

Kristen Samuels is a senior investigator on the Capital Litigation Unit at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, Georgia. She investigates death penalty cases and other long-term sentences in Alabama and Georgia at all stages of litigation, including pre-trial and post-conviction since 2014. In her pre-trial death penalty work, she is the mitigation specialist on the team. In post-conviction, she gathers any and all new evidence needed for relief. In 2021, Kristen established and implemented SCHR's Training Program to foster and advance equity in training opportunities and staff development.

Kristen was awarded the 2023 Emerging Leader Award from Advancing Real Change Inc. (ARC) for her ability to connect with clients and commitment to best practices in the mitigation field. Kristen has been a member of the National Alliance for Sentencing Advocates and Mitigation Specialists since 2017. Kristen has served as a mitigation consultant to attorneys and mitigation specialists in pretrial cases in Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina since July 2024.

Prior to the Southern Center, Kristen studied Sociology and Criminology at Spelman College in Atlanta, GA. Kristen has lived all over the country including New York, California, and where she now calls home – Atlanta.