

Paul J. Hetznecker
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EDUCATION

1987 J.D., Temple University School of Law
1983 Bachelor's Degree, University of Massachusetts, Major in Philosophy

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Staff Attorney – Defender's Association of Philadelphia (1987-1993)

Represented indigent clients in criminal matters on every level from preliminary hearings, Municipal Court trials, adjudicatory hearings in Juvenile Court, bench trials and jury trials in the Court of Common Pleas. From 1988 to 1991 was in Major Trial Unit. September, 1991 to January, 1993 was assigned to the Special Defense Unit handling high profile and complex cases.

Silverman & Hetznecker (4/1993-2/1994)

Focused on criminal defense and civil rights work.

Law Offices of Paul J. Hetznecker (2/1994 to Present)

Maintains a private practice focusing on criminal defense and civil rights cases. Represented thousands of people charged with criminal offenses ranging from misdemeanor and major felony offenses, to capital murder charges. Extensive trial experience in both state and federal court. Maintains an appellate practice in both state and federal court as well. Represents plaintiffs in civil rights cases with claims ranging from police misconduct, prisoner rights, to claims of sexual harassment and racial discrimination.

NOTEWORTHY CASES

- (1993) During a campaign to unionize in Chester County, successfully defended two dozen mushroom workers charged with various offenses, including riot and conspiracy.
- (1994) Secured acquittals for two members of the Catholic Worker Organization, protesting the closing of churches in impoverished neighborhoods.
- **(1995) Capital murder trial, saved the life of a man charged with killing a Philadelphia Police Officer.**
- **(1995) In a highly publicized case, saved the life of a man charged with capital murder in the killing of his wife.**
- (1996) Sued the City of Philadelphia Department of Corrections for sexual harassment on behalf of two female prison guards.
- **(1997) Settled a wrongful death, civil rights suit against the Philadelphia police department in the shooting death of an armed civilian.**

- **(1998) Successfully sued a suburban township police department for a profile stop on behalf of an African-American Court of Common Pleas Judge from Philadelphia.**
- **(1998) Settled wrongful death case on behalf of the estate of inmate against the Federal Bureau of Prisons.**
- (1999) On First Amendment grounds, secured acquittals for the Abolitionist Seven, a group of anti-death penalty activists charged with obstructing the administration of justice.
- **(2000) Successfully represented dozens of protestors arrested during the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia. With a team of lawyers secured acquittals for dozens of protestors.**
- **(2001) Successfully defended a man charged with a twenty year old murder based on false memory syndrome.**
- (2001) Sued the City of Philadelphia on behalf of two dozen protestors arrested in the "Puppet Space" during the Republic National Convention. The civil rights suit was based on violations of both the First Amendment and Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
- (2002) Successfully defended protestors charged with riot, assault and conspiracy.
- **(1993-2004) Represented nine members of the MOVE organization in post-conviction proceedings stemming from the 1981 conviction of the murder of a Philadelphia police officer.**
- (2004) Defended an animal rights activist in a several cases, including a federal investigation.
- **(2005) Represented a Muslim American in a two year investigation by the F.B.I. terrorism task force. The indictment against her was eventually dismissed.**
- (2006) Secured the acquittal on behalf of a protestor arrested during the BIO 2005 convention.
- **(2006) Secured an acquittal for the Commissioner of the Philadelphia Streets Department, the highest ranking member of Mayor John Street's administration indicted in the federal corruption probe.**
- **(2007) Represented peace activists arrested inside the building housing the office of U.S. Senator Rick Santorum. All were acquitted on First Amendment grounds.**
- (2008) Settled a wrongful death, civil rights suit against the Philadelphia Police Department in the choking death of a suspected drug dealer.
- (2008-2010) Represented an animal rights activist on appeal to the Third Circuit following his conviction for conspiracy to violate the Animal Enterprise Protection Act.
- (2008-2010) Represented members of the Anti-Racist Network charged with criminal mischief and conspiracy. Successfully argued a motion to disclose the identity of undercover agents.
- **(2010) Represented six peace activists arrested at the Army Experience Center. All six were acquitted on First Amendment grounds.**
- **(2012) Represented Occupy Philly activists, securing acquittals in three mass protest cases based on the First Amendment.**
- (2012) Settled civil rights case against the Philadelphia prison system for failing to protect a vulnerable inmate from the sexual assault by his cellmate.

(2012) Secured an order for de-certification for a juvenile accused of murder. The defendant will now be tried as a juvenile instead of facing the prospect of forty years in an adult prison.

(2013) Secured acquittals on 13 of 14 counts on behalf of a defendant in the biggest RICO conspiracy prosecution of the Philadelphia La Cosa Nostra Family in a decade. The jury hung on the remaining count.

(2013) Part of a team of lawyers that secured acquittals for 12 Occupy Philly protestors arrested inside Wells Fargo Bank.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice, Arcadia University. (Spring 2012 -present)
Taught courses on the Criminal Justice System, Surveillance, and Civil Rights.

Adjunct Professor of Political Science, Haverford College. (Spring 2011)
Taught a course on The Criminal Justice System.

Lectures, Seminars and Speaking Engagements

Course Planner and Presenter for Continuing Legal Education seminar (CLE), on *Federal Court Adoption of State Cases*.

Sponsored by the Federal Defenders Office (Spring 1999)

Taught a seminar for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA)
Mitigation in Capital Cases (Spring 2000)

ACLU's *Rally to Defend the Constitution* Featured speaker
(Fall 2007)

Faculty Member for the Pennsylvania Innocence Project Training
(September 2009)

Presented a Continuing Legal Education Seminar on *The First Amendment and the Animal Enterprise Protection Act*

Sponsored by the ACLU (Spring 2009)

Course Planner and Presenter of a Continuing Legal Education Seminar on *Political Trials* at the National Lawyers Guild Regional Conference
(Spring 2010)

Guest Lecturer at the Villanova Law School's Advanced Trial Advocacy Course, taught by the Honorable Juan R. Sanchez, Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
(2006- present)

Guest Speaker, *Careers in Public Interest Law*, sponsored by the National Lawyers Guild at Beasley School of Law, Temple University (Fall 2010)

Faculty Member for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA)
(Fall 2011)

Presenter at Haverford College in a panel discussion on *Life After Life*.
(Winter 2012)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member of the Board of Directors, Defender Association of Philadelphia
Philadelphia Bar Association

National Lawyers Guild

Member of the Criminal Justice Act Selection Committee for the United States District
Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania