



Li Fowler

Staff Attorney, Community Justice and Movement Lawyering

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SUMMARY

Civil rights attorney with five years of litigation and **community centered advocacy** experience involving constitutional claims, police accountability, detention conditions, and systemic reform. Manages complex federal and state matters from client intake and investigation through discovery, briefing, negotiation, hearings, and resolution. Illinois licensed and admitted to the **U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois**, with a Juris Doctor from an **ABA accredited law school**. Partners with community organizations, legal service providers, coalitions, and interdisciplinary stakeholders on litigation and policy strategies grounded in client priorities. Provides clear research, writing, oral advocacy, public education, and student supervision. Brings sound judgment, organized case management, and a sustained commitment to racial justice and **movement lawyering**.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Staff Attorney

Metropolitan Civil Rights Project 📅 September 2024 to Present 📍 Chicago, Illinois

Leads federal and state civil rights matters involving police accountability, detention conditions, and constitutional claims. Sets case strategy, directs investigations, represents clients, and supervises interns and junior advocates while connecting litigation with community education and policy reform.

- Managed **police accountability** litigation from intake through resolution, protecting client priorities and controlling critical deadlines.
- Led **pleadings**, dispositive motions, **discovery** disputes, and settlement strategy across federal and state civil rights matters.
- Coordinated witness interviews, digital evidence reviews, and community partner **investigations** for constitutional claims.
- Represented clients in **Northern District of Illinois** proceedings, Illinois courts, conferences, hearings, and negotiations.
- Supervised law students through **case planning**, writing review, client preparation, assignments, and professional feedback.
- Created know your rights materials and coalition briefings that translated accountability proposals into practical guidance.

Staff Attorney

Illinois Justice Advocacy Center 📅 August 2022 to August 2024 📍 Chicago, Illinois

Managed civil rights representation for people affected by the **criminal legal system**, combining direct litigation, policy research, **community partnerships**, and public education. Guided matters through investigation, discovery, motion practice, counseling, and advocacy while mentoring students and interns.

- Litigated constitutional matters through intake, investigation, discovery, motion practice, counseling, and resolution.
- Drafted complaints, briefs, **motions**, discovery requests, **memoranda**, and administrative submissions on confinement conditions.
- Built coalition relationships that surfaced recurring legal issues and shaped community informed advocacy responses.
- Synthesized law, public records, and implementation data into policy memoranda on accountability and detention practices.
- Delivered know your rights **workshops** that converted complex legal concepts into practical community guidance.
- Mentored law students through research, writing, **client interviews**, filing preparation, and deadline management.

Judicial Law Clerk

Federal District Court 📅 August 2021 to July 2022 📍 Chicago, Illinois

STRENGTHS

- ♥ **Client centered advocacy**
Centered client priorities during sensitive investigations and negotiations. Clear communication helped people make informed decisions about case strategy.
- ☰ **Complex case management**
Managed overlapping litigation deadlines across courts and forums. A steady case plan kept filings, evidence, and client contact aligned.
- 👥 **Community partnership**
Built trust with advocacy groups and legal service providers. Partners became valuable sources of context, referrals, and shared strategy.
- 🎓 **Student supervision**
Guided students through research, writing, interviews, and preparation. Practical feedback helped them contribute with greater confidence.
- 📣 **Public legal education**
Turned difficult legal concepts into useful workshops and materials. Community participants left with clearer options and practical next steps.

SKILLS

Civil Rights Litigation

Constitutional Litigation

Movement Lawyering

Impact Litigation

Federal Court Practice

Legal Research and Writing

Policy Research Discovery

Briefing Client Counseling

Witness Preparation Negotiation

Oral Advocacy Coalition Building

Student Supervision

LANGUAGES

English Native

Spanish Intermediate

MY CAREER

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MONTHS

Supported a federal civil docket involving constitutional and civil rights disputes through **legal research**, bench memoranda, proposed orders, record review, and hearing preparation. Maintained confidential chambers workflow while developing practical knowledge of federal procedure and case management.

- Analyzed constitutional and civil rights disputes, producing bench memoranda from records, motions, and precedent.
- Researched jurisdiction, pleading standards, **discovery**, summary **judgment**, evidence, and remedies for federal matters.
- Drafted proposed orders and memorandum sections under judicial supervision, strengthening concise legal analysis.
- Reviewed **briefs**, exhibits, and hearing records while tracking overlapping **deadlines** across active matters.
- Supported hearings, settlement conferences, and case management proceedings through accurate preparation and documentation.
- Coordinated chambers **workflow** while protecting confidentiality, professional judgment, and reliable docket records.

PROJECTS

Community Accountability Advocacy 📅 2025

Coordinated community partners around police accountability research, public education materials, and policy recommendations. Listening sessions helped connect recurring concerns with practical advocacy priorities and clearer public information.

Detention Conditions Policy Review 📅 2023

Synthesized legal authorities, public records, and implementation data concerning detention practices. Findings supported coalition discussion, client counseling, and focused recommendations for systemic reform.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Lead counsel recognition for sustained civil rights litigation and client centered advocacy, Metropolitan Civil Rights Project
- Community education leadership recognition for accessible legal workshops and coalition briefings, Illinois Justice Advocacy Center
- Federal litigation achievement through accurate bench memoranda, proposed orders, and confidential chambers support

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor

Loyola University Chicago School of Law 🎓 GPA: 3.8 📅 2021 📍 Chicago, Illinois

Coursework: *Civil Rights Litigation, Constitutional Law, Legal Research, Public Interest Advocacy*

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

University of Illinois Chicago 🎓 GPA: 3.7 📅 2018 📍 Chicago, Illinois

Coursework: *Constitutional Government, Public Policy, Criminal Justice, Legal Institutions*

CERTIFICATIONS

- Illinois Bar, Active and in Good Standing 📅 2021
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Admitted 📅 2022

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Litigation Practice:** Civil rights litigation, Constitutional litigation, Impact litigation
- **Court Practice:** Federal courts, State courts, Administrative hearings
- **Legal Writing:** Complaints, Motions, Briefs
- **Discovery Practice:** Discovery requests, Discovery disputes, Evidence review
- **Policy Advocacy:** Policy research, Legislative advocacy, Systemic reform
- **Client Representation:** Client interviews, Client counseling, Client communication

- **Trial Preparation:** Witness preparation, Evidentiary submissions, Oral argument
- **Community Education:** Know your rights workshops, Public presentations, Community materials
- **Coalition Engagement:** Community partnerships, Legal service providers, Advocacy coalitions
- **Case Operations:** Case management, Deadline control, Docket strategy
- **Government Accountability:** Police accountability, Detention conditions, Public safety reform

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Chicago Civil Rights Bar Association, Community Education Volunteer
- Law Student Mentorship Program, Attorney Mentor
- Illinois legal advocacy community, coalition and community partnership participant

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST