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BACKGROUND, EDUCATION, AND PRACTICE

Michael is an assistant public defender at the Harris County Public Defender. His practice is dedicated to post-conviction litigation and extraordinary writ litigation. Before joining the public defender's office, he spent over thirteen years as a staff attorney at the Court of Criminal Appeals in the Post-Conviction Writs Section, serving as the Supervising Attorney of that Section for the last three years. At the court, Michael assisted with its extraordinary writ docket, which includes post-conviction writs of habeas corpus and mandamus applications.

Before joining the court, Michael spent almost four years as a lawyer with State Counsel for Offenders, a public defender office in Huntsville representing Texas prisoners across the state. His trial and appellate cases came from the office's representation of prisoners charged with felonies committed in prison, sued in civil court as sexually violent predators, and targeted for removal in immigration court. He focused his practice on appellate litigation, including direct appeals from criminal and civil jury trials, criminal and civil mandamus petitions in the appellate courts, and time credit litigation.

He has presented at continuing legal education seminars about habeas corpus, mandamus and prohibition, actual innocence and false evidence, judicial ethics, board certification, and appellate court procedure.

Michael grew up in Seguin, Texas. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1996 with an A.B. in American Studies. After five years working in an independent record store, he attended St. Mary's University School of Law and received his J.D. in 2004. During law school, he was a member of the St. Mary's Law Journal and attended the Institute on World Legal Problems at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. He has been licensed to practice law in Texas since 2004. He is Board Certified in Criminal Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.