

Thomas M. Leith is a Staff Attorney in the Appeals Program at the Hiscock Legal Aid Society in Syracuse, New York. Tom has been at Hiscock Legal Aid since 2020, handling primarily criminal cases for indigent clients on direct appeal and collateral review. He has briefed cases in Onondaga County Supreme Court, the Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department, and Court of Appeals.

Tom spent the previous 10 years as a trial-level public defender: first with Brooklyn Defender Services in Brooklyn, New York, then with the Law Offices of the Shelby County Public Defender in Memphis, Tennessee. In his years in the courtroom, Tom has defended every type of case, from violations, misdemeanors, to clients charged with first degree murder.

Before entering public service, Tom worked as an associate at Sidley Austin, LLP in New York, New York, practicing general commercial litigation. He then moved to the boutique firm Spears & Imes, LLP, also in New York, where he focused on white collar defense and SEC investigations.

Tom clerked for then-Chief Judge Raymond J. Dearie of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. He earned a bachelor's degree from University of Wisconsin-Madison, graduating with distinction, and received a Juris Doctor from New York University School of Law, where he graduated *cum laude* and was a Dean's Scholar and McKay Scholar. Before his legal career, Tom was a professional musician.