

Phillip A. Talbert

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Legal Employment

Southwestern Law School, 2026-present

Associate Professor of Legal Writing, Analysis, and Skills

- Developing and preparing to teach an intensive version of the school's Trial Advocacy course.
- Preparing to teach Legal Analysis, Writing, and Skills in the SCALE two-year J.D. program.
- Member, Admissions Committee.

Phillip A. Talbert, Attorney at Law, 2025-present

Private Attorney

- Represent indigent criminal defendants on appeal to the Second and Fourth District Courts of Appeal on appointment through the California Appellate Program—Los Angeles and Appellate Defenders Inc., respectively.

United States Attorney's Office, Eastern District of California, 2002-25

Presidentially Appointed United States Attorney, 2022-25

Acting, AG-Appointed, and Court-Appointed United States Attorney, 2016-17, 2021-22

- As the Presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed U.S. Attorney, and twice as the Acting/Interim U.S. Attorney, led a U.S. Attorney's Office of 90 attorneys representing the U.S. in criminal prosecutions and civil affirmative and defensive litigation with offices in Sacramento, Fresno, and Bakersfield, serving 34 counties with over 8 million residents.
- Strengthened relationships with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners; federal bench, defense bar, pretrial services, and probation; and community groups in the district.
- Served on Attorney General's Advisory Committee's Subcommittees on Civil Rights, Controlled Substances, and Office Management and Budget; Resource Allocation Working Group; White House and Civil Rights Division-led Combatting Religious Discrimination Initiative; and Elder Justice Initiative Working Group.
- Led Sacramento OCDETF Strike Force; co-led (with CDCA U.S. Attorney) COVID Relief Fraud Strike Force team; co-led (with NDCA U.S. Attorney) Cross-Jurisdictional Firearms Trafficking Strike Force; and hosted annual EDCA Law Enforcement Executive Summits.
- Co-led (with DOR U.S. Attorney) team that negotiated a nine-figure civil settlement of litigation filed against a DOJ agency.
- Held press conferences to announce events in significant cases, both locally and in D.C.
- Testified for DOJ before U.S. Sentencing Commission on proposed Guidelines amendments.
- Engaged in substantial community outreach, particularly to underserved groups and the faith/interfaith community, in a very diverse district, including regular public speaking.
- Led Sacramento Area Hate Crimes Task Force and created and led Fresno Area Hate Crimes Task Force to encourage law enforcement and community leaders to stand together against hate crimes and to encourage hate crime reporting.

- Helped found and develop annual Sacramento Region Diversity Career Fair to match diverse law students and new lawyers with over 50 prospective private and public employers; expanded office's diverse attorney recruitment; increased to 50% representation of women lawyers in office leadership group; expanded USAO Special Emphasis Program to highlight issues affecting various groups; and created office's first Diversity Committee.
- Member of EDCA Local Rules Committee and Chair of Criminal Rules Subcommittee.
- Recognized by California Lawyers Association as the 2025 *Ronald M. George Public Lawyer of the Year*.

First Assistant United States Attorney, 2011-16, 2017-21

- Selected by U.S. Attorneys appointed by two different Presidents of opposing political parties to serve as the FAUSA, helping the U.S. Attorney lead and manage the office.
- Directly supervised Executive AUSA, Criminal Chief, Civil Chief, Appeals and Training Chief, Fresno Office Chief, Administrative Officer, Public Information Officer, and Law Enforcement Coordinator.
- Held principal responsibility for hiring and promotion of AUSAs and support staff.
- Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys *Director's Award for Executive Achievement*, 2020; Federal Bar Association, Sacramento Chapter's *Night to Honor Service Honoree*, 2019.
- Member of EDCA Criminal Jury Trial Working Group/COVID, two Committees to Consider the Reappointment of a U.S. Magistrate Judge, and EDCA Judicial Advisory Committee.
- Member of State Bar of California Provisional Licensure Working Group that devised and proposed a path toward provisional licensure for law students impacted by the pandemic.

Chief of Appeals and Training, 2008-11

- Responsible for office's practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, including reviewing and editing briefs, conducting moots, deciding upon legal positions, coordinating with Appellate Section in D.C., advising AUSAs on legal issues, and updating AUSAs on legal developments.
- Briefed and argued criminal and habeas appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals.
- As Training Chief, trained and supervised new Criminal Division AUSAs for their first year in the office; as Discovery Coordinator, trained federal, state, and local law enforcement agents in discovery law and policy; as Grand Jury Coordinator, supervised office's grand jury practice and trained new grand juries.

Assistant U.S. Attorney, Narcotics and Violent Crime Unit, Criminal Division, 2002-08

- Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force AUSA in charge of all phases of complex drug trafficking cases, including investigations, wiretaps, grand jury indictment, detention/release, pretrial litigation, plea negotiations, trials, sentencing, appeals, and habeas petitions.
- OCDETF *Meritorious Achievement Award*, 2009; DEA *Certificate of Appreciation*, 2005.

Professional Responsibility Officer & Ethics Advisor, 2004-11

- Advised fellow AUSAs on compliance with California Rules of Professional Conduct and advised all office employees on compliance with federal ethics regulations.

University of California at Davis, King Hall School of Law, 2007-11

Visiting Professor of Law

- Taught Professional Responsibility course to second and third-year law students.
- Designed syllabus, prepared and led weekly classes in the evening, and created and graded final exam.
- Volunteered as a moot court team coach and a moot appeals court judge.

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Professional Responsibility, 1996-2002

Associate Counsel, 2000-02

- Supervised team of OPR Assistant Counsels in investigations of allegations of misconduct by DOJ attorneys.
- Hired and supervised law students and managed summer intern program.
- Instructed DOJ attorneys on OPR policies and procedures at the National Advocacy Center.

Assistant Counsel, 1996-2000

- Investigated allegations of professional misconduct by DOJ attorneys and FBI and DEA agents, including *Brady* violations, misrepresentations to the court, leaks of sensitive information, unconstitutional interview techniques, and improper jury arguments.
- As part of various OPR investigations, interviewed top DOJ and FBI officials.
- Drafted OPR's analytical framework to govern findings of professional misconduct.

Stoel, Rives, Boley, Jones & Grey (now Stoel Rives LLP), Seattle, 1993-96

Associate, Litigation Department & White Collar Crime Practice Group

- Litigated state and federal civil actions for firm's commercial clients, including filing and answering complaints, conducting discovery, briefing and arguing motions, preparing for and assisting in trial, and engaging in settlement negotiations.
- Assisted partner in successful defense of commercial fishing executive charged in federal prosecution alleging unseaworthiness of vessels, including researching and drafting pretrial and trial motions.
- Briefed and argued criminal appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Trial Attorney, General Litigation and Legal Advice Section, Public Integrity Section, and Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, 1990-93

- Hired in the Attorney General's Honors Program.
- In multiple federal districts, prosecuted offenses including immigration fraud, public corruption, perjury, and transportation of obscene materials.
- As Special AUSA detailed to the District of Columbia, managed caseload of 200 misdemeanors, including intake, court appearances, discovery, motions, and trial.

The Honorable David R. Thompson, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 1989-90
Judicial Law Clerk

- Researched and drafted opinions, memorandum dispositions, and bench memoranda.

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP, Los Angeles, Summer Associate, 1989

Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells), Washington, D.C., Summer Associate, 1988

Los Angeles County District Attorney, Law Clerk, 1988

- Prosecuted felony preliminary hearings in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

O'Melveny & Myers LLP, Los Angeles, Summer Associate, 1987

Education

UCLA School of Law, Juris Doctor, 1989

Order of the Coif

UCLA LAW REVIEW, Chief Article Editor

Comment, "The Relevance of Victim Impact Statements to the Criminal Sentencing Decision," 36 UCLA L. Rev. 199 (1988)

AmJur Awards: Criminal Law, Torts; Sanford M. Gage Award

Legal Research & Writing teaching assistant

University of Sydney, Master of Economics, *with honors*, 1987

Rotary Foundation Graduate Scholarship (full tuition and living expenses)

Honors thesis on the development of federal securities regulation in Australia

Harvard University, Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, in Economics, 1984

Honors thesis on inflation uncertainty

Men's Lightweight Crew (four years, varsity letter)

Admitted to Practice: California #145263 (active)