

Biographical Summary for Emily A. Gunston

Emily Gunston serves as Special Litigation Counsel in the Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. Ms. Gunston specializes in litigating civil rights cases related to institutional reform, patterns or practices of law enforcement misconduct, and corrections. She has managed some of the highest profile cases brought by the Department of Justice. Ms. Gunston led the investigation, negotiation, and settlement of allegations of unconstitutional conduct by the Cleveland Division of Police. She also manages the New Orleans Police Department case and currently co-leads the civil investigation of the Chicago Police Department. Prior to joining the Department of Justice, Ms. Gunston served as a deputy public defender in Contra Costa County, California, where she defended indigent clients accused of a wide variety of misdemeanor and felony crimes, including homicide. Ms. Gunston has extensive experience in both civil and criminal litigation, having tried more than 40 cases. Ms. Gunston received her undergraduate degree, cum laude, with Honors in History, from the University of Maryland, College Park and earned her Juris Doctor from the University of California, Berkeley. She has received numerous awards and accolades for her work, including the prestigious Attorney General's John Marshall Award and the Assistant Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award.