

COLORADO PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

Application for Colorado State Public Defender

A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Full Name: Lucienne Ohanian
2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
3. Home Address: [REDACTED]
4. Work Address: 1300 Broadway, Suite 400, Denver, CO 80203
5. Telephone (w): 303-764-1400
6. Telephone (h): [REDACTED]
7. Email Address: lucienne.ohanian@coloradodefenders.us
8. Attorney Registration Number: 38890

B. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

9. List names and locations of schools attended beginning with college.

Name	Location	Dates Attended	Degree
U. of Puget Sound	Tacoma, WA	1997-2001	BA, Poli Sci & Span.
U. of Colorado	Boulder, CO	2004-2007	JD

9. List scholarships, awards, honors, and citations you received during college and law school.

A few merit-based scholarships for undergraduate.

In law school, I was the proud recipient of the Dan Barash Scholarship – an endowment created for future public defenders after Colorado Springs' public defender, Dan Barash, died from complications involving an autoimmune disease.

C. PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

11. List all relevant personnel and fiscal management experience.

Position & Context	Dates
Supervising Attorney, Arapahoe Trial Office	April, 2011 – August, 2017
Interim Office Head, Arapahoe Trial Office	May, 2016 – August, 2017
Chief Deputy, State Office	September, 2017 – Current

12. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice, with dates of admission.

Bar Admission	Date
Colorado	October, 2007

13. Indicate your present employment. If you currently practice law, describe the nature of your present law practice, listing the major types of law you practice and the percentage each constitutes of your total practice.

Chief Deputy, Office of the State Public Defender – criminal defense.

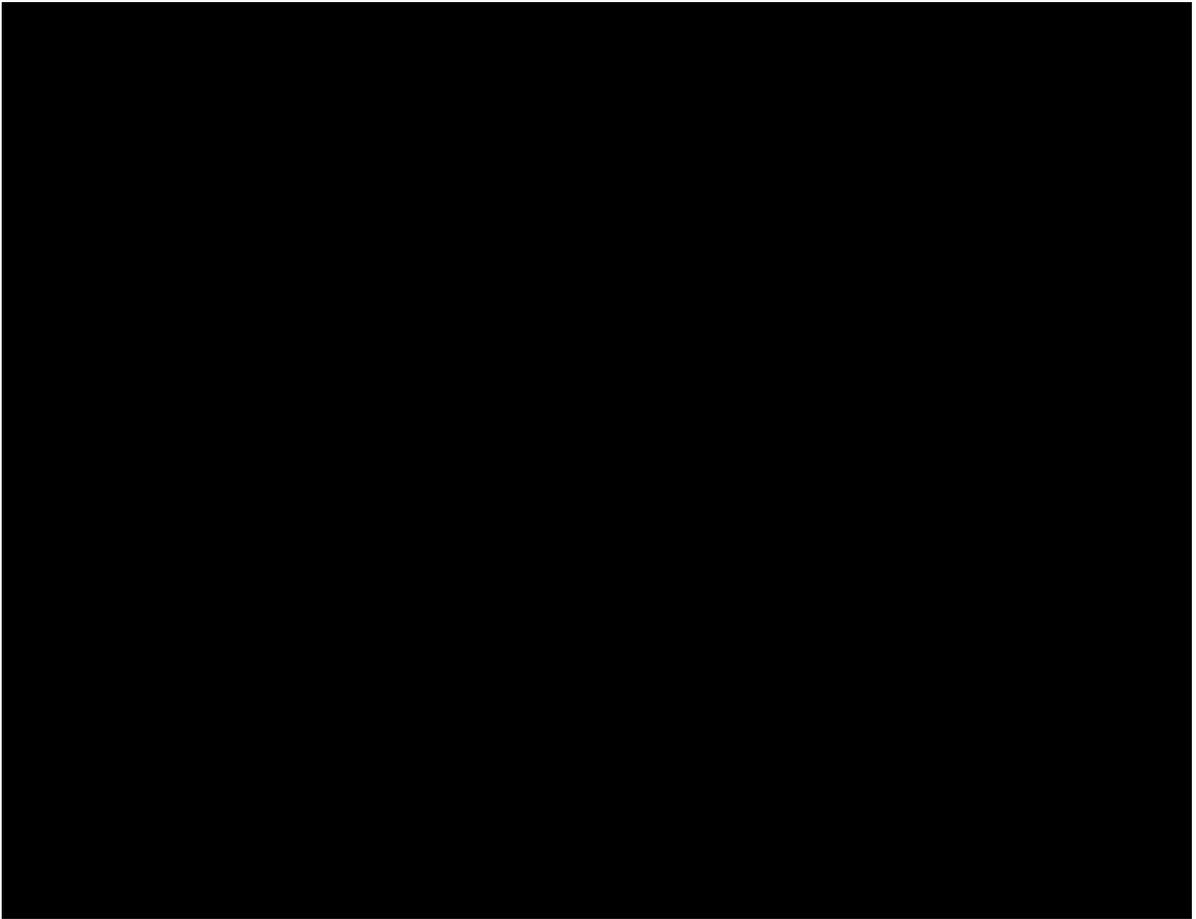
14. Have you practiced in the trial courts of Colorado or elsewhere? If so, please indicate where and when. Please also state what percentage of your total practice your trial practice constituted and the types of matters handled.

Yes, Colorado. August, 2007 – current. Originally, 100% criminal trial practice. Now, occasional trial practice. My last trial was in September, 2017.

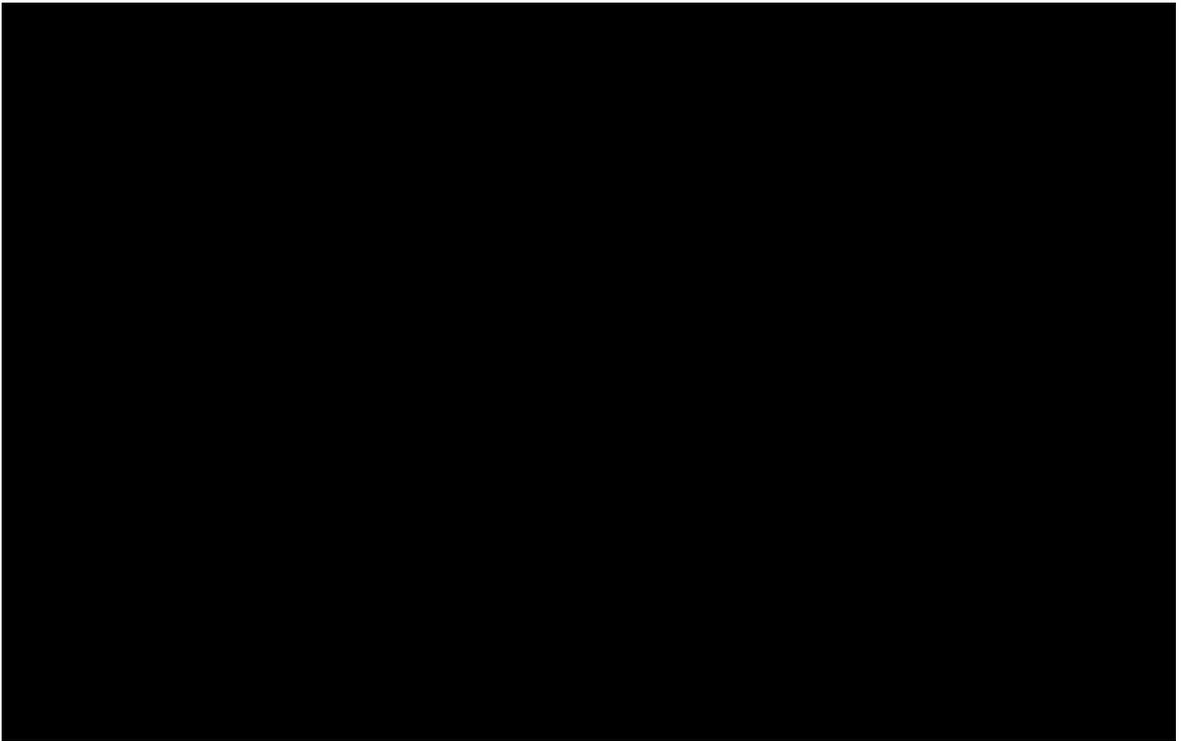
I've handled misdemeanor cases through capital murder offenses. I've handled the mitigation development for a capital case before leaving the trial office to come to the state office. I've been trained in capital voir dire, I am versed in the relevant law and ABA standards, and routinely contribute to the development of capital mitigation presentations.

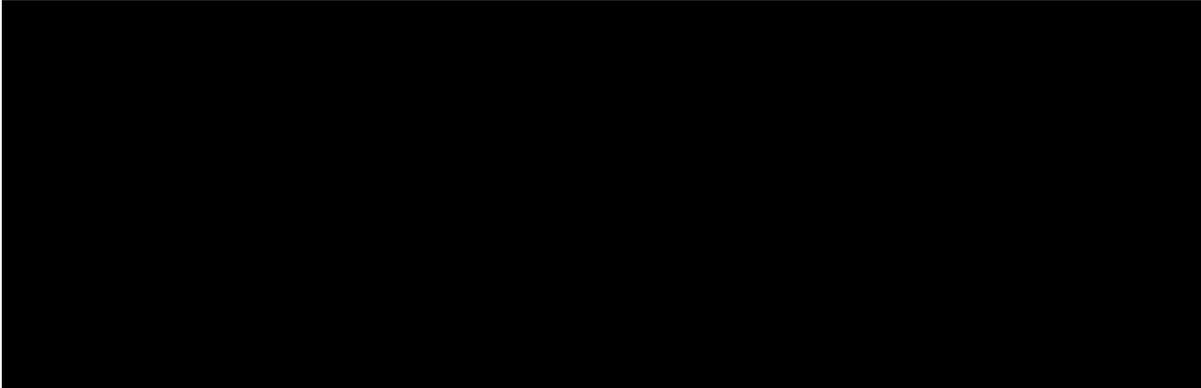
15. List two litigated cases in which you participated as a judge or lawyer in the past five years, the names of the judges presiding, and the names of counsel. Please list current telephone (including area code) for each person identified.

1. [REDACTED]



2.





16. List any lectures, speeches, or other presentations you have given and any such books or articles you have authored.

I have presented at more public defender trainings than I can count. I routinely teach voir dire, docket management, cross-examination, impeachment, and ethics at basic lawyer training, bootcamp, and/or investigator training. I have presented at the public defender yearly conference several times.

When I was teaching at the University of Denver, my class included seminars on client-centered practice, “testi-lying” and police misconduct, vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue, and specialty courts.

At the University of Colorado, I routinely teach at intersession trial advocacy and this semester helped Professor England with her new voir dire class.

17. List your prior professional or business employment since completion of your formal education (include dates).

I waited tables for three years between undergrad and law school.

18. If you have not been employed continuously since completion of your formal education, describe generally what you were doing (include dates).

D. PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE

19. List activities in professional associations, including offices held, committees, awards, honors, and citations (include dates).

Member, Colorado Criminal Defense Bar, on and off
Member, National Association of Public Defender, since 2015

20. List your activities in civic and charitable organizations, including offices held, awards, honors, and citations (include dates).

Rangeview High School Mock Trial Team Coach

21. Describe any policy advocacy or lobbying experience.

Public Defender Representative for the Mental Health and Bond Task forces for the Colorado Legislature's Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) – worked with Community Mental Health Centers, the sheriffs in Boulder and Denver County, Colorado Behavioral Health Council, and the district attorneys for the 2nd, 17th, and 20th judicial districts to draft a pre-file adult diversion program.

Member of the CCJJ preventive detention working group tasked with drafting legislation that would eliminate cash and surety bonds. Members: Bo Zeerip, Chief District Attorney, 21st Judicial District; Bill Kilpatrick, Chief of Police, Golden Police Department; Collette Tvedt, Tvedt Law; Judge Margie Enquist, 1st Judicial District

Public Defender Representative on Justice Rice's Bail Blue Ribbon Commission. Other Members: Tom Raines, Colorado District Attorneys Council; Judge Carlos A. Samour, Chief Judge, 18th Judicial District; Mindy Masias, Chief of Staff, Colorado Judicial Department; Judge Mark Thompson, 5th Judicial District; Judge Pattie P. Swift, 12th Judicial District; Judge Patrick Murphy, 17th Judicial District; Judge James Hartmann, 19th Judicial District; Judge Ingrid Bakke, 20th Judicial District; Mike Garcia, Director of Probation Services, Colorado Judicial Department; Jeremy Botkins, Reporter, Senior Assistant Legal Counsel, Colorado Judicial Department; Terry Scanlon, Legislative Liaison, Colorado Judicial Department; Brad Kamby, Director of Arapahoe County Pretrial Services

Worked with Maureen Cain, Director of Legislative Policy and Organizational Communication for OSPD, on eight different bills for the 17/18 legislative session including opposition to a trial venue bill, two different bills to change costs and penalties around driving under restraint, and a terrible speedy trial bill. Successfully testified against the speedy trial bill in the Senate and House Judiciary.

Worked with Doug Wilson, Karen Porter, Jim O'Connor, and Carmen Spond on OSPD's 2018/19 budget request, including multiple meetings with OSPD's new Joint Budget Committee analyst.

Currently collaborating with the Disability Law Center, Doug Wilson, and Maureen Cain, to create a system-wide response to the Department of Human Services' failure to timely evaluate and treat incompetent defendants.

Was tasked with developing the OSPD's litigation strategy after CDPHE DUI blood test scandal. This required me to work with/against the Attorney General's office who represented CDPHE, coordinate with private DUI defense lawyers, draft pleadings, litigate the issue in a variety of jurisdictions, and instruct individual public defenders on our strategic approach to the issue.

Consulted with Doug Wilson on the system's approach to using the Rothgery lawsuit as leverage to extract new positions from the legislature.

Participant in the Arapahoe County Justice Coordinating Committee

So many Arapahoe County specific committees and work groups – various specialty courts, juvenile shackling, adult diversion, judicial performance

22. List the names of no more than three individuals from whom you are requesting a letter of reference.

Karen Porter, Chief Financial Officer, Office of the State Public Defender

James Karbach, Office Head, Arapahoe County Public Defender's Office

Jennifer Ahnstedt, Lead Training Director, Officer of the State Public Defender

E. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS

23. Have you ever been cited for contempt of Court? If so, please give detail.

No.

24. Have you ever been disciplined or sanctioned for a breach or possible breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by the Supreme Court Grievance Committee, the Attorney Regulation Committee, the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, the Colorado Supreme Court, the Commission on Judicial Discipline (including a private letter of admonition, reprimand, or censure), or by any administrative agency or disciplinary committee? If so, please give details.

No.

25. Do you know if any proceeding is pending against you before the Attorney Regulation Committee, the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, the Colorado Supreme Court, or by any administrative agency or disciplinary committee? If so, please give details.

No.

26. Have you ever been convicted of a felony, misdemeanor, or serious traffic offense? If so, please give details.

No.

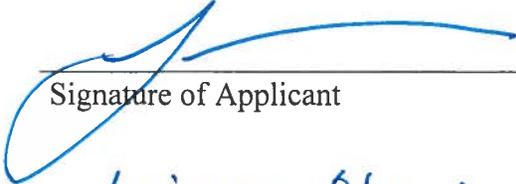
27. Is there any circumstance or event in your personal or professional life which, if brought to the attention of the Commission, might tend to affect adversely your qualifications to serve as the Colorado State Public Defender? If so, please explain.

No.

F. STATEMENT OF INTEREST

28. Please attach a statement not to exceed two pages in length, double-spaced, discussing:
(a) your knowledge and experience that qualifies you to serve as Colorado Public Defender; and
(b) the reasons why you wish to be appointed as Colorado Public Defender and the leadership and other professional and personal qualities you would bring to the position.

Date: 5/25/18



Signature of Applicant
Lucienne Ohanian

Print or Type Name

Statement of Interest, Ohanian

The two most important administrative functions of the Public Defender are budget and hiring. I have unique experience with both.

For most public defenders, the fact we had to track our hours is an annoying memory. For me, it's an essential component of the work we did this year in getting a \$98 million budget through. I've spent the time to understand the Delphi method. I can speak fluently about public defender work studies, salary surveys, merit pay, common policy, support staff ratios, attrition savings, the difference between workload and caseload, and, most importantly, the value to the state of Colorado of a Gideon-to-Rothgery-compliant public defender system.

My understanding of the budget is only useful if I can persuade the General Assembly to understand and value our appropriations request. While I had done a significant amount of local policy work and stakeholder negotiation while working in Arapahoe County, over the last year as a Chief Deputy, I have had the opportunity to build relationships at the legislature, taking on policy advocacy for our agency. I have had the benefit of working closely with Doug Wilson and Maureen Cain, meeting the important players, learning and discussing strategies, and participating as an active member of our policy and budget advocacy team. I testified twice this session, before both the House and Senate Judiciary committees, helping to defeat an awful speedy trial bill. I've been trusted to represent our office in the legislature's Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, where we drafted a pre-file diversion pilot program, rewrote the law on bond, and built relationships with prosecutors, mental health professionals, and law enforcement from a variety of jurisdictions.

I am prepared to educate soon-to-be elected legislators to our value. My strengths in this area include an ability to persuade with sincerity and transparency, a commitment to do the hard work it takes to have a firm grasp of the facts, and an ability to communicate strong, immediate opinions refined by a willingness to listen and be persuaded.

Statement of Interest, Ohanian

Before I was appointed as Chief Deputy, I was already working with the State Office to help with the massive recruiting and hiring effort it takes to keep a system of 500+ attorneys staffed. I've recruited at Equal Justice Works in Washington, D.C., reignited a recruiting relationship with California law schools, interviewed scores of attorney applicants, and served as our representative at countless local career fairs and brown bags. This year I was responsible for hiring 100 new lawyers. I organized three recruiting trips late in the hiring cycle once it became clear we were going to get 34 new positions from the legislature. In a state with only two law schools, and a nation-wide drop in law school admissions, we have serious challenges in our future for hiring qualified candidates, and I am prepared to meet those challenges.

I want to be the next State Public Defender because I have so much I want to do. I want to create a transparent, forward-looking strategic plan for the system; and then do the same for each regional office so their staff can work towards precise common goals in improving criminal justice outcomes for clients in their communities. I want to create a public social media presence that will speak to our young staff and future applicants while demonstrating ethical awareness and the seriousness of our purpose. I want to work to improve diversity. I want to up our game in technology. I want lawyers to experience the benefit of a sufficient number of capable support staff, so they can focus on the lawyering and client relationship. I want to bring the system in line with my expectations for an excellent standard of practice. And, abolish the death penalty.

A Public Defender needs to be a unifying and motivating force for her staff while also having a national presence in criminal justice reform. I have developed friendships with the leaders of many defender organizations through my activism with NAPD – relationships that were helpful to me in thinking about a vision for OSPD. I believe my pride in being a public defender is infectious, my sincere respect for the people doing this work with me will be apparent, and that these qualities will help me inspire my fellow Defenders.