

COLORADO PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

Application for Colorado State Public Defender

A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Full Name: Carrie Lynn Thompson
2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
3. Home Address: [REDACTED]
4. Work Address: 1544 Race Street, Denver, CO 80206
5. Telephone (w): (720) 475-1179
6. Telephone (h): [REDACTED]
7. Email Address: carriecourtney8@gmail.com
8. Attorney Registration Number: 17081

B. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

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

James Madison College at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
August 1978-March 1982/ Bachelor of Arts

University of Denver College of Law, Denver, CO
September 1985-March 1987/ Juris Doctorate

10. List scholarships, awards, honors, and citations you received during college and law school. N/A

C. PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

11. List all relevant personnel and fiscal management experience.

Position & Context	Dates
Office Head of the Colo. Springs Public Defender Office: Managed a staff of more than 80 people	March 1, 2006- December 31, 2014
Division Lead in the Denver Public Defender Office: Managed a division of felony lawyers, investigators and administrative staff; also filled in as acting office head	1998-2006
Senior Attorney in the Denver Public Defender and Arapahoe County Offices: Supervised a county court division in Arapahoe County and assisted in the management of a felony division in Denver County	1993-1998

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

Bar Admission	Date
Colorado	November 1987

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.

The Law Office of Carrie Lynn Thompson, LLC
Sole Practitioner since January 2015

Colorado Criminal Defense Bar
Legislative Policy Coordinator since October 2015

My contract employment with the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar (CCDB) is part-time in the months of October, November and December and is full-time during the legislative session, January through May and constitutes about 70% of my practice. In my position as the legislative policy coordinator, I lobby state elected officials and policy makers on bills related to CCDB policy initiatives. I review all proposed Colorado state legislation related to criminal and juvenile law. I draft materials as needed for effective lobbying in support or opposition to the bills introduced in the legislature. I coordinate with CCDB's contract lobbyists to communicate CCDB's position to various stakeholders and to legislators for the purpose of implementing the policy initiatives of the CCDB. I attend

and testify at legislative committee hearings that are relevant to the CCDB's policy initiatives and coordinate testimony from CCDB members. I assist in drafting legislation and amendments to legislation as needed. I attend CCDB policy committee meetings throughout the legislative session and I provide up-to-date information to the CCDB staff on a near weekly basis. At the conclusion of the session I provide a written summary of the legislative session on all bills related to criminal justice.

My work in policy has been my priority in the last few years and therefore my private practice is fairly small and has primarily consisted of consulting as an expert in criminal trial practice in post-conviction cases.

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.

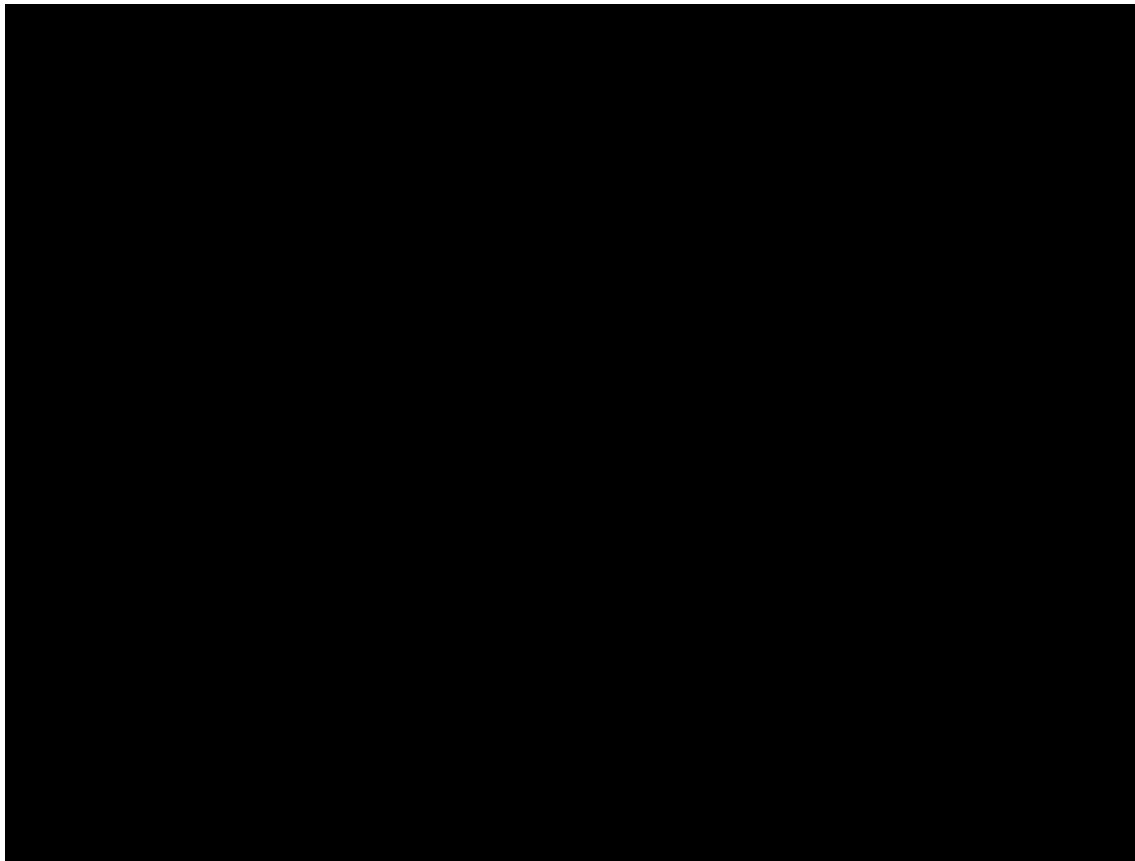
I was employed as a trial attorney for the Office of the Colorado State Public Defender's Office from 1987 through December 2014 and have handled all level of criminal cases to include capital litigation throughout my public defender career.

- I interned in the Jefferson County Regional Office from June 1986 through March 1987 and was allowed to practice in county court under the Student Practice Act.
- In April 1987, I worked as a contract student lawyer in the Denver County Office and was assigned to handle arraignment court while I studied for the bar examination.
- In August 1987, I was assigned to the Arapahoe County Office where I began my career in county court and juvenile court and eventually moved into district court where I handled complex felony cases and several first-degree murder cases. In addition to handling my criminal caseload during my eight and half year tenure in the Arapahoe Office, I developed the training programs for the law student interns and newly licensed attorneys assigned to county court and served as a senior attorney beginning in 1993.
- In 1995, I transferred to the Denver Office as a senior attorney where I handled a full felony caseload. In 1998 I was promoted to Division Lead. During my tenure in the Denver office, I was assigned to handle all level of felony cases, including several high profile cases and capital cases. In my duties as a Division Lead, I led and managed a felony division, including administrative staff, paralegals, investigators and attorneys. I also developed and provided training for lawyers handling misdemeanor and juvenile cases as well as provided system-wide training for lawyers who were new to handling felony cases.

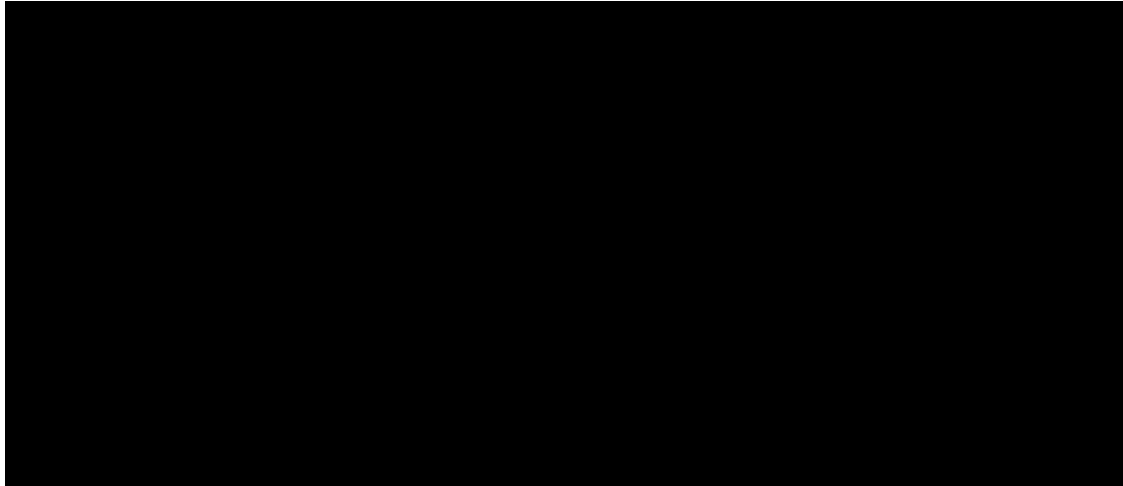
- In 2006, I became the office head for the Colorado Springs Regional Office where I led and managed a staff of more than 80 people including administrative staff, paralegal and investigative staff and attorneys. I served as liaison between the Colorado Springs Public Defender's Office and all criminal justice organizations, including law enforcement, El Paso County courts and the District Attorney's Office and served on various criminal justice boards. I handled several high profile felony cases and successfully negotiated a life sentence for a man accused of killing a police officer after the elected District Attorney sought the death penalty.

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.



2.



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

Lectures and Presentations

- Juvenile Expungement and Petitions to be Removed From the Sex Registry, 6th Annual Excellence in Juvenile Defense Conference, Denver, Colorado, April 27, 2018
- CCDB Roadshow: Legislative Update Presentations: Boulder, September 19, 2017, Denver, October 4, 2017 and Colorado Springs, October 6, 2017
- Ethics in DUI Cases: CCDB DUI Seminar, April 14, 2017
- The Ethics of How to Handle Difficult Clients with the Worst Cases: CCDB Ethics Seminar, December 2, 2016
- Probation Violations, Community Corrections Revocations, Fugitive of Justice and Post-Conviction Matters, CCDB CLE training on District Court Primer, February 19, 2016
- The Defense Attorney in Specialty Courts: A New Way to Advocate and Make a Difference in the Criminal Justice System, 2015 Colorado Collaborative Justice Conference, May 27, 2015
- Professionalism: How to Handle Difficult Clients with the Worst Cases, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' 25th Annual Law and all that Jazz Seminar, April 25, 2015
- Trainer and Facilitator for the Wellness Mental Health Court Team Retreat, Aurora Municipal Court, February 27, 2015

- Objections Practicum, Pueblo Public Defender's Office, March 19, 2012
- Mental Condition Defenses: Mental Illness in a "Nut"shell, Pueblo Public Defender's Office, Pueblo, Colorado, December 4, 2009
- Crossing the Nay-Saying Expert, Defending the Defenders: Advocacy for Combat Veterans in Criminal Courts, University of Colorado Law School, August 14, 2009
- Performance in the Courtroom: A Flair for the Dramatic, Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel Training Program, Denver, Colorado, April 15, 2009
- Client Preparation and Direct Testimony: Can't Live With Their Testimony and Can't Live Without Their Testimony, Colorado State Public Defender's Office Annual Training Conference, September 17, 2007
- Representing the Monsters: Taking the Jurors From Fear to Tears, New Hampshire Public Defender's Annual Conference, May 5, 2005
- Challenged Based Voir Dire: Educating the Jury as to Substance vs. Garbage, Arkansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Tunica, Mississippi, April 23, 2005
- Mental Condition Defenses: Mental Illness in a "Nut"shell, Colorado Bar Association CLE, March 24, 2005
- Representing the Monsters: Taking the Jurors From Fear to Tears, Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Topeka, Kansas, October 29, 2004
- Representing the Monsters: Taking the Jurors From Fear to Tears, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Spring Seminar, Nashville, Tennessee, April 29, 2004
- Organizer and Presenter, Trial Practice Seminar, Colorado Criminal Defense Bar Summer Meeting, June 2003
- Trial Advocacy, University of Colorado College of Law, Boulder, Colorado, January 10, 2002 and January 12, 2002

- Going Through the Motions, Colorado Criminal Defense Bar Sexual Assault Seminar, February 27, 2004
- Panelist, Women & the Law IV, "Nice Girls Don't Do Conflict," Denver, Colorado, March 21, 1999

1995-2014 Routinely served as faculty for the Public Defender State Office Boot Camp trainings and routinely presented in-house training to the Arapahoe, Denver and Colorado Springs Offices on the following topics:

- Getting Organized: Some Suggestions on Caseload Management
- Closing Arguments
- Opening Statements
- Voir Dire
- Cross-examination
- Motions Practice
- Evidence and Objections
- Mental Health Defenses
- Sexual Assault Cases
- Front-end Investigation and Motions Practice in Homicide Cases
- Prosecutorial Misconduct
- Drama/Theatre in the Courtroom
- Sentencing Presentations

In addition to preparing numerous written materials for presentations, I also submitted the following report to the Colorado Supreme Court:

"Should Jurors Ask Questions in Criminal Cases?" Minority Report Submitted to the Colorado Supreme Court as part of the Standing Jury Reform Committee's Report and Recommendation to Amend Colorado Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 24 to Allow Jurors to Ask Questions During Trial in Criminal Cases, October 2002.

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

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Office of the Colorado State Public Defender

Attorney, Senior Attorney/County Court Supervisor, Division Lead and Office Head/Managing Deputy State Public Defender
1987-2014

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

D. PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE

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

MEMBERSHIPS AND COMMITTEES:

Colorado Criminal Defense Bar

- President (2003-2004)
- Member of the Board of Directors (2001-2005) (June 2015-October 2015)
- Chairperson to Education/Training Committee (2001-2003)
- Legislative Policy Committee (2005) (2015-present)
- Professional Development Committee (2015-present)

Colorado Criminal Defense Institute Board Member 2015-present

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (1992-Present)

Justice Sonia Sotomayor Inn of Court (October 2017-Present)

People to People Ambassadors Delegate to South Africa (Spring 2004)

El Paso County Community Corrections Board (2006-2014)

Local Treatment Board for El Paso County (2006-2014)

Colorado Supreme Court Judicial Advisory Council (1994-2005)

Colorado State Jury Reform Committee (1998-2003)

AWARDS:

Colorado State Public Defender David F. Vela Award (1999)

Colorado State Public Defender Attorney of the Year (2002)

Colorado Women's Bar Association Raising the Bar Award (2012)

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

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America (1993-1995 officially)

I began mentoring my 9 year old "little sister" in 1993 as part of a special pilot project offering the program to children housed at the child psychiatric ward at Fort Logan. I worked with the program officially for two years, but continued my mentorship through 2002.

21. Describe any policy advocacy or lobbying experience.

I was a member of the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar legislative policy committee and worked on several policy issues concerning the direct filing of juveniles into adult court.

I have been the legislative policy coordinator for the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar since October 2015. I have vigorously advocated for sentencing reform and participated in the 2017 Interim Study Committee on Sentencing Reform. I have submitted proposals for reform in the use of mandatory minimums, habitual offender sentencing and felony murder. I have also advocated for increased relief from the collateral consequences of criminal records for adults and juveniles, particularly in the area of sealing and expungement of criminal justice records. Some of the legislation that I have worked on that was successfully enacted include:

- SB 16-102 (eliminating mandatory prison sentences for most forms of second degree assault and for violation of bail bond conditions)
- SB16-051 (increasing judicial discretion re: the imposition of consecutive sentences for certain violent crimes)
- SB16-181 (allowing juveniles convicted of murder who were serving unconstitutional life without parole sentences to be resentenced to life sentences with the possibility of parole and in cases where the juvenile was convicted of felony murder the judge would have the discretion to sentence the juvenile to a determinate sentence in the range of 30-50 years; this also extended earned time to all juveniles serving life with the possibility of parole)
- SB16-180 (creating a program in the DOC that would serve as a step-down and potential avenue to an earlier release on parole for all juveniles serving lengthy adult sentences)

- HB17-1204 (expanding the opportunity for juvenile records to be expunged and simplifying the procedures)
- HB17-1302 (drastically limiting the prosecutor's ability to charge juveniles with a felony sex crime for sexting behaviors and creating a continuum of legal culpability for these behaviors that included civil infractions, petty offenses and misdemeanors and also encouraging diversion)

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

- Sharlene Reynolds
- Rosalie Roy
- The Honorable David Prince

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.

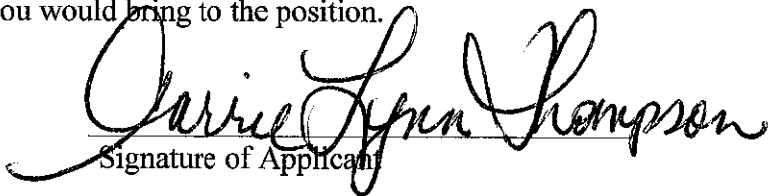
27. Is there any circumstance or event in your personal or professional life which, if brought to the attention of the Commission, might tend to affect adversely your qualifications to serve as the Colorado State Public Defender? If so, please explain.

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: MAY 15, 2018


Signature of Applicant

CARRIE LYNN THOMPSON
Print or Type Name

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I am the epitome of what it means to be a career public defender. I served as a public defender for 28 years, in three different offices and under three Colorado State Public Defenders. In those many years, I accumulated an impressive amount of experience and I became a highly respected leader in the Office of the Colorado State Public Defender (OSPD). My performance as the office head of the largest public defender office in the state is a testament to my advanced level of managerial and administrative abilities. With every step of my journey, it has been my goal to contribute to making the OSPD the best public defender office in the country. It is my paramount desire to continue progressing forward in that journey.

One of my greatest strengths lies in my strong interpersonal abilities. In my many years of management, I have confronted a broad range of personnel issues and taken pride in my ability to calmly address issues in a thoughtful and sensitive manner. I have a strong command of the policy and procedures of the OSPD and have utilized those policies and procedures in addressing personnel issues over the years.

I am a highly respected advocate whose commitment to justice is well known. I have a superior command and knowledge of criminal law and have handled all types of criminal cases, including complex litigation, mental condition cases and capital cases. I subscribe to client-centered representation. As a leader in the OSPD, my priority was to ensure that our office provided the highest level of representation to our clients.

As a person who works in policy, my priority is to seek sentencing reform and other changes in our criminal law that would benefit the indigent accused. My experience and ability to collaborate with others within and outside the OSPD on legislative initiatives that impact the criminal justice system will serve the OSPD well. One of the legislative successes that I am most proud of and which has benefited criminal defense has been the elimination of the mandatory prison sentences for second-degree assault and violation of bond cases. This change in law enables lawyers to set these cases for trial without their clients facing a mandatory prison sentence allowing them to achieve more favorable and fair outcomes for their clients.

My policy work has also exposed me to the legislative budgetary process preparing me to better handle the fiscal management duties of the OSPD. In my lobbying efforts over the years, I have learned the importance of being prepared, knowledgeable, persistent and persuasive. I would bring these qualities to the table when seeking approval of the budget from the Joint Budget Committee.

I want to be the Colorado State Public Defender because I am tirelessly devoted to the defense of the indigent accused and I have a very clear vision for the future of the OSPD that I would like to see realized. I have shown extraordinary dedication to the ideals of the OSPD throughout my career. I have an incomparable allegiance to the employees that are the heart and soul of the OSPD. There could be no greater honor for me than to serve as the Colorado State Public Defender.