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Current Employment - 1991-Present

Founding Partner
Sleigh & Williams, P.C.
364 Railroad Street
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Vermont's leading boutique litigation firm focusing on Plaintiff's civil rights litigation and criminal defense

Prior Law Related Employment

Caledonia/Essex/Orleans Vermont Public Defender - 1983-1986; 1990-1991

Lead trial lawyer in charge of defending indigent clients before both trial and appellate courts

Hennepin County Public Defender - 1987-1989

Senior trial lawyer defending indigent criminal defendants

Vermont Trial Court Law Clerk - 1982-1983

Assisted Vermont trial judges with research, writing and litigation management

Paralegal-Robins Davis & Lyons, Minneapolis, MN - 1977-1979

In court document management for complex products liability trials including seven month Sunshine Mine disaster trial in U.S. District Court, District of Idaho

Educational Degrees

1977 – BA-Macalester College, St. Paul, MN
Major – Philosophy
Minor – Economics

1982 – JD-Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT
Cum laude

Education Certificates

2007 – National College for DUI Defense-Summer Session

2004 – Indiana University – Robert F. Borkestein Course on Alcohol and Highway Safety: Testing, Research & Litigation

1984 – National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyer Trial Practice Institute

Reported Federal Appellate Decisions

Crowell v. Kirkpatrick – F. Supp.2d ____ (D.Vt. 2009) - 42 USC §1983 case involving excessive force claim against police officers who used Taser devices to secure compliance of protestors chained to a barrel

Woodward v. CMS, 368 F.3d 917 (7th Cir. 2004) - Seventh Circuit upholds \$1.5 million dollar verdict in jail suicide case brought against private prison health contractor under § 1983

U.S. v. Mitchell, 358 F.3d 216 (2nd Cir. 2004) - Defendant challenged disparity of sentences imposed on similarly situated co-defendants

U.S. v. Martin, 78 F.3d 808 (2nd Cir. 1996) - Defendant challenged sentence on the basis of impermissible double counting of guideline provisions

Reported State Appellate Decisions

State v. Colby, ___ Vt. ___ (2009) – Successful challenge of protestors convictions based upon assertion of First Amendment free speech rights

State v. Bonvie, 182 Vt. 216 (2007) - Successful challenge to DWI conviction, sustaining trial court's finding that operator may revoke earlier refusal to provide breath sample for alcohol analysis

In re Sleigh ex rel Unnamed Motorists, 178 Vt. 547 - Vermont Superior Court reverses Board of Health's directive to Commissioner of Health to reactivate the memory capacity of the State's alcohol breath testing devices

State v. McQuillan, 175 Vt. 173 (2003) - Vermont's Supreme Court holds that violation of Commissioner of Health's regulations pertaining to collection and analysis of breath alcohol does not preclude admissibility of breath tests

State v. Gilman, 173 Vt. 110 (2001) - Vermont Supreme Court holds that denial of opportunity to consult with counsel prior to deciding whether or not to submit to alcohol testing precludes admission of test results and/or refusal to take test

State v. Mountford, 171 Vt. 487 (2000) - Vermont Supreme Court reverses denial of suppression motion holding State failed to prove entry into home was justified by emergency doctrine

State v. Lussier, 171 Vt. 19 (2000) - Vermont Supreme Court holds that Vermont Constitution's exclusionary rule applies to unreasonable seizures in civil license suspension proceedings in Vermont

State v. O'Neil, 165 Vt. 270 (1996) - Vermont Supreme Court upholds obstruction of justice conviction by uniquely determining there need not be a relevant pending proceeding at the time of the actus reus

In re Grievance of David Towle, 164 Vt. 145 (1995) - Vermont Supreme Court upholds discharge of one, but not another, corrections officer despite joint participation in wrongdoing

State v. Thompson, 158 Vt. 452 (1992) - Vermont Supreme Court strikes trial Court's sentence as the same was imposed vindictively in retaliation for Defendant's expressed intent to appeal conviction

State v. Squires, 147 Vt. 430 (1986) - Vermont Supreme Court upholds DWI conviction on facts but recognizes availability of necessity defense in DWI prosecutions

Federal Jury Trials

Federal Civil

Woodward v. Correctional Medical Services, (N.D. Illinois, Gettleman, J.) - Month long jury trial ending in \$1.5 million dollar verdict against private prison health care provider

Federal Criminal

USA v. Tomasi, 2:98-cr-86, December 6-10, 1999 - Drug charges

State Jury Trials

State Civil

Brown v. Allstate Ins, 109-5-01 Cacv, March 10-11, 2003 - Personal Injury

Lussier v. Bailey, Fishman & Leonard, 166-6-00 Cacv - Legal Malpractice

State Criminal

State v. Rooney, 4631-10-06 Cncr May 13-22, 2008 - Aggravated Murder

State v. Stevens, November 26-29, 2007 – 1st Degree Murder

State v. Lary, 250-4-06 Cacr, March 27, 2007 – DWI

State v. Liberty, 44-1-06 Cacr, October 10, 2006 – DWI

State v. Hale, 265-5-05 Cacr, April 18, 2006 – DWI

State v. Cloud, 4684-8-03 Cncr, 5255-9-03 Cncr, 2141-4-04 Cncr, May 9-16, 2005 –
Attempted Murder – 3 Counts
Reckless Endangerment – 2 Counts
Simple Assault – 2 Counts

State v. Lawson, 335-6-04 Cacr, January 11, 2005 – DWI

State v. Perez, 921-6-02 Wmcr, November 11-12, 2004 – Aggravated Murder

State v. Leopold, 677-12-02 Oscr, November 21, 2003 – DWI

State v. Breen, 181-12-00 Excr, September 17-18, 2001 – Negligent Operation-Fatal

State v. Searl, 580-6-00 Cacr, August 2, 2001 – DWI

State v. Daniels, 135-9-00 Excr, July 23, 2001 – Unlawful Trespass

State v. Johnson, 1039-10-00 Cacr, March 2, 2001 – DWI

State v. Norcross, 899-9-99 Cacr, October 3, 2000 – DWI

State v. Franklin, 34-3-00 Excr, July 27, 2000 – DWI/Domestic Assault

State v. Fisher, 427-5-99 Cacr, March 8, 2000 – DWI

State v. Noble, 28-3-99 Excr, August 30-31, 1999 – Reckless Endangerment, 2 Counts

State v. Nichols, 1102-10-98 Cacr, August 17, 1999 – DWI

State v. Dubois, 802-8-98 Cacr, August 10, 1999 – Domestic Assault, 2 Counts

State v. Gardner, 697-7-98 Cacr, July 12-13, 1999 – DWI

State v. Farley, 370-4-98 Cacr, February 22 & 23, 1999 – Simple Assault/Police Officer

State v. Goslant, 399-4-98 Cacr, February 11, 1999 – Domestic Assault

State v. Gonyaw, 500-5-98 Cacr, December 1, 1998 – DWI 3rd offense

State v. Willis, 950-12-97 Oscr, November 19, 1998 – Simple Assault

State v. Cahill, 4-1-98 Excr, September 11, 1998 – Negligent Operation

State v. Tracey, 669-7-97 Cacr, August 24-27, 1998 – Sexual Assault/Minor,
Unlawful Restraint and Simple Assault

State v. Ward, 902-12-97 Oscr, August 13, 1998 – DWI

State v. Devost, 179-11-95 Excr, August 6-7, 1998 – Fish & Game/Moose hunting

State v. Wright, 903-12-97 Oscr, August 5, 1998 – DWI

State v. Lewis, 919-12-97 Oscr, August 3, 1998 – DWI
State v. Avery, 1235-11-97 Cacr, May 20, 1998 - Domestic Assault
State v. Billings, 1075-10-97 Cacr, May 18, 1998 – Viol-Abuse Prevention Order
State v. Cecchinelli, 419-5-97 Cacr, February 13, 1998 – DWI
State v. Rivard, 423-6-97 Oscr, February 2, 1998 – DWI
State v. Dekoeyer, 332-4-97 Cacr, January 8, 1998 – DWI
State v. Poitras, 445-5-97 Cacr, September 17, 1997 – Simple Assault
State v. Grondin, 236-3-97 Cacr, July 10, 1997 – Driving License Suspended
State v. Follett, 1145-12-96 Cacr, May 26, 1997 – DWI
State v. Villeneuve, 998-11-96 Cacr, April 1, 1997 – Domestic Assault
State v. Pelow, 1083-11-97 Cacr, March 19, 1997 – Domestic Assault
State v. Rodriquez, 1034-11-96 Cacr, February 19, 1997 – Unlawful Mischief
State v. Tetreault, 764-8-96 Cacr, November 25, 1996 – Domestic Assault
State v. vanVliet, 1001-11-95 Cacr, February 12, 1996 – DWI
State v. Tilden, 149-2-95 Cacr, July 11, 1995 – Retail Theft
State v. Bartlett, 144-3-95 Oscr, March 21, 1995 – DWI 4th
State v. Billado, 406-9-93 Oscr, May 15, 1995 – Unlawful Mischief
State v. Frederick, 859-11-94 Cacr, March 16, 1995 – DWI 2nd
State v. Tucker, 591-8-94 Cacr, January 18, 1995 – DWI
State v. Cahill, 191-3-94 Cacr, October 18, 1994 – DC
State v. Williams, 155-2-94 Cacr, October 17, 1994 – DWI
State v. Stimpson, 681-10-93 Cacr, September 29, 1994, Furnishing Malt Beverage
State v. Tanner, 254-4-94 Cacr, September 14, 1994 – Sexual Assault/Minor
State v. Noyes, 139-2-94 Cacr, August 19, 1994 – VAPO - 3 Counts-felonies
State v. Trono, 207-3-94 Wncr, August 9-15, 1994 – Simple Assault
State v. Carter, 913-12-93 Cacr, June 17, 1994 – DWI 3rd,
State v. Wood, 88-1-93 Cacr, May 23, 1994 – DWI 3rd, OOC
State v. Klofach, 855-12-93 Cacr, May 18, 1994 – Simple Assault
State v. Crown, 625-9-93 Cacr, May 17, 1994 – DWI, ATE, UM, LSA
State v. Berube, 226-3-93 Cacr, April 22, 1994 – DWI
State v. Allen, 883-12-93 Cacr, April 21, 1994 - Viol Abuse Prevention Order

State v. Keating, 328-5-93 Cacr, April 20, 1994 – DWI & PMJ
State v. Darling, 529-8-93 Cacr, April 14, 1994 – Simple Assault x2
State v. Maloney, 567-8-93 Cacr, February 2, 1994 – Simple Assault
State v. Young, 179-3-93 Cacr, January 19, 1994 – DWI , SAPO
State v. Martel, 65-1-93 Cacr, January 18, 1994 – DWI
State v. Hart, 86-10-92 Ecr, November 4, 1993 – Simple Assault
State v. Crown, 536-8-92 Cacr, July 14, 1993 – DWI²
State v. Fuller, _____ - __ - __ Cacr, June 23, 1993 – DWI
State v. Pierce, _____ - __ - __ Cacr, April 21-23, 1993 – Delivery of Marijuana
State v. Letourneau, _____ - __ - __ Oscr, April 13, 1993 – DLS #5, ATE, C&N
State v. Crawford, _____ - __ - __ Oscr, February 26, 1993 – LSA
State v. Ouellette, _____ - __ - __ Cacr, February 24, 1993 – LSA
State v. King, _____ - __ - __ Cacr, February 23, 1993 – DWI²
State v. Cunningham, _____ - __ - __ Oscr, February 4-5, 1993 – PMJ
State v. Crawford, 184-11-91 Ecr, January 5-7, 1993 – SxA, B&E
State v. Jarry, _____ - __ - 92 Cacr, December 15-16, 1992 – Sxa/Minor
State v. Billings, _____ - __ - 92 Cacr, December 10, 1992 – FIPO (felony)
State v. Kirk, _____ - __ - 92 Cacr, October 22, 1992 – Simple Assault
State v. Huntley, 84-2-92 Cacr, October 21, 1992 – Felony Retail Theft
State v. Weaver, 80-8-92 Ecr, October 8, 1992 – Abuse of an Adult
State v. Mable, _____ - __ - 92 Cacr, September 23, 1992 – Simple assault
State v. Cushman, _____ - __ - 92 Cacr, September 11, 1992 - Simple Assault
State v. Price, 1040-12-91 Cacr, August 26, 1992 – B&E, OOC, PL
State v. Easter, 157-3-92 Cacr, August 20, 1992 – Violation Abuse Prevention Order
State v. Thompson, 249-4-92 Cacr, August 19, 1992 – DWI²
State v. Luongo, _____ - __ - __ Cacr, May 5, 1992 – DWI
State v. Newell, 877-10-91 Cacr, April 17, 1992 – DPT
State v. Reiss, 951-11-91 Cacr, April 3, 1992 – DWI
State v. Mackay, 192-1-91 Cacr, October 29, 1991 – B&E
State v. Thompson, _____ - __ - 90 Cacr, February 21-22, 1991 - SA x2
State v. Moulton, 269-3-90 Cacr, November 16, 1990 – DWI²

State v. Conn, 226-3-90 Cacr, November 14, 1990 – DWI ³
State v. Wallace, 1179-10-89 Cacr, January 18, 1990 – DWI ²
State v. Vincent, 325, 326, 327-3-89 Cacr, October 31 thru November 4, 1989
B&E, SxA, Carry Dangerous Weapon
State v. Parenteau, 403-9-86 Oscr, February 4, 1987 – Simple Assault
State v. Collins, 485-10-85 Oscr, January 29, 1987 – DWI ²
State v. Roberge, Orleans District Court, November 17, 1986 - DLS, C&N, ATE
State v. Allen, 239-4-86 Cacr, June 18, 1986 - SAPO
State v. Parks, 555-7-85 Cacr, January 30, 1986 – Simple Assault
State v. Ellsworth, 127-2-85 Cacr, January 23, 1986 – DWI
State v. Somers, _____ - ____ - 85 Cacr, December 6, 1985 – DWI
State v. LeClair, _____ - ____ - 84 Oscr, _____, 1985 – Simple Assault
State v. Benware, _____ - ____ - 84 Oscr, _____, 1985 - DWI
State v. Hicks, 341-6-84 Oscr, January 21, 1985 – Lewd & Lascivious
State v. Boucher, 247-5-84 Oscr, November 7, 1984 – DWI 2
State v. Buckland, 533-11-83 Oscr, May 31, 1984 – FMB
State v. Squires, 142-3-83 Oscr, August 25-26, 1983 – DWI

Lectures/Presentations

June 4, 2009 – Green Mountain Juvenile and Criminal Defense Institute
Lecture to criminal defense practitioners on implications of National Research Council’s Strengthening Forensic Science (2009)

June 28, 2006 – Harvard Associates in Police Sciences – Annual Convention
Lecture to police death investigators regarding crime scene investigation and evidence integrity.

March 3, 2006 – Vermont Bar Association Mid-Winter Meeting – The Complete Appellate Lawyer
Presentation to Vermont Bar members relating to appellate practice before Vermont Supreme Court. Co-presenters include Justices Johnson, Reiber and Burgess.

June 6, 2004 – Green Mountain Juvenile and Criminal Defense Institute

Lectured Vermont criminal defense practitioners on basic science of alcohol pharmacokinetics and opportunities for cross-examining the State's alcohol toxicologist.

February 11, 2003 – Lorman Education Services Seminar-Strategies in Handling DWI cases in Vermont

All day seminar to criminal defense practitioners relating to all aspects of DWI defense.

March 19, 1999 – Office of the Vermont Defender General-Representing People of Color in Vermont

Lectured criminal defense practitioners on jury selection and jury instructions in cases with of color defendants including successful “race switching” instruction used in State v. Tracey.

June 6, 1997 – Office of the Vermont Defender General-PCR DNA

Lectured criminal defense practitioners on aspects of PCR DNA identification evidence with particular focus on National Research Council's “The Evaluation of Forensic DNA Evidence” (NRC II).

Publications

Technical Note: Systematic differences in electropherogram peak heights reported by different versions of the GeneScan ® and GeneMapper ® software; Gilder, Kershner, Simons, Sleight and Krane (in press)

DWI Journal: Law & Science: Alveolar Air – Forensic Scientists Have it Wrong; Hlastala, Sleight (January 2004)

Expert Testimony

State v. DeGuise, Docket No. 4383-10-06 Cncr

Provided expert testimony opining that trial counsel's performance failed to provide effective assistance of counsel.

State v. Grega, 175 Vt. 631 (2003)

Provided expert testimony opining that trial counsel's performance provided effective assistance of counsel.

Other Activities

Khandan v. Bush, 1:05-cv-1697 (US District Court, District of Columbia)

Challenged Guantanamo Bay prisoner's detention as enemy combatant. Plaintiff successfully repatriated to Afghanistan.

State v. Hongisto, Undocketed Wncr (2007)

Successful challenge to Court's order granting warrant to wiretap lawyer's phone calls with undercover officer attempting to entrap her.

State v. Batchelder, 1127-8-95 Wmc (1997)

Mounted first systematic Rule 702 challenge to the admissibility of DNA PCR identification evidence.