Board.

Since 2003, Ms. Rowland has served as a prosecutor at the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office. She has been a member of the Special Prosecutions Unit, and a supervisor for the Gang Unit. She was named Prosecutor of the Year in 2013. One of her 15 homicide trials was voted Trial of the Year in 2015. In that case, the defendant fatally stabbed a beloved local store owner 13 times because women did not give him enough attention. The defendant got 88 years-to-life.

In 2000, Ms. Rowland was a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section in Washington, D.C. During her three years at the DOJ, she initially served under personal hero Attorney General Janet Reno. Ms. Rowland prosecuted criminal civil rights statutes, including human trafficking and hate crimes.

Ms. Rowland was a senior attorney for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office from 1989 to 2000. While there, she was assigned to the General Litigation, Narcotics, Youth Guidance Center, Preliminary Hearings, Writs and Appeals, and Misdemeanor units. Before that, she was a deputy district attorney for the Orange County District Attorney's Office in Santa Ana.

She was reading Russian literature as a young girl in San Francisco, but it was not "Crime and Punishment" that got Ms. Rowland into the law. It was Perry Mason. The prosecutor on that show never knew what was going on, the young Ms. Rowland noticed. It was Mason – the defense attorney – who ensured justice was done. She felt that was wrong. Ensuring justice was the prosecutor's job. She decided she would be that prosecutor.

After almost 17 years in Santa Cruz, the veteran prosecutor decided to come to this Office looking to get even more knowledge and experience. "I look at this as an opportunity to teach a wide variety of younger attorneys and learning from people more experienced than myself. The truth is since (Santa Cruz DA) Bob Lee died five years ago, I have missed him – he was a mentor for me. I'm looking for new ones."

Ms. Rowland is a speaker and moderator for the Santa Cruz County Diversity Center's Triangle Speakers program (a group that seeks to raise awareness about LGBTQ issues) a member of the Human Rights Campaign, the Anniversary Circle of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom. She also donates monthly to the SPCA and Copper's Dream where she adopted her two rescue dogs, Piper and Cassie Lee (in honor of Bob).



Julia Schon graduated with honors from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2016. She was a recipient of the College of Letters and Science Academic Excellence Award and the Exceptional Academic Performance in Major Award – Psychology. In 2019, she graduated summa cum laude from the University of Santa Clara School of Law. While there, she was a member of the Santa Clara Trial Team and Honors Moot Court Team and editor for Santa Clara Law Review. Ms. Schon was the recipient of the 2018 Herman and Edith Wildman Social Justice Writing Award, Harold R. McKinnon Award for Best Appellate Brief, and the 2019 Silver Pro Bono Recognition Award. Ms. Schon volunteered at the Northern California Innocence Project from 2018 to 2019 and for the Katherine & George Alexander Community Law Center in 2018. Her article, *Why are California's Prisons and Streets Filled with More Mentally Ill Than Its Hospitals?: The California Deinstitutionalization Movement* was published in the Santa Clara Law Review in 2019.

Ms. Schon began her career at this Office as a law clerk for the Violent Felonies Unit in 2017. She returned in 2019 as a bar certified law clerk for the Sexual Assault Unit.

Prior to coming to our Office, Ms. Schon was a fellow and extra help attorney for the Orange County District Attorney's Office. In 2018, she was a bar certified law clerk for the Attorney General's Office in San Francisco in the Appeals, Writs, and Trials Unit where she successfully argued twice in front of the California Court of Appeals. Ms. Schon was a legal intern for the Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office in 2016. In 2014, she was an investigative intern for the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office for close to two years.

Ms. Schon is literally following in her parents' professional footsteps. Her father worked as a prosecutor here from 1977 to 2009. The Schon's missed being the first mother-daughter prosecutors in this Office by less than a month. Lisa Schon retired late last year after a 30-year career in the Office.

"Seeing her wake up every morning, excited to go to work, I wanted to wake up each morning loving my job," the younger Schon said. Her professional act of rebellion was her stint working at the Public Defender's Office, which she truly enjoyed but was drawn toward advocating for broader justice rather than a single client. While at the PDO's Julia heard glowing stories of her mother's fair play and intelligence. Ms. Schon said: "I'll strive to be like my mom every day."



Aidan Welsh graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh in 2016. While there, he was a member of the mock trial team and glee club. In 2019, Mr. Welsh received his law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law. During that time, he received the following honors: Order of the Barristers; Irving H. Green Award in Trial Advocacy; and the UCLA Law Certificate in Trial Advocacy. He was a Moot Court Honors and Trial Team Executive board and external team member and a coach for the undergraduate mock trial team.

Mr. Welsh began his career at this Office as a 2L honors law clerk in 2018. He successfully tried a five-day misdemeanor jury trial and conducted various preliminary hearings involving auto-theft and burglary.

In 2017, Mr. Welsh was an extern for the United States Attorney's Office, Central District of California, in Los Angeles. Earlier that year, he was a certified law clerk for the Misdemeanor Unit for the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Northern District of California Office in San Francisco.

During 2014 and 2016, he was a summer intern for the Front Office and Major Crimes Unit for the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office in Norristown, PA. In 2015, he was a summer intern for the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division's Public Integrity Section in Washington, D.C.

As a debate team member in high school outside of Philadelphia, Mr. Welsh became fascinated with the great speechmakers of our time: Robert Kennedy, John Kennedy. He was particularly amazed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s magisterial and extemporaneous "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech spoken the night before the civil rights leader was slain in 1968.

"I want to be on my feet. I want to make a meaningful difference," Mr. Welsh said. "I want to persuade people to do the right thing." Being a prosecutor seemed an ideal way to marry those passions.

Even though Mr. Welsh grew up 2,000 miles away, his whole family has moved to the Bay Area in recent years - including his identical twin brother. Ethan works as a software engineer. Mr. Welsh said: "We are both in awe of what each other does."