

R. CLAYTON LOPEZ, ESQ.

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ATTORNEY

Results-driven attorney possessing a strong balance between business and legal savvy. Possess a proven track record of 10+ years of experience leveraging criminal law expertise and legal practice to effectively counsel and represent diverse clients against felony and misdemeanor charges. Oversee all aspects of the discovery and litigation process, conducting thorough investigations to facilitate the development of compelling litigation cases and winning legal strategies. Capitalize on strong communication, presentation and advocacy skills to successfully draft, present and argue positions before jury and bench trials. Licensed to practice law in the State of Ohio. Core competencies include:

Litigation Management • Research & Analysis • Case Planning • Defense Strategy
Criminal Law • Trial Advocacy & Practice • Negotiations • Communication Skills
Client Representation • Relationship Building • Project Management

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

R. CLAYTON LOPEZ CO. LPA, Columbus, Ohio • 2007-Present

Law firm that specializes in defending clients charged in criminal courts throughout Central Ohio.

Managing Attorney

Directed all day-to-day operations – including prospecting, marketing, budgeting and client relationship management functions – to ensure the achievement of business goals and customer objectives. Managed all aspects of litigation to effectively defend criminal, juvenile and traffic offenders against felony and misdemeanor charges. Oversaw the entire discovery process, which included performing legal research, preparing discovery requests and bill of particulars in addition to analyzing case laws and statutes to facilitate case planning, development and trial defense. Conducted trials, appearing in courts to defend clients, argue motions and negotiate pleas.

Operational Highlights:

- Established and grew the criminal law practice from the ground up, capitalizing on superior communication and networking skills to build a client base throughout Central Ohio.
- Successfully argued for case dismissals and reduced criminal sentences by leveraging case law and prosecution expertise to effectively defend clients in court.

OFFICE OF FRANKLIN COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, Columbus, Ohio • 1999-2007

Public law office that prosecutes felony crimes and offenses on behalf of the State of Ohio.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Represented the State of Ohio in juvenile criminal matters and adult felony proceedings. Coordinated the entire litigation process to effectively prosecute criminal defendants in both bench and jury trials. Prepared and presented indictments. Performed thorough investigations, which involved gathering defendant's proffer statements, liaising with subject matter experts and local officials as well as examining scientific evidence and researching legal issues. Planned, developed and argued cases before the Grand Jury and Drug Units. Conducted trials while serving as first and second chair.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney (continued)...

Operational Highlights:

- Selected as 1 of 5 prosecutors (out of 90 attorneys) to serve on the specialized Drug Unit.
- Successfully convicted drug dealers with sentences commensurate with the crimes committed.
- Orchestrated all aspects of the litigation process, which ranged from participating in long-term investigations through to criminal indictments, plea negotiations and trial proceedings.

ADDITIONAL HISTORY

PICKERINGTON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, Pickerington, Ohio • 2008-Present

One of Ohio's largest school districts with approximately 10K enrolled students.

Board of Education Member

Formulate and evaluate new and existing policies and laws governing the Pickerington School District. Liaised with the local school community to discuss and resolve controversial issues, such as intra-district student transfers. Collaborate with members of administration to ensure the provisioning of high-quality education to local citizens and to obtain funding for the school district through tax incentives. Serve as a key member of the Finance and Performing Arts Committees tasked with controlling monthly and yearly budgets and expenditures. Evaluate and approve funding for local projects involving the acquisition of land to build and refit new and existing schools. Oversee the bidding process to secure competitively priced construction services. Review PLSD's purchasing contracts to effectively monitor expenses.

Financial / Operational Highlights:

- Ensured the delivery of top-notch educational services despite a \$500K budget cut.
- Kept local schools at the cutting-edge of technology by supporting the implementation of fiber-optic cables enabling fast Internet connectivity throughout the district.
- Advocated for the 12-year extension of a current tax enabling \$50M worth of capital improvements to 5 district schools.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor – Licensed Practicing Attorney (LPA)

*Mediation & Litigation Clinic • Street Law Program • Teaching Assistant
Capital University School of Law, Columbus, Ohio*

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology & Anthropology – Graduated Cum Laude

*President's List • Governor's Honors Academy • Dean's List
West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia*

ADMISSIONS & AFFILIATIONS

State of Ohio • Federal District Court for the Southern District of Ohio
Columbus Bar Association • Ohio Bar Association