

CASSANDRA CEAN OWENS

cceanowens@gmail.com Valley Stream, NY (516) 410-0124
[linkedin.com/in/cassandra-cean-owens-749590208](https://www.linkedin.com/in/cassandra-cean-owens-749590208)

An experienced Legal and Nursing professional with a passion and interest in supporting the criminal justice system's impacted through advocacy, policy creation, teaching, support and mentorship; and helping develop meaningful pathways to successful societal integration. Poised to deploy extensive academic training, leadership, and nursing experience to complete Columbia University School of Nursing's MDE and PhD course of study.

VALUE ADDED SKILLS

Legal Research | Medication Audits | Teaching | Team Supervision | LexisNexis | Westlaw | Workshop Planning | Curricula Design | Student Support | MS Office Suite | Conflict Resolution | Team Management | Outreach | Administrative Management | Palliative Care | Student Assessments | Nursing | Patient Care | Policy Research | Advocacy | Community Partner Relationship Management | Policy Brief Preparation | Home Care | Peer Mentoring | Court Filings | Patient Treatment Plan Development | Coding with Python |

EDUCATION

Juris Doctorate: Law Office Management & Litigation (2001)

WMU Cooley School of Law | Lansing, MI

- Named Outstanding Graduating Student by the Student Bar Association (2001)
- Accomplished Juris Doctorate course of study in two years (1999-2001)
- Awarded Dean's List for Multiple Semesters (1999-2001)

Bachelor of Science in Biology (1997)

SUNY Old Westbury | Old Westbury, NY

- Recipient of: C-STEP Research Fellow Award (1994-1997)
- Named Fogarty Neuro Molecular Fellow (1996)
- Awarded the RCMS Academic Scholarship (1994-1996)

- **Certificate, Coding with Python** | Justice Through Code | Columbia University | New York, NY | 2/2022

- **Certificate, Theological Education and Leadership** | Theological Education and Leadership Program Danbury, CT | 2019

- **Certificate, Inside Out Prison Exchange; Issues in Criminal Justice** | Yale Law School | Danbury, CT | 2019

- **Certificate, Theological Education and Leadership** | Theological Education and Leadership Program Danbury, CT | 2018

- **Diploma, Practical Nursing** | Nassau Tech BOCES | Westbury, NY | 1993

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

REFORM ALLIANCE

New York, NY | July 2021 – Present

With a mission to transform the criminal justice system's approach to probation and parole; a social justice initiative headed by social activists, philanthropists and leaders in the business and entertainment world including Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter, Robert Kraft, Laura Arnold and Robert Rooks where I:

Program Associate | January 2022 – Present

- Collaborate with partner attorneys; streamlining coordination efforts and group projects.
- Assist in the creation and execution of training, informational, and/or presentation associated with legal projects.
- Analyze and interpret policies for leadership team in support of legislative change to the criminal justice system.
- Prepare briefs and memoranda to help drive legislative goals and advocacy work.
- Collaborate with stakeholders and policymakers to assist and support ongoing policy change initiatives.
- Expand REFORM's network of partners engaged in advocacy through outreach and relationship management.

Paralegal Fellow | July 2021 – December 2021

- Fulfilled comprehensive paralegal functions while providing wide-ranging administrative support to the Legal Director and Policy Department.
- Studied and compared policy research and position papers.
- Prepared memos and correspondence.
- Completed public record requests in state and federal court.

CEAN OWENS LAW FIRM Valley Stream, NY | Managing Partner | December 2005 – January 2015

A general practice law firm serving client's legal, and litigation needs in the areas of real estate, landlord tenant, medical malpractice, product liability, personal injury, wills, estates and trust, no-fault arbitrations, I successfully:

- Supervised all stages of alternative dispute resolutions, litigation, pre-litigation, and discovery; commenced lawsuits; drafted pleadings and conducted discovery; while representing clients at depositions, hearings, arbitrations, and trials, including jury selection.
- Managed a staff of nine, including attorneys, paralegals, and other office staff.
- Supervised multiple legal departments, including Real Estate; Personal Injury, Wills, Estates and Trusts; Divorce, Commercial Litigation and Alternative Disputes Resolutions.

LAW OFFICE OF JOSEPH LICHTENSTEIN Mineola, NY | Medical Practice Attorney | August 2002 – March 2003

A team of experienced attorneys litigating and winning medical malpractice and injury cases that other firms have rejected where I:

- Supervised all stages of alternative dispute resolutions, litigation, pre-litigation, and discovery, commenced lawsuits; drafted pleadings and conducted discovery, while representing clients at depositions and trials, including jury selection.
- Handled all stages of medical malpractice cases from initiation of summons and complaint to litigation, including depositions, client interviews, evidence building and settlement discussions.
- Prepared and filed medical malpractice summons and complaints.

CASES, Inc New York, NY | Legal Nurse Consultant | March 2002 -August 2002

A legal nurse consultant agency serving New York City's top medical practice law firms where I:

- Reviewed medical records to determine breaches in standard of care or failure to timely diagnosis or treat.
- Interviewed expert witnesses from a variety of medical specialties.

- Matched medical experts for review of medical records for determination of liability based on my assessment of causation.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Arlington, VA | Intern | | May 2001 – August 2001

- Assisted in organizing and managing all aspects of the caseload for three patent agents.
- Prepared written objection to bio patents due to lack of novelty or usefulness, and obviousness.

MCLEOD & MOYNE, P.C.

Lansing Michigan | Patent Paralegal | September 1999 – April 2001

A United States patent law firm specializing in Control, Basic materials chemistry and Micro-structural and nano-technology. Most important clients were MICHIGAN STATE, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN and JOHNSON LANNY L.

- Prepared written rebuttals to objections of bio patents due to lack of novelty, usefulness, or obviousness.
- Performed research on patent laws, USPTO regulations, and analyzed data to determine the viability of patent applications.

ADVOCACY / POLICY ANALYSIS

THE DAVID ROTHENBERG CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

New York, NY | October 2020 – October 2021

The policy research and development branch of the Fortune Society; an organization created to help integrate justice system involved individuals into society through providing employment, addiction and reintegration services ascending through expanding roles of responsibility, I successfully:

Policy Associate Volunteer | May 2021 – October 2021

- Designed and forwarded policy change recommendations regarding healthcare in prison.
- Advocated for reform of medical care in federal prisons and drafting legislation to improve medical care in federal prison.

Administrative Support | January 2021 – May 2021

- Created a National Campaign aimed at medical care reform on federal prison • Organize virtual and in-person rallies and protests; plan meetings and take minutes.
- Develop agendas for the COVID-19 Justice Coalition meetings.
- Assist with the management of the complex flow of public policy proposals and bill tracking.

Fortune Fellow | October 2020 – December 2020

- Managed the information management platforms; overseeing research and communication
- Developed web and social media strategy focusing on raising social injustice awareness.
- Assisted with the management of public policy proposals and bill flow tracking.
- Designed and authored the first 2020 DRCPD newsletter.

FORTUNE SOCIETY & THE DAVID ROTHENBERG CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Long Island City, NY | Volunteer | May 2001-September 2021

A volunteer role conducting research into policy changes to remove barriers preventing formally incarcerated and justice system impacted individuals from enjoying the full benefits of societal re-integration, I successfully

- Created a national campaign to promote advocacy and policy creation of adequate healthcare services and medical furloughs for individuals incarcerated in federal prisons through advocacy and policy creation.

- Collaborated with stakeholders and policy makers to assist and support ongoing policy change initiatives.
- Prepared briefs and memoranda to help drive legislative goals and advocacy work. Designed and forward policy change recommendations

NURSING EXPERIENCE

AMERICARE

New York, NY | Field Licensed Practical Nurse | June 2021 – Present

A leading provider of a full portfolio of home health services, rehabilitation, managed care and pharmacy services where I contribute to a superior patient continuum of care through:

- Administering medications and delivering care in home-based settings in accordance with treatment plan and immediate needs.
- Review patients' progress and performance levels with Home Care Coordinator.
- Monitoring and documenting care according to the established Plan of Care and RN assessments.
- Implement a range of rehabilitative and preventive nursing interventions.
- Stabilize patients during emergencies with first aid and life support care.
- Distribute medication to patients observing the six rights of medication administration.
- Enhance patient physical recovery with emotional and social support; reporting patient changes to RN and supervising medical doctor.
- Ensure full subscription to all infection control standards and policies.

PARK NURSING HOME / GURWIN ASSISTED LIVING/ BAYADA NURSING REGISTRY

New York, NY | Hospice and Geriatric Nurse | 1994 - 2006

- Offered care and guidance to help individuals and family members manage loved one's end of life stages.
- Ensured the stellar continuum of care for over 50 long term care adult and geriatric patients; administering medications; dressing wounds, monitoring IV infusions and performing GI feeding.
- Served as Head Nurse; monitoring team of Certified Nursing and assessing performance levels.
- Promoted a culture of nursing excellence; supporting the wider medical team resulting in being commended for outstanding clinical skills, compassion and a commitment to patient care.

Needham Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center | Needham, MA | Charge Nurse | August 1998- March 1999

A long-term care facility focused on treating the psychiatric needs of elderly residents unable to be managed at other long-term care facilities due uncontrolled behavioral issue and a and short-term rehabilitative center where I:

- Managed the care and treatment plan of senior patients with behavioral needs.
- Prepared care plans and monitored its implementation by staff to ensure that interventions and goals were met.
- Supervised certified nursing assistants and trained agency licensed practical nurses to ensure excellence in service to residents.
- Created and maintained an environment conducive to the well being and safety of residents and staff.

TEACHING / PEER SUPPORT

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL – PARALEGAL PATHWAYS INITIATIVE PROGRAM

New York, NY | Co-Designer | January 2021 – Present

An initiative to connect formerly incarcerated individuals with employment opportunities in the legal field while building an awareness of the criminal justice system among law students where I:

Paralegal Pathways Initiative Ambassador | May 2021 – Present

- Present and advocate for the Initiative’s sustainability and development at speaking engagements in partnership with Columbia Law School including at fundraising and fellowship cultivation events for organizations, firms, foundations, and potential private donors.
- Engage with over 50 of potential sponsors on behalf and in collaboration with the Initiative.
- Lead and teach fundamental aspects of curriculum design for Spring 2022 Cohort including Workplace Communication and Participant Narratives in collaboration with Columbia Law School faculty and law students.

Co-Designer | January 2021 – May 2021

- Collaborated with law professors, law students, and legal practitioners to develop a 14-week curriculum to support formerly incarcerated individuals pursuing legal careers in New York.
- Provided weekly feedback to 20+ collaborators on curriculum design which included training on legal writing, research, and interviewing; completed final memorandum on complex legal issues.
- Participated in mentorship and coaching components, conferred with professional mentors, and assisted in developing strategies for supporting system-impacted individuals.

DANBURY FPC

Danbury, CT | January 2016 – March 2020

Part of the Danbury Federal Correctional Institute; a women’s facility housing 180 incarcerated individuals. Filling successive roles within the US Department of Labor Apprenticeship program; primary duties included:

Chapel Office Manager / Administrator / Chaplain Assistant | January 2018 – April 2020

- Performed all chapel administrative tasks; supervising, organizing, and coordinating daily observances of various religious groups.
- Updating all chapel resource information manuals and related resources.
- Coordinated religious observance requirements and implemented religious observances.
- Served as the liaison between the Chaplain and the other incarcerated individuals.

Adult Continuing Education Instructor | May 2017 – January 2019

- Instructed classes on legal topics, such as Research & Writing, Introduction to Law, and Legal Studies.
- Created a moot court program; supervising and coordinating moot court classes and a moot court competition in January 2019 with Honorable Judge Sarah A.L. Merriam, U.S.D.J. presiding.

Legal Secretary Apprenticeship Instructor / Law Library Consultant | January 2017 – January 2019

- Assisted in managing and supervising the law library and legal secretary apprentices.
- Delivered training on researching case law and using Lexis Nexis.
- Maintained office files, prepared legal documents, shelved and documented books and materials.
- Created the course curriculum for the US Department of Labor’s legal secretary program.

Teacher’s Assistant | January 2016 – January 2017

- Prepared and presented instructional materials to students; providing individualized tutoring.
- Developed an understanding of the learning needs of students; conducting study skills training.
- Provided support for students’ emotional and social needs.

AFFILIATIONS AND AWARDS

- Member of the Worldwide Association of Small Churches; serving as City of New York Police Chaplain.
- Competent Gavelier Leader | Competent Gavelier Communicator- Toastmasters International

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Subscribing to the belief that healthy communities are created in part by the collective efforts of their members contributing time and resources to the common good, in addition to the volunteer policy impacting roles above, I have contributed to a variety of special interest initiatives including:

SISTER'S IN CHRIST LIFELINE

Valley Stream, NY | Founder & Chaplain | May 2020 – Present

A mission to connect formerly incarcerated individuals with prayer, mentorship and fellowship opportunities while building support and an awareness of Christian Ethos among participants.

Danbury FPC |Christian Foundation Class Founder and Instructor | 2018 - 2020

Designed and instruct in prison a repeating two-month course used to introduce biblical principles of Christian foundation and spirituality.

Becoming My Best Bible Study Book Club | Founder & Instructor | 2017 – 2020

Designed interactive bible study curriculum for Danbury Federal Prison Camp to cultivate and promote Bible knowledge and understanding; delivering impactful Christian studies course content.

Lions (Leos) Club International | President and Member | 1989 - 2012

Lions Clubs International was founded in Evansville, Indiana on 24 October 1916 by William Perry Woods and subsequently evolved as an international service that reach beyond business issues and address the betterment of their communities and the world.

GLORY OF GOD CHRISTIAN CENETR

Brooklyn, NY| Outreach Chairperson | January 2009 – November 2015

A Brooklyn based church and community outreach program sponsoring, food drives, clothes drives and fundraisers.

St. Mary Cathedral's Hospice Home Lansing, MI | Volunteer | November 1999 – May 2001

A church-based hospice care ministry providing compassionate one-on-one, end-of-life support and palliative care to patients whose families can longer care for them at home.

PRESENTATION

Cean Owens, C. (April 2022/Manhattan, NY). *The Personal Benefits and Victories Derived from Reform Alliance's Long-term and Current Advocacy Work*. Presented at Reform Alliance's General Board Meeting.

Cean Owens, C. (June 2021/Long Island City, NY). *The Critical Need for Healthcare Reform and Medical Furloughs in Federal Prisons*. Research and Brief presented at The Fortune Society's Advocacy Board Committee Meeting.

Cean, C. (November 2019/Danbury, Connecticut). *Understanding The Changes to Compassionate Release Based on the F.I.R.S.T. Step Act*. Presented at LexisNexis Training.

Cean, C. (May 2018/Danbury, Connecticut). Sessions v. Dimaya: *The Law, Justice & Legal Research and You Post the Supreme Court's Decision in Dimaya*. Presented at LexisNexis Training.

Cean, C. (March 2018/Danbury, Connecticut). *Understanding the Doctrine of Stare Decisis and the American Judicial System*. Presented at LexisNexis Training.

Cean, C. (May 2017/Danbury, Connecticut). *Building a Road Map for Effective Legal Research*. Presented at LexisNexis Training.

Cean, C. (March 2017/Danbury, Connecticut). *How to Conduct Effective Legal Research for Preparation of Motions and Other Court Filings*. Presented at LexisNexis Training.

MENTORING

Nursing Students:

Kerline Lucien, LPN, RN, 1998-2000

Law Student/Post-Law School:

Valdine Hernius, Esq., 2009-2011

Marie Andre, JD, 2009-2012

Ronald Coley, JD, 2011-2014

Pre-Law/Post-Baccalaureate Students:

Brendon Thomas, 2021-Present

Undergraduate Students:

Jessica Therlonge, 2021-Present

Karen Jones, 2012-2015