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## Cristina C. Arguedas

*Arguedas, Cassman & Headley LLP  
Berkeley*

An elite criminal defense attorney, it was Arguedas' mock cross examination of O.J. Simpson that led Simpson's dream team of attorneys to keep him from testifying in his defense. Years later, she defended another star athlete, Barry Bonds, against charges of obstruction of justice. In April his conviction was overturned by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.



Presently Arguedas is defending FedEx Corp. against federal charges of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances. The shipping giant has denied charges that it colluded with illegal Internet pharmacies to distribute prescription drugs.

"It is a giant undertaking and one that I am tremendously looking forward to," said Arguedas. "The prosecution's theories are novel and we have a lot of evidence to marshal on our side."

In addition to her work for FedEx, Arguedas also noticed a disturbing trend related to sexual assaults on college campuses. After her clients are cleared of any wrongdoing by the criminal justice system, they are then tried by their colleges in proceedings with few, if any, due process protections. She represented five clients in the first six months of this year, far exceeding the average of one or two clients per year.

Many universities don't have an adversarial system or an opportunity to cross examine the accuser. It is a flawed process, said Arguedas. "We've done very well, by the way, because we know how to fight, we know how to defend."

Her role as zealous advocate is well known, but so is her reputation of being well liked by judges and prosecutors. Arguedas said that since the start of her career, she has developed a more nuanced view of prosecutors. "I think part of my success is that I understand the other side and I respect them. So when I can enter into a negotiation I am able to find the thing that they are interested in and try to give it to them if it doesn't do harm to my side."

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