

Jennifer Mary Zedalis
Director of Trial Practice, Senior Legal Skills Professor
Levin College of Law
University of Florida

Position/Title: Director of Trial Practice Programs
Senior Legal Skills Professor, Levin College of Law, University of Florida
Assistant Director, Criminal Justice Center

Courses taught in 2019/2020: Trial Practice, Florida Criminal Procedure, Pretrial Practice,
Criminal Defense Clinic

Other courses taught: Introduction to Lawyering, Semester-in-Practice, Intensive Trial Clinic,
Mental Health Issues in Litigation, Closing Argument, Landmark Cases (UF Forensic
Psychiatry)

Bar Exam Task Force, 2018/2019/2020

Faculty Advisor/ Coach: Levin College of Law Trial Team

Affiliate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, UF College of Medicine

University of Florida Faculty Senate (voting member) 2020; 2008-2011

Committee Service: 2019/2020: Student Life Workgroup; Adjunct Teaching Committee;
Bar Exam Task Force

Previous Committee Service:

- Judicial Clerkships Committee
- Judicial Visits (*ex officio*)
- Faculty Development Committee
- Adjunct Teaching Committee
- (Chair) Peter T. Fay Jurist-in-Residence Committee
- Non-Tenure Track Appointments and Promotion Committee
- Ad-Hoc Committee on Practicums
- Pro Bono Committee
- Teaching Committee
- Admissions Committee
- Architect and Engineering Committee
- Space Planning Committee
- Facilities Committee
- Dean's Committee on Professionalism and Skills
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- Co-Chair, Dean's Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning

Prior Positions: Law Office of Jennifer Zedalis, Gainesville, Florida, 1998- 2003.
Solo law practice: criminal trials and appeals, capital post-conviction,
dependency, termination of parental rights, mental health law
Assistant Public Defender, 8th Judicial Circuit, 1985-1998.
Division Chief, Intern Supervisor, 1991-1995.
Eighth Judicial Circuit Award, “Sustained Excellence”, 1997.
Assistant Public Defender, 5th Judicial Circuit, 1984-1985.

Admitted to practice in the State of Florida, 1984.

Teaching Experience:

Trial Practice; Pretrial Practice; Introduction to Lawyering; Florida Criminal
Procedure; Mental Health Litigation; Criminal Clinic; Closing Argument;
Intensive Trial Clinic; Semester-in-Practice
Teaching Abroad: American Studies Program, University of Warsaw, 2007, 2012
(American Trial Procedure and Evidence)
International Environmental Law Program Faculty,
Costa Rica, Summer 2006 (Trial Advocacy)

Adjunct Lecturer, Levin College of Law:
Criminal Clinic 1990-1995; 2000-2002
Intern Field Supervisor 1990-1995
Trial Practice Workshop Instructor 2000-2002
Trial Team Coach 2001-2003

Faculty: Florida Bar Gerald T. Bennett Trial Training Program
for Prosecutors and Public Defenders; 1992-present;
Co-Chair, 2006-present

Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Forensic Psychiatry, University of Florida
1990-1995
Affiliate Professor, 2011-present
Landmark Cases Seminar Instructor

National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) Teacher Training Program,
1990, 1995, 2004.

Florida Bar Criminal Law Executive Council 2004-present (voting member)
Chair, 2019-2020
Officer, 2016-present

National Trial Team Competition Director: 2006, 2013 TYLA National Trial Competition,
region 6

Articles and Publications:

Trying Cases: Promise, Prove, and Persuade
(Vandeplas, 2018)

Revisiting the Decision of Death in Hurst v. Florida,
Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the
Law, Vol. 44, No. 4 (2016)

*Lost in Case: 10 Ways to Bring Justice into Closing
Argument,* ABA Trial Evidence Committee
Spring 2014 Journal (June 04, 2014),

apps.americanbar.org/litigation/committees/trialevidence/articles/spring2014-0614-lost-in-case-10-ways-to-brig-justice-into-closing-argument.html

*Rethinking Your Practice Habits: Seven Ways to be a
Better Lawyer in the Criminal Courts,*
Florida Criminal Law Journal Volume XXXIII, No.1 Fall
2003

Real and Demonstrative Evidence, Faculty Manual,
Florida Bar/ Gerald T. Bennett Public Defender Prosecutor
Training Program, 2004.

Portrait of a True Advocate, Florida Bar Criminal Law
Update Volume 2, Issue 1, March 2009.

Case Files for Teaching Advocacy: *Raven Temple v. Prime Global Insurance Co., Inc*
(2011)

Case Summaries for Criminal Practice, 2010, 2012
Trial Practice Problems and Case Files,
University of Florida Levin College of Law

State of Florida vs. Gary Allen Wynn, 2005.
(Revised, 2007)

Racine Crews vs. Chandler-Wolf Building Supply Co. Inc.
2005.

Webinars: Temple University Law School: Online Advocacy Teaching Conference,
January 2020 (Intensive Objections Drills)

Presentations:

“The Story Board: Putting Your Case Together for the Courtroom”; Florida Bar Criminal Law Section’s *Experts in Advocacy* Series, Webinar, June 4, 2020.

“The time Traveling Lawyer” AALS Clinical Legal Conference, San Francisco, California, May 2019

“Powerful Closing Arguments” Tampa Bay Inns of Court, March 2019

Presenter and Panelist, “Miranda: More than Words”
Matheson History Museum, Law Day Event, May 2016

Presenter and Panelist, “Educating Advocates: Teaching Advocacy Skills”
National Advocacy Conference (EATS), Stetson Law School, May 2015

“Access to Justice”, United Kingdom Annual Bar Conference, London, England, November, 2009

“Crossing the Atlantic: Shared Goals of Persuasion in the Criminal Trial”, Winter Lecture Series, Central Criminal Court, London, England, November 2009 (CLE Approved)

Guest Speaker, University of Florida Pre Legal Honor Society,
February 2009 “Preparing for a Career in Law”

Guest Speaker, Phi Alpha Delta, February 2010, “Lawyering Skills”

Panelist, Eighth Judicial Circuit Symposium on Ethics and Professionalism
2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 (Criminal Law and Practice)

Panelist, Association of Public Interest Law’s Spring Symposium, 2007

“The Basics of a Lawsuit.” Spring Orientation, Levin College of Law 2005

“Case Analysis.” Florida Bar Prosecutor/ Public Defender CLE Program,
2004, 2005, 2006

President’s Round Table on Diversity, University of Florida,
Levin College of Law Representative, 2004

“Competency Standards in Criminal Cases”, Orlando, Florida, 1992,
(Conference) American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law.

Speaker/ Panel Member, Symposium on Domestic Violence, 1995,
University of Florida College of Law.

Planner and Coordinator, Florida Bar CLE credit-approved seminars, sponsored by the Eighth Circuit Public Defender:

“Preserving the Record” (multiple offerings)

“Competency and Sanity in Criminal Cases” (multiple offerings)

“Defending the Probationer” (multiple offerings)

Media Interviews 2018-2020:

Jury Trials during or post-pandemic, *The Florida Bar News Journal*, May 28, 2020

COVID-19 Impact on the Court System, *The Florida Bar News Journal*, May 4, 2020

Wrongful conviction/exoneration of Williams and Myers, *Jacksonville Journal*, March 2019

Fentanyl Murder Prosecutions, *St. Augustine Record*, July, 2019

Stand-your-ground defense in Tampa shooting case (Michael Drejka), *Tampa Bay Times*, August 2019

Other Press Quotations:

On teaching, in Prosecutor/ Public Defender CLE Course, Florida Bar News, September 1st, 2003.

On ethical and professional considerations when defendant/client is suicidal, Naples Dailey News, July 18th, 2004.

On Michael Jackson verdict and the significance of Celebrity status in criminal trials, *WUFT* live television interview June 14th, 2005
AM 850 live radio interview with Bryan Jaeger, June 14th 2005.

In Trial Tips Newsletter, “Five Questions with Jennifer Zedalis,” Issue #11, August, 2005

Gainesville Sun, on Trial Practice Program, March 9, 2006

Citrus County Chronicle, on penalty phase procedures in capital murder trials when mental retardation of the defendant is an issue (trial of John Couey), March 8, 2007.

Independent Florida Alligator, on death of Gainesville Police Officer and application of Florida Sentencing Guidelines,
April 5, 2007.

Orlando Sentinel, on various forms of immunity in criminal cases, September 2008

Orlando Sentinel, on issues/strategies associated with Change of venue in high profile cases, February 2009

WCJB TV20, Gainesville, February 2010, on county liability for medical costs of indigent arrestee

Orlando Sentinel, on standard and procedures for motion to recuse judge in capital murder trial, April 2010.

St. Petersburg Times, on issue of whether judges need dedicated courtrooms and the efficient use of courtroom space, March, 2011

Florida Bar News, on the visit of Judge Susan H. Black to the school as Peter T. Fay Jurist in Residence, March, 2011

WCJB TV 20, on the Casey Anthony Murder Trial, potential as teaching tool, televised interview, May, 2011.

WUFT, on Casey Anthony Trial, July, 2011.

WCJB TV 20, on the Casey Anthony Verdict, July, 2011.

St. Petersburg Times, on post-verdict judgments of acquittal in criminal trials, July 2011.

WUFT, on costs of prosecution in Casey Anthony Case, September 2011.

Gainesville Sun, on bail hearing for George Zimmerman and Florida's Stand Your Ground Law, April 2012.

Sarasota Herald Tribune, on conviction rate controversy in state attorney race, October 2012.

Gainesville Sun, on the Zimmerman trial, June 11 2013

WUFT, Zimmerman trial, June 10, 2013

WCJB TV20 Zimmerman trial, June 10, 11, 2013

Florida Alligator, Zimmerman trial, June 10, 2013

ARISE News Network, Zimmerman, June 12, 2013

ARISE News Network, Zimmerman, June 28, 2013

Re Zimmerman Verdict: July 16, 17, 2013:

CBC Canada, Lucas Powers

Voice of Russia RUVR Interviews

(Kim Palchicoff, Stephen Schaber)

Jamaica Speaks Interviews (Keneice Lawson)

Fuji Television Japan Interviews (Nikki Higucchi)

Tampa Tribune on video evidence, October 2013

Tampa Bay Times on television lawyer portrayal and real life in contrast, January, 2015

Gainesville Sun on juror nullification (marijuana)
March, 2015

Academic Honors and Degrees:

Juris Doctorate, University of Florida, 1984
Two-term Chair of Moot Court Team,
Outstanding Member, 1984.

Bachelor of Arts, Duke 1980. *Magna Cum Laude*

Mary Duke Biddle Semans Scholarship recipient.
President, Duke English Majors Union, 1980.
Anne Barbour Stowe Memorial Award, 1980.

Practice, Litigation Experience:

Juvenile, traffic, misdemeanor, felony, capital felony, mental

health, Ryce Act, parental rights, dependency, forfeiture, post-conviction relief, and appeals.

Scope of practice: all aspects of representation including jury trials and evidentiary hearings, motion practice, appeals, extraordinary writs, en banc hearings, capital and non-capital post-conviction relief, competency and sanity.

Pro Bono Legal Service:

2003- present, in 4th, 8th, and 13th Judicial Circuits of Florida, including post-conviction representation in Florida Innocence Network, hearings before Florida Parole Commission, assistance to local trial counsel in representation of indigent clients, and representation of homeless defendants in the Eighth Circuit.

Committee, Bar Service

Florida Supreme Court Bar Grievance Committee, Eighth Judicial Circuit 2009, 2010, 2011

Executive Council, Criminal Law Section, Florida Bar. 2004- present.

Chair, PPD Subcommittee, 2007-present.

CLE Committee, 2010/2011.

Membership Committee, 2013

Eighth Judicial Circuit Criminal Mediation Task Force, 2001, 2002.

Statewide Criminal Jury Instructions Committee: re Necessity and Duress; 1995.

Professional Affiliations and Memberships:

Florida Bar, 1984- present. Criminal Law Section, Trial Lawyers Section.

Florida Bar Executive Council Member, Criminal Law Section, 2004- present.

Co-Chair, PPD Program Committee, 2006-

American Bar Association/ Litigation Section, Evidence Section, Trial Section

Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Caselaw Update Committee, 2000.

Eighth Circuit Bar Association.

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Duke Alumni Association; Friends of Duke Chapel.

