



TIERNEY E. VIAL

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Tierney E. Vial is an associate attorney whose practice focuses on appeals.

During law school, Tierney assisted in representing an elderly incarcerated client through the Washington Innocence Project in a case that established a new Washington standard for cruel punishment in conditions of confinement. She successfully argued in front of Division II that the cruel provision of the Washington Constitution offers more protection than its federal counterpart in the conditions of confinement context *in re Pers. Restraint of Williams*, 15 Wn. App. 2d 647, 476 P.3d 1064 (2020). The Washington Supreme Court granted discretionary review and held for the first time that conditions of confinement which create a substantial risk of serious harm are cruel punishment unless reasonably necessary to accomplish a legitimate penological goal (*In re Pers. Restraint of Williams*, No. 99344-1 (Wash. Oct. 7, 2021)).

After her first year in law school, Tierney interned in the Violence Against Women Act Unit at Northwest Immigrant Rights Project.

Before studying law, Tierney taught high school English literature at Casablanca American School in Morocco and English as a second language at a primary school in Vigo, Spain.

Education

JD, University of Washington,
2021 with Honors

Order of the Barristers, Invited
Member

Executive Articles Editor of the
Washington International Law
Journal

Clinical Legal Education
Association Outstanding Clinic
Team Award 2021

Moot Court Honor Board,
Invited Member

Peterson Wampold Feldman
Luna Mock Trial Competition,
Best Oral Advocate, Champion

New York City Bar National
Moot Court Team, Regional
Semifinalist

Floyd, Pfluegar & Ringer Mock
Trial Competition, Second Place
Oral Advocate Award, Finalist

Bar and Court Admissions

State of Washington

Professional Associations

Washington State Bar
Association (WSBA)

King County Bar Association

Languages

English

Spanish