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#### **EDUCATION**

**University of Miami School of Law**, Coral Gables, Florida

Juris Doctor, *Cum Laude*, May 2004

GPA: 3.493 | Class Rank: Top 15%

**Honors/Awards:** Dean's Honor Scholar  
Kozyak, Tropin & Throckmorton, P.A., Litigation Skills Academic Achievement Scholarship Recipient

**Activities:** Inter-American Law Review, Article and Comments Editor

**Florida State University**, Tallahassee, Florida

Bachelor of Science, *Cum Laude*, April 2001

GPA: 3.633 | Major: Criminology | Minor: English

**Honors/Awards:** Dean's List, Fall 1998 – Spring 2001  
Florida Merit Scholar

#### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

(July 2024 – Present)

**Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad College of Law**, Fort Lauderdale, Florida – *Assistant Professor of Law*.

- Primary teaching responsibilities include Legal Research and Writing I and II and Civil Procedure. Responsible for teaching first-year law students fundamental legal skills such as how to read critically; how to identify and thoroughly research legal issues; how to perform in-depth, complex legal reasoning and analysis; and how to write in a clear, well-organized, and effective manner.
- Also responsible for teaching first-year law students the theory, mechanics, and procedural aspects of enforcing substantive rights through civil litigation by instructing them on various legal concepts essential to civil litigation practice including the jurisdiction of state and federal courts, pleadings and pretrial motions (both dispositive and non-dispositive), discovery, post-trial motions, and the appellate process.
- Further responsible for teaching first-year law students various professional skills including client counseling and interviewing skills, negotiation and alternative dispute resolution skills; as well as the skills involved in drafting pleadings and pretrial motions, drafting professional email correspondence, drafting client letters and demand letters, drafting an office memorandum, writing a trial brief, performing effective oral advocacy, and understanding the ethics and professionalism rules and expectations applicable to attorneys.
- Provide group and individualized instruction and feedback to first-year law students to assist them in deepening their knowledge of the civil litigation process, and honing the practical skills needed to competently and effectively draft pleadings and pretrial motions. In addition, provide group and individualized instruction and feedback to first-year law students to assist them in cultivating their legal research, writing, and analytical skills; and to enable them to articulate their analysis concisely, effectively, and ethically both orally and in their written work product.

#### **LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

(May 2009 – May 2020)

**Carlton Fields, P.A.**, Miami, Florida – *Shareholder*.

- Experienced commercial litigator.
- First-chaired civil non-jury trials in state court, and handled all aspects of the litigation from inception and development of litigation strategy through either judgment or settlement.

- Performed thorough fact investigation, legal research and analysis of legal issues, and gathered pertinent evidence.
- Extensive experience drafting and arguing dispositive and non-dispositive pretrial motions, and preparing pleadings, discovery, and memoranda of law in both state and federal court.
- Conducted direct and cross examinations of expert and fact witnesses at evidentiary hearings and trials.
- Prepared clients for deposition and trial testimony.
- Performed effective, persuasive oral advocacy at court hearings and trials.
- Prepared for, took, and defended depositions in litigation matters.
- Prepared subpoenas duces tecum, analyzed formal service of process of subpoenas to ensure compliance with applicable Florida law and procedural rules, and handled matters relating to subpoenaed party's compliance with the subpoena.
- Negotiated amicable resolution of litigation matters through mediation and other alternative dispute resolution procedures.
- Successfully managed a high volume of active litigation cases.
- Extremely responsive to clients and kept clients informed about the status of litigation matters, key deadlines and events, and our litigation strategy.
- Represented companies, financial institutions, lenders, and servicers in a variety of litigation matters including contract disputes, fraud, tort, breach of fiduciary duty, legal malpractice, and contested commercial and residential foreclosure actions (including those involving commercial mortgage-backed securities).
- Defended clients against lender-liability and consumer finance claims brought under various federal and state statutes.
- counseled clients regarding the regulatory obligations implemented by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- Represented insurance companies and institutional lenders (both bank and nonbank lenders) in commercial real estate finance transactional matters, including acquisition, refinance, and construction loans across various asset classes, including office, retail, residential and commercial condominiums, multifamily apartments, hotels, ground leased parcels, and other projects.
- Negotiated and prepared loan documentation, and managed commercial real estate deals from inception through loan closing.
- Analyzed title, zoning, and environmental issues involved in commercial real estate deals.
- Handled leasing and other commercial real estate matters on behalf of lenders and servicers.
- Served as attorney ad litem for a minor child who was a victim of human trafficking in juvenile dependency court.
- Nurtured and managed client relationships and actively participated in business development activities.
- Participated in firm leadership, including serving as co-chair of the firm's Associate Relations Committee and as a member of the firm's Shareholder Selection Committee.

(September 2006 – May 2009)

**Adorno & Yoss LLP**, Coral Gables, Florida – *Commercial Litigation Associate*.

- Drafted memoranda of law, pleadings, discovery, dispositive and non-dispositive pretrial motions in state and federal court.
- Drafted trial briefs and legal memoranda, appellate briefs and other appellate motions and pleadings in state court.
- Participated in jury trial preparation, voir dire examination and jury trial proceedings, federal multidistrict litigation proceedings involving ERISA claims, arbitration proceedings, mediation proceedings and various court hearings.
- Researched and analyzed commercial litigation issues involving a variety of areas of the law, including breach of fiduciary duty claims, contract disputes, fraud and fraud-based claims.
- Researched and analyzed employment litigation issues involving the enforcement of non-compete agreements.
- Researched and analyzed land use and zoning issues, and counseled clients concerning municipal code requirements.
- Drafted petitions for mitigation and participated in negotiations with municipal officers concerning municipal code violations.
- Assisted in the preparation for mitigation hearings before various city commissions.
- Observed city commission meetings and hearings.
- Represented financial institutions in commercial foreclosure and creditor's rights litigation matters in connection with small business loans issued by financial institutions, including loans partially guaranteed by the United States Small Business Administration.

- Participated in depositions in civil litigation matters.
- Managed a team of attorneys in representing a large financial institution in commercial foreclosure litigation matters.
- Extremely responsive to clients and kept clients informed about the status of litigation matters, key deadlines and events, and our litigation strategy.
- Assisted in the management and nurturing of client relationships.

(August 2004 – August 2006)

**Supreme Court of Florida**, Tallahassee, Florida – *Staff Attorney for Former Chief Justice Barbara J. Pariente (Ret.)*.

- Researched and analyzed complex legal issues.
- Drafted memoranda of law in multiple areas of law, including civil law and procedure, insurance, medical malpractice, tax, criminal law and procedure, and the canons of ethics and rules of professional conduct.
- Assisted in drafting opinions and performing administrative tasks and other internal court procedures.
- Observed oral arguments.

(May 2003 – December 2003)

**Podhurst, Orseck, P.A.**, Miami, Florida – *Summer Associate*.

- Drafted legal briefs, pleadings, discovery documents, and pretrial motions.
- Observed and assisted in depositions, trials, and trial preparation.
- Conducted client interviews.
- Researched and analyzed various issues of law.

(August 2002 – November 2002)

**Supreme Court of Florida**, Tallahassee, Florida – *Intern for the late Justice Leander J. Shaw, Jr.*

- Reviewed jurisdictional briefs and drafted memoranda of law advising as to whether Supreme Court jurisdiction exists under the provisions of the Florida Constitution.
- Performed internal court procedures.
- Observed oral arguments.

(June 2002 – August 2002)

**Morgan Lewis & Bockius, LLP**, Miami, Florida – *Summer Associate*.

- Drafted memoranda of law, jury instructions, and pretrial motions.
- Observed depositions, trials, court hearings, and mediation.

#### **COLLEGE OF LAW AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

- Adjunct Appointments/Adjunct Review & Professional Development Committee, Member, 2024-present
- Professional Identity Panel, Panelist and Moderator, Fall 2024, Fall 2025
- Undergraduate Moot Court Team, Coach, Fall 2024, Fall 2025
- Mentor First-Year Law Students, 2024-present
- Guest lecturer on “Practicing with Professionalism & Excellence,” Summer 2025
- *Ad hoc* Bar Support Committee, Member, 2025-present
- Faculty Advisor for Florida Association for Women Lawyers, 2025-present
- Supervised Research and Writing, Faculty, Fall 2025, Winter 2026

#### **PRO BONO INVOLVEMENT**

- Served as an Attorney Ad Litem in a juvenile dependency case through the Dade Legal Aid, Put Something Back Pro Bono Project.

#### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES / COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Admitted to the Florida Bar, 2004
- Admitted to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, 2007
- Admitted to the U.S. District Court in and for the Southern District of Florida, 2007
- Legal Writing Institute, Member
- Association of American Law Schools, Member
- Association of Legal Writing Directors, Member
- Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program, Mentor
- CREW Network and CREW Miami, Past Member
- Miami-Dade Beacon Council New Leaders Taskforce, Past Member

- Miami-Dade Beacon Council Banking & Finance Committee, Past Member
- American Bar Association, Past Member
- Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers' Association, Past Member and Former Treasurer and Secretary
- Dade County Bar Association, Past Member and Former Chair of the Business Law Committee
- Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association, Former Member of the Newsletter Committee and Contributing Writer
- Leadership Miami, Class of 2009

#### **PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION**

- Recipient of The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for 2025 for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit
- Dade Legal Aid, Put Something Back Pro Bono Project, 32nd Annual Nuts & Bolts of Family Law Pro Bono Honoree for 2024
- Recipient of the Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Pro Bono Award for 2019
- Recipient of the Dade County Bar Association, Dade Legal Aid Put Something Back Advocate of Pro Bono Commitment Award for 2016
- Listed in *Legacy Miami's* South Florida's 40 Under 40 Black Leaders of Today and Tomorrow for 2015
- Selected for inclusion in *Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars* (2013-2014)

#### **PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

- Panelist, "Triumphs, Challenges & Strategies for Today's Women Lawyers Balancing Self, Family, and Career" co-hosted by Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida and Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law (2025).
- "Think and Act Like a Lawyer from the Start: Integrating the Foundational Skills of the NextGen Bar Into the LRW Classroom," Speaker and Presenter at Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop at Florida International University College of Law (December 6, 2024).
- "Foreclosure of Mortgage Securing Electronic Promissory Note Affirmed," Carlton Fields Client Alert (May 20, 2016).
- "Federal Agencies File Action Against Bank for Discriminatory Redlining," Expect Focus, Vol. IV (Fall 2015).
- "U.S. Supreme Court Allows Disparate-Impact Claims Under Fair Housing Act," Expect Focus, Vol. III (Summer 2015).
- "Supreme Court Allows Fair Housing Disparate-Impact Claims," Daily Business Review (August 2015).
- "U.S. Supreme Court Decides Fair Housing Act Allows Disparate-Impact Claims," Carlton Fields Client Alert (June 2015).
- "Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Releases Its Third Fair Lending Report to Congress," Carlton Fields Client Alert (May 2015).
- "New Regulations Likely to Yield New Theories," Expect Focus, Vol. I (Winter 2015).
- Carlton Fields Jorden Burt, P.A.'s Financial Services/Consumer Finance Blog, Contributing Writer.
- Miami-Dade Beacon Council New Leaders Taskforce My Miami Annual Leadership Summit, Moderator for discussion featuring past Chair of the Miami-Dade Beacon Council, Jaret Davis (2017).
- Dade County Bar Association's Getting and Effectively Trying the Foreclosure Case Seminar, Creditor's Counsel Panel Member and Presenter (2013).