

**Steven C. Kessell, J.D.**

**Personal Information:**

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Saipan, MP 96950

**Education:**

May 1986: Juris Doctorate  
University of Maryland School of Law  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

May 1983: Bachelor of Science  
Frostburg State College (now Frostburg State University)  
Frostburg, Maryland 21532

Awards:  
Magna Cum Laude  
Department of Political Science Distinguished Graduate

**Professional Experience:**

January 2020 – Present: Office of the Attorney General  
Saipan, MP 96950

- Assistant Attorney General – Criminal Division

Represent the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in all manner of criminal prosecutions before the Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands.

August 2017 – December 2019: American University of Central Asia  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

- Dean of Faculty

Serve as the faculty's advocate within the University and serve as the liaison between faculty and central administration; responsible for the recruitment, retention, and development of University faculty; oversee the faculty hiring process carried out by the respective academic programs; oversee the faculty evaluation process; oversee the budget performance of individual academic units/programs and prepare hiring and budgets plans; oversee the curriculum development process; review, draft and/or revise internal university policies as needed; investigate internal harassment complaints; perform such other tasks and functions as may be assigned by the University President.

Direct report to the University President.

August 2015 – December 2019: American University of Central Asia  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

- Associate Professor, Law Division

Teach a variety of courses in both the LL.B. and LL.M. programs, including:

Business Legislation and Policy (LL.B.)  
Comparative Law in a Changing World (LL.B. and LL.M.)  
Criminal Law I (LL.B.)  
Criminal Law II (LL.B.)  
Criminology (LL.B.)  
Introduction to Law (LL.B.)  
Lawyers in Film (LL.B. and LL.M.)  
Legal Analysis, Reasoning and Conclusion (LL.M.)  
Legal Writing (LL.B.)  
Research Methods (LL.B.)  
Supervise Senior and Master Thesis Papers

September 1, 2018 – December 2019: Ala-Too International University  
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

- Adjunct Professor of Law

Teach a variety of courses in the LL.B. program, including:

Criminology (LL.B.)  
Information Technology and the Legal Profession (LL.B.)

April 2016 – November 2016: Central Asian Policy Review  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 720060

- Deputy Editor-in-Chief (Non-paying position)

Reviewed, edited and approved articles for publication in the Central Asian Policy Review.

November 2014 – October 2019: American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

- September 1, 2019 – Present: Long-Term Legal Specialist

Provide technical support, specifically the remote monitoring of sub-grantee M&Is, to the ABA ROLI/Progress Consortium “Access to Justice and Support for the Rule of Law in the Philippines” program (Cooperative Agreement Number: AID-OAA-A-16-00044, Associate Award No.72049218LA00002USAID).

- October 1, 2018 – January 31, 2019: Long-Term Legal Specialist

Provided technical assistance to the ABA ROLI “Support to the Kyrgyzstan Legal Defense Community” program (USAID Grant No. AID-176-A-12-00001), specifically, the writing of an external evaluation of the 6+ grant-funded project.

- October 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017: Long-Term Legal Specialist, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Provided technical assistance to the ABA ROLI “Court Monitoring of Drug Related Criminal Cases in Central Asia” program (U.S. Department of State Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Grant No. INLEC-INLCJ-14-011), the goal of which was to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice systems in the Central Asia Republics (CAR), specifically, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, during the investigation, arrest, trial, and sentencing phases of drug related crimes, with particular emphasis being placed on the proliferation of synthetic drug distribution and use throughout Central Asia.

- June 5, 2016 – July 30, 2016: Short-Term Legal Specialist, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Provided technical assistance to the ABA ROLI “Program to Support Legal Reform in Tajikistan” program (US Department of State Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Grant No. S-INLEC-12-CA-0053), the goal of which was to develop the organizational capacity and efficacy of the newly-formed national bar association, the “Union of Advocates”, to effectively support Tajikistan defense advocates by organizing capacity-building trainings for the Union of Advocate’s leadership on strategic planning and other administrative aspects of bar association development and leadership.

- September 11, 2015 – May 31, 2016: Long-Term Legal Specialist

Provided technical assistance to the ABA ROLI “Court Monitoring of Drug Related Criminal Cases in Central Asia” program (U.S. Department of State Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Grant No. INLEC-INLCJ-14-011), the goal of which was to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice systems in the Central Asia Republics (CAR), specifically, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, during the investigation,

arrest, trial, and sentencing phases of drug related crimes, with particular emphasis being placed on the proliferation of synthetic drug distribution and use throughout Central Asia.

- November 7, 2014 – March 15, 2015: Long-Term Legal Specialist

Provided technical assistance to the ABA ROLI “Support to the Kyrgyzstan Legal Defense Community” program (USAID Grant No. AID-176-A-12-00001), the goal of which was to support and assist in the formation and on-going development of the then newly created Advocatura (i.e. unified national criminal defense bar association).

June 2000 – September 2015: Office of the State’s Attorney for Washington County  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

- Deputy State’s Attorney (October 1, 2004 – September 2015)

Responsible for daily operations of prosecutor’s office, including staff supervision (12 attorneys and approximately 20 support personnel), budget management (\$2M USD), docket scheduling (District, Circuit and Juvenile Courts); served as official office representative on numerous community boards; assisted with the development and implementation of Juvenile Drug Court; developed and delivered yearly in-service training to multiple law enforcement agencies; served as special prosecutor for conflict cases; maintained active trial schedule at all trial court levels.

- Assistant State’s Attorney III (June 1, 2001 – September 30, 2004)

Responsible for supervision of juvenile court division’s daily operations, including the supervision of one other attorney and 2 support staff; served as staff attorney for “Safe Place – Washington County Child Advocacy Center”; a while maintaining an active trial schedule.

- Assistant State’s Attorney II (June 5, 2000 – May 31, 2001)

Responsible for preparing and trying criminal cases brought before the Washington County (MD) District, Circuit and Juvenile Courts.

August 1996 – December 1997: Frostburg State University  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

- Adjunct Instructor Department of Economics

Taught Managerial Economics (300 level course) at university’s regional center and at the Maryland Correctional Training Center (state medium-security level penitentiary).

January 1994 – June 2000: Law Office of Steven C. Kessell, P.C.  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

- Principal Shareholder

Maintained solo private legal practice focused primarily on criminal/juvenile defense (including conflict cases for the Maryland Public Defender's Office); family law and wills/powers of attorney.

January 1993 – December 1993: Law Office of Gregory C. Bannon, Esq.  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

- Associate Attorney

Focused primarily on criminal/juvenile defense; civil litigation.

June 1991 – December 1992: U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C.

- Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Trustee

Administered meetings of creditors in “no asset” bankruptcy proceedings in the Federal District for the State of Maryland.

January 1989 – December 1992: Snyder & Poole, P.A.  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

- Associate Attorney

Focused primarily on family law; juvenile / criminal defense in misdemeanor and felony cases; managed branch office in Cumberland, MD.

April 1988 – December 1988: Snyder & Benjamin, P.A.  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

- Associate Attorney

Focused primarily on family law; juvenile and minor criminal/juvenile defense.

August 1986 – March 1988: Hearne & Bailey, P.A.  
Salisbury, Maryland 21802

- Associate Attorney

Focused primarily on real estate title searches, real estate closings, minor criminal and traffic offenses.

January 1986 – May 1986: Hon. James S. Sfekas  
Circuit Court for Baltimore County, Maryland  
Towson, Maryland 21204

- Law Clerk/Asper Fellow

Prepared pre-trial case summary memorandums, conducted legal research, drafted judicial opinions, prepared various other documents, such as jury instructions, voir dire questions, and verdict sheets, as requested by the Court.

**International Symposiums/Conferences:**

Reforming State-Owned Enterprises in Central Asia: Challenges and Solutions, (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (September 26 – 27, 2019)

- Moderator for panel discussion on the evaluation of productivity and performance of State-Owned Enterprises.

Issues of Professional Ethics for Advocates, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (February 14, 2017)

- International expert on lawyer ethics.

Specifics of Investigating and Considering Drug Related Criminal Cases – International Experience, Almaty, Kazakhstan (November 18 – 19, 2016)

- Country Representative of ABA ROLI.

Training on Effective Investigation and Prosecution of Drug Trafficking and Illicit Flow, Tunis, Tunisia (October 24 – 27, 2016)

- Lead trainer for a four (4) day intensive training for Libyan prosecutors, focusing on techniques to understand the nature of international drug trafficking, identify methods used by international drug trafficking organizations and developing effective strategies to prosecute transnational drug traffickers.

The Second International Scientific Conference of the Bar of the Kyrgyz Republic on “Modern Challenges and Trends in the Development of the Legal Profession and Lawyer Activity: International Experience, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic (October 10-11, 2016)

- International expert on the role of the modern bar association in the U.S. legal system and legal professionalism.

International Seminar on Countering Drug-Related Crime and Improving Efficiency of Criminal Law Sanctioning: Mitigating Threats to National and International Security, Political Stability and Accountability, and Economic Development, Tashkent, Uzbekistan (March 3, 2016)

- International expert on the process of consideration of cases of drug trafficking in the courts and on the main issues of defense of clients in drug-related cases.

Regional Meeting on Discussion of the Court Monitoring Results on Drug-Related Criminal Cases, Dushanbe, Tajikistan (December 7-8, 2015)

- Regional representative of ABA ROLI.

International Seminar on Criminal Procedure and Legal Mechanisms to Combat Drug Trafficking: The Experience of Uzbekistan and International Practices, Tashkent, Uzbekistan (December 1-3, 2015)

- International expert on criminal defense practices.

Promotion of the Rule of Law in the Kyrgyz Republic, Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan (October 5-7, 2015)

- International expert on professional ethics.

### **Teaching/Training Experience:**

Maryland State's Attorneys Association Trial Advocacy Course

- Faculty Advisor/Facilitator for three (3) day Trial Advocacy Course for new prosecutors (less than 12 months experience).

Hagerstown Community College Police Academy

- Instructed police cadets in Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendment law, court preparation and etiquette and report writing.

Western Maryland Police Academy

- Instructed police cadets in Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendment law, court preparation and courtroom etiquette, and report writing.

NDA National Advocacy Center

- Faculty Advisor/Facilitator for intensive five (5) day trainings (Trial Advocacy I; Trial Advocacy II; Cross Examination) for prosecutors at the National Advocacy Center when it was located at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.

Yearly In-service Training for Hagerstown Police Department (MD); Washington County (MD) Sheriff's Office; Hancock (MD) Police Department; Smithsburg (MD) Police Department; Boonsboro (MD) Police Department

- Prepared and presented yearly case law and legislative updates to county police agencies as part of their continuing education and recertification process.

### **Professional Associations:**

January 2020 – Present: CNMI Bar Association

April 1988 – August 2014: Washington County (MD) Bar Association

- President: July 1, 2012 – August 19, 2014
- Vice-President: July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012
- Treasurer: July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011
- Director-at-Large: July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2009

April 1988 – December 1992: Allegany County (MD) Bar Association

August 1986 – March 1988: Wicomico County (MD) Bar Association

June 2000 – December 2014: Maryland State's Attorneys Association

- Technology Committee: July 2009 – August 2014

June 2000 – December 2014: National District Attorneys Association

### **Board Memberships:**

June 2014 – August 2014: Executive Board Member, Mason-Dixon Council, BSA  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

July 1998 – June 2003: ARC/Washington County (MD)  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

February 2007 – August 2014: Western Maryland Children’s Center Facility Advisory  
Board  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

October 2004 – August 2014: Representative of Washington County State’s Attorneys  
Office:

- Law Enforcement/Mental Health Advisory Committee
- Washington County Drug and Alcohol Task Force
- Adult Fatality Review Board
- Family Violence Council of Washington County
- Washington County Technical High School Program Advisory Board

### **Foreign Country Experience:**

August 2015 – December 2020: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

June – July 2016: Dushanbe, Tajikistan

November 2014 – March 2015: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

February 2014: Port-de-Paix, Haiti

July 2013: Siguatepeque, Honduras

February 2013: La Entrada, Honduras

July 2012: Siguatepeque, Honduras

January 2012: La Planeta/San Pedro Sula, Honduras

July 2010: Siguatepeque, Honduras

July 2009: San Pedro Poas, Costa Rica

### **Language Proficiency:**

English: Fluent

Spanish: Beginner

Russian: Nominal

### **Publications:**

Kessell, S. and Mateeva, K., *Legal Ethics and the Provision of Free Legal Services in the Kyrgyz Republic*, (Dec. 27, 2017) (ACTED)

<http://www.acted.org/en/facilitating-access-justice-and-strengthening-rule-law-kyrgyzstan>



Saniia Toktogazieva, Elida K. Nogoibaeva, C. Kessell Steven, Kamila Mateeva  
& Kanykei Kasybekova (2019): *Fair trial standards and legitimacy of criminal justice actors in Kyrgyzstan – a research note*, International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice, DOI: 10.1080/01924036.2019.1587709  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01924036.2019.1587709>

Consultant of Clinical Manuals, Ordered by the Ministry of Health of the KR:

Оказание психологической помощи детям, пережившим насилие // Молчанова Е.С (руководитель рабочей группы), МЗ КР, Бишкек, 2018, 67 стр.

Стандарты проведения комплексных психолого-психиатрических экспертиз несовершеннолетних // Молчанова Е. С. (руководитель рабочей группы), МЗ КР, Бишкек, 2019 68 стр.

**References:**

Available on Request