

# Meshon T. Rawls

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## ***Professional Experience***

### **UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW**

*Legal Skills Professor and Director of Gator TeamChild 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, and 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 Criminology, December 1993

### **Professional Licenses**

Florida Bar, April 1998  
County Court Mediator, December 2011

### **Community Involvement**

#### **African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC)**

**Young Adult Class Leader**, Greater Bethel AMEC, Gainesville, FL (1996 - 1999)  
**Women's Missionary Society**, Member (2000- Present) St. James AMEC, Trenton, FL (President 2000 - 2002), Bethel AMEC, Trenton, FL (President 2000 - 2002); New Bethel AMEC, Jasper, FL (President 2002 - 2004); St. Paul AME, St. Augustine, FL (Advisor 2007 – present)  
**Young Women's Initiative**, F.A. Area Missionary Society, Director (2003 - 2004)  
**Bible Study and Church School Teacher**, (1996 - present)  
**New Members Orientation Teacher**, (2001 - 2007)  
**Eleventh Episcopal District Minister Spouses**, Parliamentarian (2004 - 2012)  
**Eleventh Episcopal District Minister Spouses**, Dean of Workshops (2013 – present)  
**Daughters of Sarah Women's Ministry**, Advisor (2006 – present)

**Alachua County Juvenile Justice Council**, Member (2003 – 2011)  
Melanie Kretzman Award Recipient (2005)

**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated**, Member (2014 – present)

**American Bar Association**, Member (2006 – present)

**Black On Black Crime Task Force**, Minority Overrepresentation Committee Member (2004 - present), Co-Chair (2004-2011)

**Center on Children and Families**, Associate Director (2009 – present), **Youth Summit**, Advisor and Assistant (2007-present)

**Center on the Study of Race and Race Relations**, Associate Director (2011- present)

**Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association**, Member (2002 – present), Executive Board Member (2012 – 2014), President Elect Designate (2015-2016), President Elect (2016 – 2017), President (2017-2018)

**Eighth Judicial Circuit Bench Bar Committee**, Member (2005 – 2014)

**Eighth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee**, Member (2005 – 2007)

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

**Eighth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Panel**, Member (2014 – Present)

**Federally Qualified Health Center Board**, Member (2010 – 2012)

**Florida Bar Juvenile Law Board Certification Committee**, Member (2015 – 2019)

**Florida Bar Leadership Academy Class II**, Member (June 2014 – June 2015)

**Florida Bar Legal Needs of Children Committee**, Member (2009 - 2015)

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

**Florida Bar Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee**, Member (2015 – 2018)

**Florida Institutional Legal Services Board of Directors**, Member (2007 – 2012)

**Florida Legal Services**, Member (2012 – 2016)

**Florida Supreme Court Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Courts**,  
Member (2006 – 2008)

**Gainesville Wilderness Institute Board of Directors**, Member (2004 – 2007) Community  
Relations Chairperson (2004-2005)

**Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters Advisory Board**, Member (2009-  
2016)

**James C. Adkins, Jr. Inn of Court**, Member (2010 – present)

**Josiah T. Walls Bar Association**, Member (2002 – present) Vice-President (2007 – 2009);  
President (2009 – 2012)

**Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Alachua County, Inc.**, Restoration of Civil Rights  
Project Coordinator (2005 - present)

**Project Turnaround Advisory Board**, Member (2007 – 2008)

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

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

**UF Black Alumni Reunion Weekend**, Law School Planning Committee Member (2012)

**UF I.S. LAW Mentor Program**, Mentor (2007 – 2009)

### **Speeches and Presentations**

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 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

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

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

The Restoration of Civil Rights Process in Florida after 2007 Rule Change, presentation for **League of Women Voters**, Gainesville, FL, June 2007

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

Street Law: Criminal Law – Should It Be A Crime?, presentation for **Reichert House Afterschool Program**, Gainesville, FL, February 2009

The Age of Consent – A discussion about the Sex Offender Laws related to Juveniles, presentation at **Mt. Zion AME Church**, Hawthorne, FL, April 2009

The Restoration of Civil Rights Process in Florida, presentation for **Columbia County Correctional Institute**, Lake City, FL, July 2009

School to Prison Pipeline Community Forum, panelist on program organized by **Alachua County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**, Gainesville, FL, November 2009

Restoration of Civil Rights in Florida, presentation for **Martin Luther King Commission of Florida, Inc. Community Empowerment Workshop – King Week Celebration**, Gainesville, FL, 2010 – 2013

Expunging Records & Restoration of Civil Rights, presentation for **Eighth Judicial Circuit Law in the Library Legal Series**, Gainesville, FL March 2013

Sealing and Expunging Records, training for **Circuit 5 Department of Children and Families – Central Region**, Wildwood, FL May 2014

Sealing and Expunging Records, training for attorneys at **Community Legal Services at Mid-Florida Volunteer Lawyers Project**, Ocala, FL June 2015

Hands-Up Workshop: Police Encounters – Know Your Rights, presentation for **Hastings Youth Academy Department of Juvenile Justice Commitment Program**, Hastings, FL June 2015

## **Publications**

Your Future, Your Choice – A Guide to What Teens Should Know About the Law, printed by **University of Florida Levin College of Law Center on Children and Families** (March 2009)