Melissa joined the West Virginia Innocence Project as an adjunct lecturer in Fall 2013.  Originally from Roanoke, West Virginia, she graduated from Sweet Briar College in Virginia in 1996. After earning her J.D. from W.Va. College of Law in 1999, she practiced law in Morgantown before joining the staff of the Preston County Public Defender Services in Kingwood, WV.  In 2002, she opened her own office with a focus on post-conviction work.  On July 1, 2018, Melissa joined WVIP as program coordinator and staff attorney. On July 1, 2019, she became the full-time program director. Her work at WVIP consists of running the clinic, supervising and advising third year law students, and appearing in court, with and without students, to fight for the freedom of wrongfully convicted clients.