

Meshon T. Rawls

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Professional Experience

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW

Legal Skills Professor and Director of Gator Team Child Juvenile Law Clinic, Jan. 2006 - Present
Teach law students the fundamentals for representing children, supervise certified legal interns, oversee the program budget and manage the caseload.

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Assistant Public Defender, August 1998 – December 2005

Manage a caseload that requires researching case law, drafting and filing motions, responding to discovery, negotiating plea agreements, interviewing clients and litigating trials. Effectively litigated numerous jury and non-jury trials in the misdemeanor, juvenile and felony divisions.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF ALACHUA COUNTY

Neighborhood Accountability Board, Site Coordinator, July 2002 – Jan 2003

Monitored the programs efficiency, prepared monthly reports, and established program guidelines in accordance with the grant requirements. Recruited and trained board members. Acted as a liaison for the President of CODC and its collaborating community partners.

VIRGIL HAWKINS CRIMINAL CLINIC

Certified Legal Intern, Office of the Public Defender Eighth Circuit, Jan. 1998 – May 1998

Represented indigent persons, accused of committing criminal offenses. Conducted legal research, prepared motions, interviewed clients, and negotiated pleas.

LAW OFFICES OF WILLIAMS AND ASSOCIATES, P.A.

Law Clerk, May 1997-August 1997

Conducted legal research, prepared legal memoranda and pleadings in cases dealing with collections, employment discrimination, guardianship, and construction law.

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

Legal Intern, June 1996 – September 1996

Assisted in developing a program designed to educate the elderly about their legal rights and responsibilities related to Medicare benefits.

UNITED HOME CARE SERVICES

Case Manager, August 1994 – August 1995

Coordinated and managed health care services provided to the elderly.

MIAMI CENTRAL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Substitute Teacher, April 1994 – June 1994

Taught English and Math, created lesson plans, graded assignments, submitted final grades.

Education

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Juris Doctorate, May 1998
Minority Participation in Legal Education Scholarship

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, December 1993

Community Involvement

African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC)

Young Adult Class Leader, Greater Bethel AMEC (1996 -1999)

President of Women's Missionary Society, (2000 - 2004)

Director of Young Women's Initiative, Farnell Ayers Area Missionary Society (2003 - 2004)

Bible Study Teacher, (1996 - present)

New Members Orientation Teacher, (2001 - 2007)

Eleventh Episcopal District Minister Spouses, Parliamentarian (2004 - present)

Alachua County Juvenile Justice Council, Member (2003 - present)

Melanie Kretzman Award Recipient (2005)

American Bar Association, Member (2006 – present)

Black On Black Crime Task Force,

Co-Chair Minority Overrepresentation Committee (2004-present)

Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, Member (2002 – present)

Eighth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee, Member (2005 – 2008)

Eighth Judicial Circuit Juvenile Justice Council, Member (2004- 2005)

Florida Bar Public Interest Law Section, Member (2006 – present)

Florida Institutional Legal Services Advisory Board, Member (2007 – present)

Florida Supreme Court Family and Children in the Courts, Member (2006 – 2008)

Gainesville Wilderness Institute Board of Directors, Member (2004 – 2007)

Community Relations Chairperson (2004-2005)

Josiah T. Walls Bar Association, Member (2002 – present); Vice-President (2007 – present)

Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Alachua County, Inc.,

Restoration of Civil Rights Project Coordinator (2005 - present)

Project Turnaround Advisory Board, Member (2007 – present)

Serving Youth: Strategies that Work, Committee Member (2002 - 2005)

University of Florida Gator Launch Program, Mentor (2002 - 2008)

UF I.S. LAW Mentor Program, Mentor (2007 – present)

Speeches and Presentations

How to Perfect an Opening Statement, presentation for **Alachua County Teen Court**, Gainesville, FL, March 2004.

The Role of an Assistant Public Defender, presentation for the Criminal Justice Magnet Program at **Miami Carol City Senior High School**, Miami, FL, October, 2004.

The Effects of Brown v. Board of Education on the Public School System, presentation for **PACE Center For Girls of Alachua County**, Gainesville, FL, February, 2004.

Will Your Will Be Done?, presentation for the **Suwannee River District of the AME Church**, Jasper, FL, June, 2004.

Children and the Criminal Justice System: A General Overview of the Juvenile Justice System, presentation for students at **Westwood Middle School**, Gainesville, FL 2003

The Role of an Assistant Public Defender, spoke to students in the Trial Practice Class at the **University of Florida Levin College of Law**, Gainesville, FL 2004.

Creative Collaborations: Excellent Outcomes in the Most Challenging Cases, presentation for the **Serving Youth: Strategies that Work Conference**, Gainesville, FL 2008