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Employment

Compact Administrator
Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
State of Florida
Special Counsel
Family Safety Program
Department of Children and Family Services

March 7, 2008 – present

President,
American Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on
the Placement of Children, 2009 - 2011

Managing Attorney, Department of Children and Family Services
State of Florida
Third and Eighth Judicial Circuits

November 17, 2006 – March 6, 2008

Supervise fourteen attorneys and fourteen support staff covering thirteen counties (Third and Eighth judicial circuits). Responsible for day to day operation of five offices (Gainesville, Starke, Trenton, Lake City, and Greenville) in representation of State of Florida in dependency matters. Duties include office management, budget, recruitment and retention, provision of legal advice on issues such as legal sufficiency for shelter and termination of parental rights and conflict resolution between client and witnesses. Appointed by Secretary Butterworth as member of DCF Legal

Work Group to re-design legal function of DCF including General Counsel, District Legal Counsel, and Child Welfare Legal Services.

General Magistrate, Eighth Judicial Circuit

January, 2003 – June, 2006

Handled dependency dockets for Alachua, Gilchrist, and Levy counties. Presided over Dependency Drug Court. Conducted 8,000 hearings including arraignment, mediation review, case plan adoption, disposition, judicial review, advisory hearings, and permanency hearings. Resigned to run for circuit judge.

Assistant State Attorney, Eighth Judicial Circuit

July, 1998 – December, 2002

Managing attorney for CWLS pilot project for twelve counties (District 3 for DCF, plus Baker County). Supervised seventeen attorneys and 12 support staff. After pilot project ended, prosecuted civil commitment of sexually violent predators, criminal child support, and miscellaneous felony and misdemeanor cases. Left to accept appointment as General Magistrate for Eighth Circuit.

Private Practitioner

January, 1993 – June 1998

Primarily handled family law cases. Also represented clients in a variety of civil and criminal matters. Mediator for private family law mediations.

Associate, Jack M. Ross, P.A.

January, 1987 – December, 1992

Associate in general practice law firm. Handled family law, small claims, bond estreatures, criminal, dependency defense for parents

Associate, Birr, Bryant, Saier, and Ross, P.A.

June, 1983 – December, 1986

Began as a law clerk, then junior attorney. General practice law firm.

Bar memberships

Florida Bar
Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association

Education

Juris Doctor
University of Florida College of Law
January, 1981 – May, 1983

Bachelor's Degree – Political Science
Duke University
January, 1975 – December, 1978

High School Diploma
P. K. Yonge Developmental Research School
Graduated June, 1974

Professional Accomplishments

Co-Presenter – 2009 Meeting for Agencies and Courts
Children's Bureau, USDHHS
Alexandria, Virginia
August 3, 2009

“ICPC in the Electronic Age”
With Judge Britt Hammond, Toombs Co. Georgia
Juvenile Court Judge, Rebecca Orf, Juvenile Court
Judge, Oregon

Co- Presenter – Georgia Child Welfare Legal Academy
Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic
Emory University College of Law
Atlanta, Georgia
July 30, 2009
“ICPC – Where are We Headed”
With Judge Britt Hammond, Toombs Co. Georgia Juvenile
Court Judge

Presenter – Partnership for Strong Families, Inc.
Gainesville, Florida
June 12, 2009
“Case Plans and JRSSR – Is There Hope for a Cure?”

Presenter – State-wide Regional Trainings
West Palm Beach, Tampa, Tallahassee
June 1 – 5, 2009
“Plenary Session – 2009 Legislative Changes”
“Case Plans and JRSSR’s – Is There Hope for a Cure?”

Presenter – Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the
Placement of Children Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX
April 18-21, 2009
“Going Paperless – Bringing ICPC into the 21st Century

Adjunct Professor, University of Florida College of Law
Spring Semester, 2009
“Florida’s Family Courts”

Presenter – State-wide webinar to Children’s Legal Services Attorneys
“Overview of ICPC Process”
December 18, 2008

Presenter – 3rd Annual Child Welfare Conference
Miami, Florida
“Overcoming Barriers in the ICPC Process”
November 7, 2008

Presenter - Guardian ad Litem State-Wide Training
Telephone conference call with Powerpoint Presentation
“What the Guardian ad Litem Needs to Know About ICPC”
September 19, 2008

Presenter – 14th Circuit Judges and Case Managers
Chipley, Florida
“Inside the ICPC Central Office”
September 17, 2008

Presenter – Dependency Summit – Orlando
“What’s New in ICPC?”
August 27-28, 2008

Presenter – DCF Regional Trainings – Orlando and Miami
Topic: ICPC Modernization, also presented 2008 Chapter 39 changes at
plenary session for both sites – June 4 and 6, 2008

Presenter – Florida Adoption Conference – May 29, 2008
Topic: ICPC Modernization in Florida

Member of State-wide Legal Re-organization Group for Department of
Children and Family Services – April, 2007 – September, 2007

Presenter, American Judicial College, Role of the General Magistrate
May, 2005

Guest Lecturer University of Florida College of Law
Family Law Clinic
Family Law Trial Practice

Guest on “Law Talks” - WUFT

Best Innovation in Dependency
State-wide Dependency Court Improvement Summit – 2000

Boss of the Year – Gainesville Legal Secretary's Association – 1994

Community Involvement

Former Member of Sunrise Rotary, Past President, Past Treasurer

Former Member of Alachua County Health Care Board

Past Member and Chair of Alachua County Child Care Advisory Board

Past Member and Past Chair, P.K. Yonge School Advisory Council

Past President, Gainesville Area Rowing, Inc.

Youth rowing club for Alachua County middle and high school students