# Lauren A Freeman

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## SUMMARY

A former Cook County prosecutor with three decades of litigation and investigative review experience, primarily in cases alleging felonious police and correctional officer misconduct, the excessive use of force, the improper use of deadly force, unlawful arrest, and unlawful search and seizure.

## EXPERIENCE

**February 2018- present, Freeman Legal Consulting and Expert Witness Services, LLC**, Chicago, Illinois, Principal

* **Offering independent case assessment, expert witness services, and litigation support, to plaintiffs’ and defense attorneys, prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, and municipalities, in cases alleging law enforcement officer and prosecutorial misconduct.**

**October 1987- April 2017, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office,** Chicago, Illinois *Assistant State’s Attorney (A.S.A.)-* “Retired” after 30 years of service:

April 2005 – April 2017, ***Special Prosecutions Bureau – Professional Standards Unit***

* Became the senior member of a very small group of A.S.A.s focusing solely on the felony misconduct investigations and prosecutions of law enforcement officers throughout Cook County. Handled numerous high-profile excessive force cases from investigative review through trial including the Anthony Abbate and

Jefferson Tap cases. “First chaired” the well-publicized prosecutions of Chicago Police Department (CPD)

Commander Glenn Evans, CPD Sgt. Edward Howard, CPD Officer Michael Bergeson, Illinois State Police

(ISP) Trooper Juan Lopez, CPD Evidence Custodian Pamela Brown (jury trial) and Cook County Correctional Officers Kenyatta Sanders and Rico Palomino, as well as many others. In 2004 and 2005, oversaw the investigation and subsequent indictment of several of the CPD Special Operations Section (SOS) officers in two of their many cases.

* Reviewed a large portion of the officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths which took place in Cook County for possible criminal conduct committed by the officers.
* Worked closely with investigators and supervisors from the CPD Bureau of Internal Affairs (IAD), the Independent Police Review Authority (IPRA, now known as the Civilian Office of Police Accountability or

“COPA”), the Illinois State Police Public Integrity Task Force (PITF), the Illinois State Police Division of Internal Investigations (DII), and the Cook County Sheriff's Office of Professional Review (OPR), as well as other municipal agencies. Developed familiarity with investigative files from all of these agencies as well as a thorough understanding of *Garrity v. New Jersey* issuesand use of force continuums.

* Voted Grand Jury subpoenas, drafted indictments and motions, and interviewed countless complainants, witnesses, police officers, and correctional officers. Subpoenaed relevant documents and reviewed all available evidence in every case, requested additional investigation if needed, and drafted detailed, confidential charging recommendation memorandums, manyt of which were reviewed by the elected State's Attorney.

April 1997 – April 2005, ***Special Prosecutions Bureau – Governmental and Financial Crimes Unit (now the***

***Public Corruption and Financial Crimes Unit)***

* Worked with numerous state and local law enforcement agencies to investigate, indict, and prosecute public officials and public employees for work-related felony misconduct and financial crimes.

“Targets”/defendants included numerous Chicago and suburban police officers, corporate bookkeepers, Cook

County Jail correctional officers, Secretary of State employees, CHA and City of Chicago workers, City Auto Pound employees, licensed attorneys, and numerous embezzlers. Offenses ranged from Insurance Fraud and Theft, to Bribery, Official Misconduct and Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault.

* Apart from GFCU work, first-chaired two First-Degree Murder jury trials (one of them capital).
* Admitted to Capital Litigation Trial Bar as lead counsel prior to abolition of the death penalty in Illinois.

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June 1992 – April 1997, ***Felony Trial Division***

* Tried approximately 26 felony jury trials including six First-Degree Murder, six Attempt Murder and three Armed Robbery cases as well as hundreds of pre-trial motions and bench trials.

October 1987 – June 1992 September 1994, ***Additional Former Assignments***

* Assignments included the Sex Crimes/Child Exploitation Unit, Team Supervisor in the Felony Review Unit, Night Narcotics Prosecutions, Preliminary Hearings, the Grand Jury Homicide/Sex Unit, Misdemeanor Prosecutions (including domestic violence prosecutions) and the Criminal Appeals Division.

 **September, 1985 – June, 1987, Baker & McKenzie**, Chicago, Illinois

* *Law Clerk;* Drafted various pre-trial motions and memoranda in medical malpractice, Structural Work Act, and civil rights cases.

**Summer, 1985. Asher, Pavalon, Gittler & Greenfield, Ltd.,** Chicago, Illinois

* *Law Clerk;* Drafted complaints, interrogatories, motions and memoranda of law in fields of medical malpractice, products liability and personal injury.

## EDUCATION

**Loyola University of Chicago School of Law,** Chicago, Illinois *Juris Doctor*, May 1987

• Member of Regional Champion Mock Trial Team; Competed in National Mock Trial Competition, San Antonio Texas.

**University of Michigan,** Ann Arbor, Michigan

*Bachelor of Arts in History*, May 1984

## CERTIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

* Certified in Force Science Analysis by the Force Science Research Institute.
* Member Chicago Bar Association; Judicial Evaluation Committee
* Member American Bar Association; Civil Rights and Social Justice Section
* Attended the National Association of Attorneys General Training and Research Institute (NAGTRI) Effective Practices and Protocols for Officer-Involved Shootings Symposium, June, 2016

December 4, 2018

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