



## ABA Death Penalty Representation Project

Summer Associate Project Exchange

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### Single or Multiple Opportunities

Single

### Organization Name

American Bar Association

### Background

The American Bar Association is supporting Louisiana capital defenders in a project to oppose Louisiana's anticipated application for certification under Chapter 154 of Title 28 of the United States Code.

### Scope of Work

Research and investigate how Louisiana's postconviction mechanism operates in practice and develop evidentiary support to oppose Louisiana's certification under Chapter 154 of Title 28.

### Timing

End of summer deadline.

### Jurisdiction

Louisiana

### Contact Information

Please contact Paul Lee ([plee@step toe.com](mailto:plee@step toe.com)) and Natallya Velev ([natallya.velev@ropesgray.com](mailto:natallya.velev@ropesgray.com)) if you'd like to be assigned to this project.

Description

The American Bar Association is supporting Louisiana capital defenders in a project to oppose Louisiana's anticipated application for certification under Chapter 154 of Title 28 of the United States Code. Chapter 154 provides expedited procedures and limitations on federal habeas review in states that guarantee death-sentenced prisoners competent counsel and the litigation resources necessary to develop constitutional claims in state proceedings, with certification determined by the U.S. Attorney General. If Louisiana is certified, federal courts will likely be unable to hear or correct serious claims of constitutional error, including ineffective assistance of counsel and racial bias in capital cases. The project involves researching, gathering, and coding historical data to demonstrate how Louisiana's postconviction mechanism operates in practice and to challenge the adequacy of the state's representation and resource guarantees. Summer Associates will conduct legal research and investigate historical case data to develop an evidentiary record opposing certification.

Subtasks (0)

Reminders(0)