

## JESSE CHENG

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW  
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### EDUCATION

**Harvard Law School, J.D., 2002**

Hale and Dorr Legal Services Center

Public Interest Summer Award (funding for clerkships with the Federal Public Defender)

**University of California, Irvine, Department of Sociocultural Anthropology, Ph.D., 2007**

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant

Dissertation: “Life, Frontloaded: Advocacy, Anticipation, and Death Penalty Mitigation”  
(field research with elite capital defense advocates in federal and state cases)

**Princeton University, A.B., Philosophy, Certificate in Spanish Language and Culture, 1998**

University Press Club

Class of 1969 Community Service Award

### PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

**DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, IL, 2022-present**

*Assistant Professor.* Courses in Criminal Law, Race and the Law.

**Marquette University, Department of Social and Cultural Sciences, Milwaukee, WI,  
2015-2022**

*Assistant Professor.* Courses in Criminal Law, Capital Punishment, and Empathy & Law.

**Law Offices of Jesse Cheng, Los Angeles, CA, 2006-2015**

*Principal.* Private criminal defense with a specialization in capital sentencing. Practice included state, federal, and Military Commissions Act cases at the trial and postconviction levels.

### ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

#### LAW REVIEW ARTICLES & MAJOR ESSAYS

*Death Is Disparate*, forthcoming, SMU L. REV.

*Compassionate Capital Mitigation*, 6 OHIO ST. J. CRIM. L. 351 (2020). (peer-edited)

- Featured “Capital Case Resource” of the Public Defender Association of

Pennsylvania, <https://papublicdefenders.com/capital-case-resources/>

*“Mitigate from Day One”*: *Why Effective Defense Advocates Do Not Prioritize Liberty over Life in Death Penalty Cases*, 14 OHIO ST. J. CRIM. L. 231 (2016). (peer-edited)

- Cited in PENAL REFORM INTERNATIONAL, PRACTICE GUIDE FOR DEFENSE COUNSEL REPRESENTING INDIVIDUALS FACING THE DEATH PENALTY (2019)

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

*Addictive Hypervigilance and Uncontrolled Police Use of Force*, in CHALLENGES IN CONTEMPORARY POLICING: HIGHER EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY, AND OFFICERS’ WELL-BEING (Vicente Riccio, Di Jia & Dilip K. Das eds., 2024).

*The Problem of Humanization: Affect and Investigative Mindset in U.S. Capital Mitigation*, 20 LAW, CULTURE & HUMAN. 120 (2024).

*Slow Law: Temporal Mechanics in U.S. Death Penalty Mitigation Investigations*, 44 LAW & SOC. INQUIRY 1174 (2019).

*Ethnographic Advocacy Against the Death Penalty*, 43 ANTHROPOLOGY & HUMANISM 21 (2018).

- Top downloaded paper for the journal, 2018-2019.

*Humanity’s Subtensions: Culture Theory in U.S. Death Penalty Mitigation*, 61 SOC. ANALYSIS 73 (2017).

*Frontloading Mitigation: The “Legal” and the “Human” in Death Penalty Defense*, 35 LAW & SOC. INQUIRY 39 (2010).

- Cited in *Rippo v. State*, 423 P.3d 1084 (Nev. 2018) (Cherry, J., dissenting)

*The Social History in Death Penalty Defense Advocacy*, 17 CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY 125 (2009).

*Death, Unraveled*, 42 STUD. L., POLITICS & SOC’Y 197 (2008).

*Ethnography’s Formal Seductions*, 27 POL. & LEGAL ANTHROPOLOGY REV. 44 (2004).

## SHORTER PUBLICATIONS

*Preserving Precedent on Capital Mitigation*, forthcoming, U. ILL. L. REV. ONLINE.

*An Open Letter to Law Students on the Death Penalty*, forthcoming, DEPAUL L. REV.

*Why This Killer Should Live*, 44 ANTHROPOLOGY & HUMANISM 162 (2019). (creative non-fiction)

- Honorable mention, Society for Humanistic Anthropology Ethnographic Fiction and Creative Nonfiction Contest

*Review of Thomas E. Sheridan*, LANDSCAPES OF FRAUD: MISSION TUMACÁCORI, THE BACA FLOAT, AND THE BETRAYAL OF THE O’ODHAM. 79 ANTHROPOLOGICAL Q. 783 (2006). (book review)

## MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

*Addictive Hypervigilance and the Uncontrolled Police Use of Force*, POLICING INSIGHT (Feb. 28, 2024), <https://policinginsight.com/feature/analysis/addictive-hypervigilance-and-the-uncontrolled-police-use-of-force/>. (short-form article)

*Are Some Cops Hooked on Violence?*, N.Y. DAILY NEWS (Aug. 11, 2020), <https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-are-some-cops-hooked-on-violence-20200811-jzickjyrgjf33a52afhavctvvq-story.html>. (op-ed)

*How the New Constitutional Amendment Should Protect Victims of Police Brutality*, THE CAPITAL TIMES (June 15, 2020), [https://captimes.com/opinion/column/jesse-cheng-how-the-new-constitutional-amendment-should-protect-victims-of-police-brutality/article\\_5a4d3f0d-8bc8-5f84-a247-86538a98ab92.html](https://captimes.com/opinion/column/jesse-cheng-how-the-new-constitutional-amendment-should-protect-victims-of-police-brutality/article_5a4d3f0d-8bc8-5f84-a247-86538a98ab92.html). (op-ed)

*To the Job Hunters Who Voted for Trump*, USA TODAY (Jan. 2, 2017), <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/contributors/2017/01/02/cheng-job-hunters-voted-trump/96089204/>. (op-ed)

*Why I’m Doubling Down on Millennial College Students*, MILWAUKEE J. SENTINEL (Dec. 1, 2016) <https://www.jsonline.com/story/opinion/2016/11/30/cheng-doubling-millennial-college-students/94699578/>. (op-ed)

*Death Penalty Usurps Talent of Top Prosecutors*, DAILY J. (Feb. 13, 2014). (op-ed)

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

### **DePaul University**

2024-present	Scholarship Review Committee (member)
2024-present	Term Faculty Review Committee (member)
2022-present	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community-Building Committee (member)
2022-present	Public Interest and Public Service Committee (member)
2022-present	Certificate in Criminal Law (director)

### **Marquette University**

2021-22	McGee Lecture Committee (chair)
2020-21	Anthropology Committee (member)
2019-22	Adviser, Interdisciplinary minors
2018-22	Jay Balchunas Memorial Scholarship (faculty director)
2018-19	Mission and Community Engagement Taskforce (member)
2018-19	McNair Scholar Program faculty mentor
2016-19	Undergraduate Research Salon Committee (chair, 2018-19)
2016-17	Faculty Development Committee (member)
2015-22	Criminology and Law Studies Committee (chair, 2021-22)
2015-22	Student advising

**Reviewer for** *American Ethnologist; Law and Social Inquiry; Psychology, Crime & Law; Theoretical Criminology.*

### **SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

“Race-Conscious Restorative Justice.” DePaul University College of Law Faculty Workshop, Chicago, IL (2024).

“Race-Conscious Restorative Justice.” Northern Illinois University College of Law Faculty Exchange Workshop, DeKalb, IL (2024).

“Race-Conscious Restorative Justice.” Chicagoland Junior Scholars Conference, Chicago, IL (2024).

“Race-Conscious Restorative Justice.” Northeastern University School of Law Junior Scholars Conference, Boston, MA (2024).

“Death Is Disparate.” American Association of Law Schools Criminal Law Section Works-in-Progress Workshop, San Diego, CA (2023).

“Death Is Disparate.” DePaul University College of Law Faculty Workshop, Chicago, IL (2023).

“Death Is Disparate.” Chicagoland Junior Scholars Conference, Chicago, IL (2022).

“Advocacy Within Violence and Vulnerability.” Law and Society Association, Chicago, IL (2021).

“Why This Killer Should Live.” American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA (2018).

“Ethnographic Advocacy Against the Death Penalty.” Society for Applied Anthropology,

Santa Fe, NM (2017).

Invited faculty member at capital defense training conferences organized by Advancing Real Change, Bryan R. Shechmeister Death Penalty College, California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, Federal Death Penalty Resource Counsel, NAACP-LDF, National Legal Aid and Defender Association, National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and National Consortium for Capital Defense Training (ongoing since 2006).