

## KATHRYN M. KASE

Kathryn M. Kase is a Senior Staff Attorney at Texas Defender Service, where she also serves as Managing Attorney of the organization's Houston office. Her work is focused on training and providing assistance to capital defense counsel at the trial level. And, because she has a great deal of trial experience, she frequently is called on in her office to represent capital clients at the trial and habeas levels. Her clients have included Daniel Angel Plata, whose death sentence was commuted, and Brian Edward Davis, Charles Dean Hood, and Ricky Eugene Kerr, all of whose death sentences were reversed and their cases remanded for new punishment trials.

Ms. Kase graduated, *cum laude*, in 1990 from St. Mary's University School of Law, where she was an Articles Editor for the St. Mary's Law Journal and elected to the John M. Harlan Society. After law school, she joined Oppenheimer, Blend, Harrison & Tate in San Antonio, where she focused on First Amendment defense. Over the past 20 years, she has become licensed to practice law in Texas, New York and the District of Columbia. She also is admitted to practice in a number of federal courts, including the Southern District of Texas, the Southern District of New York and the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1994, she moved to Albany, New York, where she began practicing criminal defense exclusively and eventually became certified by the Third Department-Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court to defend capital cases. Her first capital case, *People v. Cary Wayne McKinley*, ended in a complete and total acquittal at trial. In 2002, the Criminal Justice Section of the New York State Bar Association named her the Outstanding Criminal Practitioner.

It was while practicing law in New York that Ms. Kase began working with state and national organizations to improve the quality of indigent defense in New York and throughout the United States. She served on the board of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers from 1998 to 2006, has chaired the Association's Indigent Defense Committee, and currently co-chairs its Death Penalty Committee. She is a past-president of the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and, from 2000 to 2003, served as a Board member for the New York State Defenders Association, which provides backup assistance to public defenders and court-appointed lawyers throughout New York. Currently, she is a faculty member of the National Criminal Defense College and NACDL's Capital Voir Dire College, both of which focus their training efforts on public defenders and court-appointed counsel.

In May 2005, Ms. Kase was elected to membership in the American Law Institute. She has served on ALI's Ad Hoc Death Penalty Committee and participates in the Members Consultative Group for the Model Penal Code: Sentencing.

In 2010, she served on the Tim Cole Advisory Panel, which was created by the Texas Legislature to recommend strategies for reducing wrongful convictions in Texas. Currently, she is an appointed member of the Harris County Public Defender Board.