

La Mer Kyle-Griffiths brings extensive experience and dedication as a lifelong public defender across multiple states, including Kentucky, Massachusetts, Washington, Oklahoma, and California. Her journey began in Kentucky, where she tackled complex cases within the Capital Defense Unit, including several death penalty litigations, and argued cases before the Kentucky Supreme Court.

Transitioning to Massachusetts, La Mer continued her impactful advocacy across juvenile, capital, felony, and misdemeanor cases. Her career expanded further in Seattle, where she led training initiatives for over 400 public defense team members, emphasizing the critical need for addressing implicit bias in legal practice. She became certified to teach and facilitate discussions on equity and inclusion, recognizing their vital role in defense strategies.

Prior to her current role as Training Division Chief at the LA County Public Defender's Office, La Mer was an Assistant Public Defender with the Santa Barbara County Public Defender's Office. She also served as the Director of Training and Complex Litigation at Still She Rises in Tulsa. There, she focused on representing women caregivers, a demographic suffering from the highest female incarceration rate in the nation. Her work included strategic planning, performance reviews, and developing training programs that integrated a racial and gender lens into litigation strategies.

La Mer's influence extends nationally through her teaching engagements at institutions like the Darrow Baldus Death Penalty College, the National Criminal Defense College, and Harvard Law School's Trial Advocacy Workshop. She is actively involved in leadership positions, including as the newly elected secretary of the Executive Board of NAPD and serving on the Board of the National Criminal Defense College. Her commitment to advocacy and education is underscored by her roles with CPDA, NLADA, NAPD, and BPDA, where she trains on topics ranging from capital litigation to leadership and equity.

A graduate of the University of Dayton School of Law, La Mer continues to shape the future of criminal defense, balancing her professional pursuits with family life alongside her husband, a fellow capital defender, and their children. Her eldest daughter attends UCLA, while her twin daughters are learning the ropes of the legal world early, echoing their mother's passion with their own spirited cries of "Acquittal."