



## Education

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW St. Louis, MO  
J.D. 1996

- *Washington University Law Quarterly*, Associate Editor
- Kent Koerner Memorial Scholarship (For ranking in the top 10% of first year class.)
- Judge Amandus Brackman Moot Court Prize (For high score on moot court brief.)
- Wiley Rutledge Moot Court Society (For winning moot court competition.)
- National Moot Court Competition, Washington D.C.
- Carter-Tedrow Memorial Award (Awarded by graduating class for professionalism.)
- Pro Bono Law Association Public Interest Service Award

INDIANA UNIVERSITY Bloomington, IN  
B.A., Criminal Justice and Speech Communications, 1992

## Professional Experience

**Law Offices of Doug Passon, P.C. & D Major Films, L.L.C.**  
*President and Creative Director* 2008 – present | Scottsdale, AZ

Nationally recognized pioneer in the field of sentencing mitigation videos. Produce documentary films for use in and out of court, including criminal sentencing, death penalty, clemency, civil damages cases, and settlement negotiations. Provide training and consulting nationwide to legal professionals on the use of visual storytelling. Award-winning documentarian.

**Law Offices of Alan Ellis**  
*Of Counsel* 2017 – present | California & New York

Serve as a member of team led by Alan Ellis, one of the preeminent federal sentencing lawyers in the country, handling federal sentencing, prison and post-conviction, appeal and 2255 motions for federal criminal defendants and inmates throughout the United States.

**Office of the Federal Public Defender** 2002 – 2014 Phoenix, AZ  
*Assistant Federal Public Defender, Trial Unit*

Represent indigent defendants in all stages of federal felony prosecutions, including complex and high-profile cases. Conduct jury trials. Train attorneys, investigators and paralegals nationally in trial & sentencing advocacy and challenging government attempts to force-medicate incompetent clients.

**Quarles & Brady/Streich Lang** 2000 – 2002 Phoenix, AZ  
*Associate, White Collar Crime and Special Matters Litigation Unit*

Orchestrated defense of criminal cases in all stages of state and federal prosecutions, from complex corporate criminal investigations to street crimes.

**Maricopa County Public Defender** 1996 – 2000  
*Deputy Public Defender, Trial Unit*

Phoenix, AZ

Carried a continuous caseload of thirty to forty serious state felonies. Conducted numerous first and second chair jury and bench trials, preliminary hearings, and miscellaneous evidentiary hearings.

## Publications

*Attempted Burglary As a “Violent Felony” Under the Armed Career Criminal Act: Avoiding a “Serious Potential Risk” of Confusion in the Wake of Taylor v. United States*, 495 U.S. 575 (1990), 73 WASH U. L.Q. 1649 (1995).

*High Times and Misdemeanors: Warrantless Arrests for Misdemeanors Not Committed in the Presence of an Officer*, FOR THE DEFENSE, Vol. 7, Issue 3 (1997).

*The Drug Court Experience*, FOR THE DEFENSE, Vol. 7, Issue 7 (1997).

*Overcoming the Insanity Concerning Proposition 200 and Prior Violent Crimes*, FOR THE DEFENSE, Vol. 10, Issue 4 (2000).

*If the Grand Jury Will Indict a Ham Sandwich, Something is Not Kosher About A.R.S. § 13-901.01(B)*, FOR THE DEFENSE, Vol. 10, Issue 4 (2000) (co-authored).

*Mitigation and the Movies: Using Moving Pictures to Put Your Client In The Best Light at Sentencing*, THE DEFENDER, Spring 2007, reprinted in THE LIBERTY LEGEND, Vol. III, Issue 5, Summer 2007.

*Forced Medication After United States v. Sell: Fighting a Client’s ‘War on Drugs’ – Part One*, THE CHAMPION, May/June 2008 (co-authored).

*Forced Medication After United States v. Sell: Fighting a Client’s ‘War on Drugs’ – Part Two*, THE CHAMPION, October 2008 (co-authored).

*Using Mitigation Videos to Build the Bridge of Empathy at Sentencing*, Cultural Issues in Criminal Defense (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) (Linda Friedman Ramirez ed., 2010).

*Using Mitigation Videos to Build the Bridge of Empathy at Sentencing (Revised & Updated)*, THE CHAMPION, June 2014.

*Winning at Sentencing with Theories, Themes, & the Creative Demonstration of Truth*, THE CHAMPION, March 2017.

*Story for Lawyers* (Blog) January 2017 – present. ([www.dougpassonlaw.com](http://www.dougpassonlaw.com))

*The Do-It-Yourself Video Equipment Guide for Lawyers & Legal Professionals*, E-Book, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed., September 2017

*Does an Acquittal Now Matter at Sentencing? Reining In Relevant Conduct Through a Recent Restitution Ruling*, co-authors Allenbaugh & Ellis, White Collar Crime Report, 13 WCR 59, Jan. 19, 2018 (BNA).

## Teaching Experience

Legal Research and Writing Teacher's Assistant, 1995-96  
Maricopa County Public Defender Training College, 1998-2002  
Federal Defender Seminar, "Federal Practice Pointers", Phoenix, 2004  
Advanced Federal Defender Training, "Mitigation and the Movies: Using Moving Pictures to Put Your Client in The Best Light at Sentencing", Miami, 2007  
Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice, Winter Seminar, "Cross-Examining Expert Witnesses", Prescott, 2007  
Arizona Public Defender Assn., "Mitigation and the Movies", Tempe, 2007  
National Assn. of Criminal Defense Lawyers, "Litigating Forced Medication Cases", San Francisco, 2007  
National Defender Investigator Assn., "Mitigation and the Movies", Las Vegas, 2007  
Arizona Bar CLE by The Sea, "Mitigation and the Movies", San Diego, 2008  
Western All-Star Conference, "Mitigation and the Movies", Boise, 2008  
National Sentencing Advocacy Seminar, "Persuasive Sentencing Hearings", Chicago, 2008  
Arizona Public Defender Assn., "Mitigation and the Movies", and "Litigating Forced Medication Cases", Tempe, 2008  
Federal Defender Training, "Mitigation and the Movies", Nashville, 2008  
Federal Defender Training, "Mitigation and the Movies", Syracuse, 2008  
Federal Defender Training, "Mitigation and the Movies", Honolulu, 2008  
Federal Defender Training, "Fifth Amendment Challenges to Polygraphs In Sex Offender Treatment", Phoenix, 2009  
Washington University School of Law, Access to Justice Symposium, St. Louis, 2009  
National Sentencing Advocacy Seminar, "Persuasive Sentencing Hearings", Santa Fe, 2009  
National Defender Investigator Assn., "Mitigation and the Movies", Daytona, 2009  
Arizona Public Defender Assn., "Mitigation and the Movies", and "Fifth Amendment Challenges to Polygraphs in Sex Offender Treatment", Tempe, 2009  
Advanced Federal Defender Training, "First Annual Federal Public Defender Sentencing Film Festival" and "Fifth Amendment Challenges to Polygraphs in Sex Offender Treatment", Minneapolis, 2009  
Arizona Bar CLE by The Sea, "*The Staircase*: Lessons Learned in a Hard Fought Case", San Diego, 2009

Federal Defender Training, “Mitigation and the Movies”, Des Moines, 2009

Arizona Bar Professionalism Course, Phoenix, 2009

National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, “*Junk Science: A Case Study*”, Las Vegas, 2010

Arizona State Bar, “*The Staircase: Lessons Learned in a Hard Fought Case*”, Phoenix, 2010

National Defender Investigator Assn., “Producing Powerful & Persuasive Sentencing Documentaries”, Las Vegas, 2010

Advanced Federal Defender Training, “Second Annual Federal Public Defender Sentencing Film Festival, Seattle, 2010

Federal Defender Training, Litigating Forced Medication Cases after *Sell v. United States*, Oxford (MS), 2010

Arizona Public Defender Assn., “Mitigation and the Movies”, Tempe, 2010

Federal Defender Training., “Producing Powerful & Persuasive Sentencing Documentaries”, Ft. Myers, Jacksonville, & Tampa, 2010

Federal Defender Training., “Producing Powerful & Persuasive Sentencing Documentaries”, Tucson, 2010

National Sentencing Advocacy Workshop: Thinking Outside the Guideline Box, San Francisco, 2010

National Sentencing Workshop for Federal Defenders, Chicago, 2010

National Sentencing Advocacy Workshop: Using ‘Moving Pictures’ to Persuade, Puerto Rico, 2010

National Sentencing Advocacy Workshop: Using ‘Moving Pictures’ to Persuade, Atlanta, 2011

Federal Defender Training, Using ‘Moving Pictures’ to Persuade, Virginia, 2011

National Criminal Habeas Conference, Creating Powerful & Persuasive Videos for Use In Habeas & Clemency Proceedings, Austin, 2011

Advanced Federal Defender Training, “Third Annual Federal Public Defender Sentencing Film Festival, Baltimore, 2011

Arizona Public Defender Assn., “Persuasive Use of Video”, Tempe, 2011

Federal Defender Training., “Producing Powerful & Persuasive Sentencing Documentaries”, Corpus Christie, 2011

National Sentencing Advocacy Workshop: Using ‘Moving Pictures’ to Persuade, Redondo Beach, 2012

Advanced Federal Defender Training, “Fourth Annual Federal Public Defender Sentencing Film Festival, Atlanta, 2012

Arizona Public Defender Assn., “Persuasive Use of Video”, Tempe, 2013

Federal Defender Training., “Persuasive Use of Video”, Phoenix, 2013

Arizona Public Defender Assn., “Using ‘Moving Pictures’ to Persuade”, “Video Production for Legal Professionals”, & “Everything I Need to Know About Defending I Learned at the Movies”, Tempe, 2014

Center for American & International Law, “Transforming the Data into a Persuasive Narrative”, Plano, TX, 2014

The Fight for Life Death Penalty Conference, “Death Penalty Mitigation Videos”, Phoenix, 2014

National Sentencing Advocacy Workshop: Using ‘Moving Pictures’ to Persuade, New Orleans, 2015

National Sentencing Advocacy Workshop: Using ‘Moving Pictures’ to Persuade, University of Toledo School of Law, 2015

Arizona Public Defender Assn., “Everything I Need to Know About Defending I Learned at the Movies” (Updated), Tempe, 2015

Federal Capital Habeas Project, Faculty (Clemency Video Panel), Philadelphia 2015

Sentencing Video Consult Program, Federal Defender Office, M.D. Florida, 2015

Sentencing Video Consult Program, Federal Defender Office, S.D. Ohio, 2015

National Defender Investigator Assn., “Producing Powerful & Persuasive Sentencing Documentaries”, San Diego, 2015

National Sentencing Advocacy Workshop, Using ‘Moving Pictures’ to Persuade, La Jolla, 2016

National Defender Investigator Assn., “Anatomy of a Sentencing Video”, Chicago, 2016

Advanced Federal Defender Training, “Theories, Themes & the Creative Demonstration of Truth” & “Using Moving Pictures to Persuade”, Pittsburgh, 2016

National Sentencing Advocacy Workshop, Using ‘Moving Pictures’ to Persuade, Hartford, 2016

Metropolitan Public Defender Services, Full-day mitigation video training workshop, Portland, 2016

American Bar Association Annual Meeting, “The Art & Science of Visual Advocacy”, San Francisco, 2016

Federal Public Defender, Full-day mitigation video training workshop, St. Louis, 2016

Federal Public Defender, Full-day mitigation video training workshop, Dallas, 2016

Federal Death Penalty Resource Counsel, 2016 Strategy Session, Using Moving Pictures & Video to Convince Decision-Makers, Denver, 2016.

National Sentencing Advocacy Workshop, Using ‘Moving Pictures’ to Persuade, Albuquerque, 2017

National Sentencing Advocacy Workshop, Using ‘Moving Pictures’ to Persuade,

Theories & Themes, Storytelling, Baltimore, 2017

Advanced Federal Defender Training, Holding Out for A Hero: Using the “Hero’s Journey” Story Model to Win at Sentencing; 5<sup>th</sup> Federal Defender Sentencing Film Festival, New Orleans, 2017

Federal Criminal Practice Seminar, Using ‘Moving Pictures’ to Persuade, Cleveland, 2017

Federal Public Defender, Full-day mitigation video training workshop, Cleveland, 2017

AACJ Fall Seminar, The Secret Sauce of Master Storytelling: How to Use “The Hero’s Journey” Story Model to Win at Trial & Sentencing, Prescott, 2017.

Federal Criminal Practice Seminar, Theories, Themes & The Creative Demonstration of Truth, Wilmington, NC, 2017.

National Sentencing Advocacy Workshop, Using ‘Moving Pictures’ to Persuade, Savannah, 2017

Utah Death Penalty Defender Training, Anatomy of a Penalty Phase Video (with Jeremy Bogart), Salt Lake City, UT, 2017

NACDL’s 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Criminal Law Seminar, Seeing is Believing: Using Visual, Emotion-Based Storytelling at Sentencing, Aspen, CO, 2018

### Film Production Credits; Screenwriting Credits; Awards & Recognitions

- *Road to Eden*, Feature Length Documentary (2013). Passon wrote, directed, and assisted with filming & editing. *Eden* has played in over forty film festivals and other venues across North America. It is currently available on DVD and Digital download ([www.roadtoedenfilm.com](http://www.roadtoedenfilm.com)).
- *Letter of Thanks*, Short Documentary (2008). Passon wrote, directed, filmed and edited. The movie has garnered awards for “Best Arizona Short Film” at the Phoenix Film Festival, “Best Sound Design”, “Best Documentary”, “Best Editing”, and “Best in Show” at the SCC Film and Videofest, profiled in Arizona Republic and “Arizona Storytellers”.
- *Showbiz Arizona*, TV Series (2007). Passon served as head-writer for locally produced half-hour television show on the Arizona entertainment scene.
- *Romey & Jules*, Short (2006)(Co-Writer). Passon co-wrote award-winning script.
- *Creative Arts Competition* (2014). Passon won best original songwriting category in competition sponsored by the Arizona State Bar.
- *Wall Street Journal* (May 2014), Passon was recognized as a “pioneer” in the area of sentencing mitigation videos.
- *New York Times* (Dec. 2017), Sentencing video work profiled in “Op Doc” short documentary.
- *Le Monde* (France), Sentencing video work profiled in popular European news publication.