

# Law Firm announces Essay Competition in Honor of the late Criminal Defense Attorney Deron Castro

*Criminal Defense Attorney Patrick Michael Megaro, the Senior Partner at Halscott Megaro, P.A. announces the creation of the Deron Castro Memorial Scholarship.*

ORLANDO, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, August 5, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Deron Castro](#), a New York criminal defense attorney par excellence, departed this Earth too soon and too suddenly in late July 2018. He will not be forgotten by his family, his children, his colleagues whose respect he earned, and his many grateful clients whom he served in over 24 years of his law practice. He sought justice for many unjustly accused. He took more than 90 criminal cases to trial, winning the vast majority of them.



Deron Castro in the courtroom with a client (Mr. Castro and Mr. Patrick Megaro often cooperated in cases)

Only days earlier, in early July 2018, Deron had a major win in the Queen's County Supreme Court when the judge agreed to throw out evidence against the defendant in a murder case after a pre-trial hearing. The District Attorney sought to introduce statements of the defendant made during an interrogation by homicide detectives. After carefully cross-examining the detective at the hearing, Castro was able to persuade the judge to suppress the evidence by citing past cases where similar evidence was tossed out. It is quite unusual for a judge to suppress a defendant's own statements, let alone to have them suppressed in a murder case. Few attorneys could accomplish such a feat in court. Deron was one of them.

“

If I or anyone in my family was charged with a crime, I would have hired Deron Castro. He was hands down one of the best trial attorneys in New York and in the country.”

*Patrick Michael Megaro,  
personal friend and colleague*

In his honor, [Halscott Megaro](#), P.A. will be hosting its Annual Essay Writing Competition, which is open to all current full-time and part-time enrolled students in an ABA accredited law school. One winner will be selected and will receive a \$1000.00 scholarship award from the Deron Castro Memorial Scholarship.

Deron Castro, Esq. was a personal friend and colleague of Patrick Michael Megaro. Mr. Castro started his career at The Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Division, in Queens, New York as a public defender before going into private practice. Mr. Castro and Mr. Megaro cooperated in criminal cases, such as the successful appeal in *People v. Small* (2011), see <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/ny-supreme-court/1565846.html>.

He was well-known and respected as one of the most successful and skilled criminal defense attorneys, securing acquittal after acquittal for his clients. A fearless advocate, he provided nothing but the highest caliber of representation to his loyal and dedicated clientele.

States Mr. Megaro, "If I or anyone in my family was charged with a crime, I would have hired Deron Castro. He was hands down one of the best trial attorneys in New York and in the country. Castro won with his skill, preparation, and fighting spirit. He was highly respected by other criminal defense lawyers and feared by prosecutors."

Outside of the courtroom, Deron Castro was a loving and devoted father of three and caring husband. Always involved in his children's activities, one could find Mr. Castro running from basketball practice to dance recitals at night and on the weekends. He was known for his kindness, generosity, and perpetual positive attitude which impacted all those around him.

This Scholarship is dedicated to the memory of one of the great lawyers in New York City, and the United States, to ever grace a courtroom with his presence.

#### Eligibility:

The scholarship is open to all current full-time and part-time matriculated students in an ABA accredited law school.

#### How to Apply:

For applying the essay contest, the candidates must write a 1000 word or fewer essay on the following topic:

What makes the difference between a good and a great criminal defense attorney?

Deron certainly was one of those great attorneys, but what exactly makes a criminal attorney



News 12 New York, Interview with Deron Castro (Mr. Castro and Mr. Patrick Megaro often cooperated in cases)



Patrick Megaro, Attorney, on Today Exclusive Television



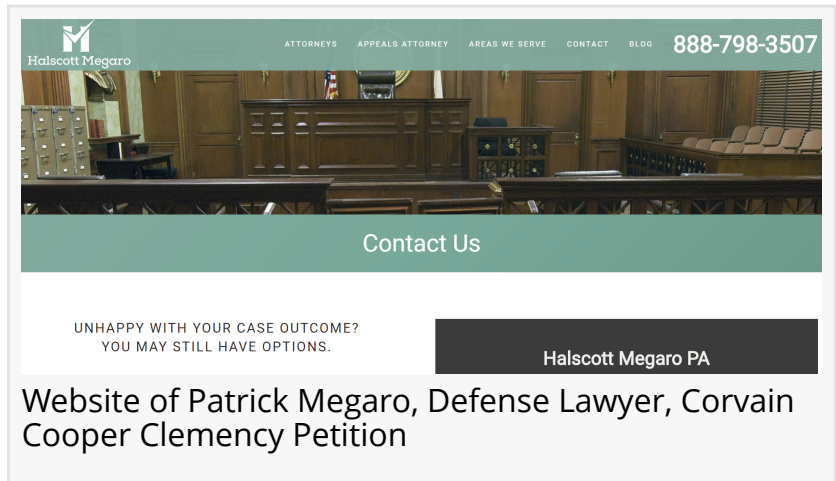
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“great”? Here is a starting point. One criminal defenses attorney suggests that four qualities are necessary to be at least “good”: “[1] The single most important thing a criminal defense lawyer can do is over-investigate their case. It is the probably the biggest single difference in lawyers, how much independent investigation they do. .... [2] Everyone knows that criminal defense lawyers must be strong negotiators. ... There are really only two factors that should be considered in negotiation: what does this person deserve and what is the likelihood of conviction if the case proceeds to trial (what is the strength of the case). ... [3] Third, provide a technical legal defense. This is the kind of thing you learn in law books. Read the discovery. Read the law. Reread the discovery. Reread the law. There is usually something to argue about. ... [4] In my opinion, the toughest skill, is being able to win at trial. Not many lawyers will take tough cases to trial. ...” Robert King, “What makes a good criminal lawyer?”, see <https://www.robertkinglawfirm.com/blog/2017/may/what-makes-a-good-criminal-lawyer-/> (2017)



Website of Patrick Megaro, Defense Lawyer, Corvain Cooper Clemency Petition

#### Submission Details:

Your essay must be submitted via email to [info@appealslawgroup.com](mailto:info@appealslawgroup.com) and must be in Word or PDF format.

In the alternative, the applicant may submit a 5-minute (or less) video essay. The video must be a closeup of the applicant, giving their essay as a lecture or speech, addressing the camera directly and must have a green screen in the background. Editing is permitted.

The essay must be submitted along with a short bio on the applicant, a passport-style photograph of the applicant, and a release permitting publication of the photograph and the essay (or video) by Halscott Megaro, P.A., its agents or assigns.

#### Award Amount:

The \$1000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the winning candidate.

#### Application Deadline:

The deadline for essay submission is September 1, 2018

The winner will be announced September 8, 2018

Halscott Megaro, P.A. is a law firm dedicated to the pursuit of justice, focusing on criminal and civil appeals, post-conviction relief, criminal defense, clemency advocacy, and civil rights advocacy. Website: <https://www.appealslawgroup.com>

Deron Castro Condolences are published at

<https://fairchildsons.com/tribute/details/1860/Deron-Castro/condolences.html#content-start>

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