

ELISABETH M. W. TREFONAS

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PROFESSIONAL

State Bar of California, *Member*, admitted June 2, 2006

State Bar of Wyoming, *Member*, admitted April 11, 2007

EXPERIENCE

Public Defender's Office, Teton and Sublette Counties, WY

Senior Assistant Public Defender, July 2013 – Present

Assistant Appellate Counsel, June 2011 – June 2013

Assistant Public Defender, February 2010 – June 2013

Extern, May 2005 – August 2005

- The only full-time public defender in both counties, representing clients in all stages of litigation, including trial and post-conviction relief, in misdemeanor, felony, and juvenile cases
- Supervised employees, paralegal, investigator, and independent contractors in both counties
- Represented appellants in written appeals and oral arguments in the Wyoming Supreme Court, Partial Remand, and Evidentiary Hearings
- Represented defendants in all stages of proceedings and bench and jury trials at state district and circuit courts for murder in all degrees, felony-murder, negligent homicide, robbery and aggravated robbery, aggravated and general battery and assault, sexual assault of an adult and/or minor, rape, kidnapping, stalking, child abuse and neglect, drug trafficking, intent to distribute and/or possess, human trafficking, grand and general larceny, fraud, driving under the influence, minor under the influence, possession of controlled substance, property destruction, trespassing, probation revocation, and failures to appear, no driver's license, no insurance, general traffic citations
- Researched and authored memoranda, motions, and orders on issues of restitution, search and seizure, suppression of evidence, jury instructions, appellate briefs, and judgments and sentences
- Translated Spanish/English legal documents, client phone calls, interviews, jail visits, and court proceedings for judges, mediators, attorneys, investigators, and support staff in state/federal court

TREFONAS LAW, P.C., Jackson WY

Attorney/Owner, Private Practice, June 2006 – Present

- Owner/manager of private practice focused on immigration and criminal law, with two attorneys, support staff, and 138 open and active cases, and over 720 successfully closed cases, as of February 2017 in Federal and State courts
- Represented clients in removal proceedings in the Executive Office of Immigration Review and the Board of Immigration Appeals on asylum, withholding of removal, protection pursuant to the Convention Against Torture, adjustment of status, cancellation of removal of Lawful Permanent Residents and Certain Nonpermanent Residents, and voluntary departure
- Completed Permanent Resident Visa applications, Professional Worker Visas (H1B), Temporary Agricultural Worker Visas (H2A), Temporary Seasonal Nonagricultural Worker Visas (H2B), abused and battered spouse self-petitions pursuant to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA I-360), Petitions for U Nonimmigrant Status
- Represented clients in criminal cases at the state circuit and district levels for aggravated and general battery and assault, sexual assault of an adult and/or minor, rape, kidnapping, stalking, child abuse and neglect, drug trafficking, intent to distribute and/or possess, larceny, burglary, fraud, driving

under the influence, minor under the influence, possession of controlled substance, probation revocation, and failures to appear

- Represented clients in civil claims including breach of contract, landlord/tenant, child support, child custody, prenuptial agreements, divorce, protection and stalking orders, and personal injury
- Represented clients, privately and as court-appointed guardian ad litem, in child neglect proceedings, child abandonment, and juvenile delinquency and criminal cases
- Authored 9th and 10th Circuit of Appeals and Board of Immigration Appeals briefs and motions
- Presented Oral Argument at the Wyoming Supreme Court and the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals
- Teacher/Speaker: Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association, January 2011; Children's Justice Project, June 2011; Wyoming State Bar Convention, September, 2011

Legal Research Services, San Diego, CA and Wilson, WY

Independent Law Clerk, December 2002 – August 2007

- Contracted by Todd J. Hilts, The Law Offices of Todd J. Hilts, San Diego, CA; Michael P. McGovern, Ayers and Parkey, Attorneys at Law, Nashville, TN; Gregory Blenkinsop, Attorney at Law, Jackson, WY; Deidre Bainbridge, Attorney at Law, Jackson, WY; Chris Leigh, Attorney at Law, Jackson, WY; Robert W. Horn, P.C, Jackson, WY; James K. Lubing Law Offices, Jackson, WY; and The Law Offices of John Brazinski, Jackson, WY
- Researched issues concerning federal crimes and defense, federal sentencing guidelines, federal preemption, personal injury, bankruptcy, partnerships and corporations law, real estate law, worker's compensation claims and administrative process, immigration, negligence, medical malpractice, conversion and trespass, state criminal law and procedure, state sentencing guidelines, tort law, and professional responsibility
- Authored briefs for the Supreme Court of Wyoming, and appellate briefs for the 9th and 10th Circuit Courts of Appeal, memoranda, correspondence, complaints, answers, cross-complaints, replies, general motions, 12b6 motions, summary judgment motions, interrogatories and responses, settlement conference briefs, trial readiness reports, petitions for review, and writs of habeas corpus

California Western School of Law, San Diego, CA

Tutor, January 2004 – May 2005

- Tutored 25 failing first year students in all curricula. Tutored on proper case briefing, outlining, memorandum drafting, test taking strategies, and substantive material for Civil Procedure, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Contract Law, Legal Skills, and Property Law
- Tutored classes with 80-100 students on all aspects of Contract Law.

EDUCATION

California Western School of Law, San Diego, CA

Juris Doctor, cum laude, August 2005

- Ranked top 8% - 27 of 342 students
- Academic Achievement Awards (Highest Grade in Class) – Evidence, Legal Skills III, Professional Responsibility, Torts II, and Patent Law
- California Western International Law Journal and Law Review - Associate Editor
- Dean's Honor List - 5 of 6 semesters

University of California, Santa Barbara, CA

Bachelor of Science, Microbiology, June 1999

Teaching/Research Assistant for Mycology, 1997 – 1999, under Ian K. Ross, Ph.D.

PUBLICATIONS

Elisabeth M. W. Trefonas, *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: What It Is, What It Is not, And Where It is Going*, Wyo. Lawyer, June 2014 at 32.

Elisabeth M.W. Trefonas, *Access to Justice for Immigrants in Wyoming*, Wyo. Lawyer, Oct. 2011 at 24.

Editor/Consultant for N. Pieter M. O’Leary, *Cock-a-Doodle-Do: Pandemic Avian Influenza and the Legal Preparation and Consequences of an H5N1 Influenza Outbreak*, 16 Health Matrix: J. of Law-Medicine 511 (2006).

Editor/Consultant for N. Pieter M. O’Leary, *Bio-Terrorism or Avian Influenza: California, the Model State Emergency Health Powers Act, and Protecting Civil Liberties During a Public Health Emergency*, 42 Cal. W. L. Rev. 249 (2006).

Elisabeth M. W. Trefonas, *Has the European Union Reopened the Door to Genetically Modified Agricultural Products?*, 8 J. Biolaw & Bus. 54 (August 2005).

Elisabeth M. W. Trefonas, *Violation of Intellectual Property Agreements May Create Fiduciary Duty and Potential for Punitive Damages*, 8 J. Biolaw & Bus. 51 (April 2005).

Elisabeth M. W. Trefonas, Comment, *California’s Regulation of Non-Consensual Private Property Tows: Why Section 22658(l) is Federally Preempted*, 41 Cal. W. L. Rev. 303 (2004).

VOLUNTEER WORK AND MEMBERSHIPS

Womentum Mentor 2017

Mentor Member – September 2016 - Present

Riot Act, Inc., Jackson, WY

Board of Directors, March 2015 - Present

Dancing with the Stars, Team Royals, Jackson, WY

Dancer- Star, October 2014 – Raised over \$250,000.00 for the Children’s Learning Center

Teton County Treatment Court Program, Jackson, WY

Team Member, April 2014 – Present

Rotary Breakfast Club, Jackson, WY

Assistant Governor of District 5440, 2014-2017

President, 2011 – 2013

Member, June 2009 – Present,

Legal Aid of Wyoming, Cheyenne, WY

Board of Directors, May 2009 – January 2017

American Immigration Lawyers Association, United States

Member, September 2006 – Present

LANGUAGES

Fluent Spanish