

Oscar Andrew Fernandez

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LEGAL EXPERIENCE

LexisNexis, a RELX corporation

South Florida

Research Attorney & Practice Area Consultant, October 2018 – Present

- Promote legal researching tools from LexisNexis by partnering with south Florida law schools' legal writing, library, and career services departments, as well as various local law firms.
- Host monthly synchronous and asynchronous workshops to develop students' researching skills.
- Design semester-long curriculum for students to complete national research certification program.
- Partner with student organizations, journals, and law reviews to assist with subject matter-specific legal research and writing projects aimed for publication; conduct one-on-one sessions to assist student members with the topic selection and preemption process.
- Hold week-long, semesterly legal research seminars for the first-year students, which are either mandated or endorsed by the legal writing faculty from various schools.
- Develop weekly promotional events on campus that are both fun and educational, to drive preference for the LexisNexis platform among the student body.
- Train and supervise dozens of student representatives and brand ambassadors at each school and empower them to mentor their peers in legal researching.
- Work closely with librarians from AmLaw100 firms in south Florida to train associates, interns, and paralegals on a variety of LexisNexis research tools found within each firm's subscription.
- Coordinate advanced research trainings with top practice-area specialists from across the nation.
- Organize and present monthly for national Paralegal Mastery Program as well as Continuing Legal Education (CLE) courses for firm Lexis subscribers.

Catholic Charities Diocese of Palm Beach, Inc.

Riviera Beach, FL

Immigration Staff Attorney, November 2017 – October 2018

- Represented foreign nationals in proceedings before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), and the 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Palm Beach County (for immigration matters involving probate or family law).
- Researched changes to immigration laws and procedures to update the staff on best strategies.
- Prepared complex applications and petitions for immigration benefits, often with novel arguments.
- Drafted memoranda and motions for relief from deportation and/or detention.
- Gathered records from local and federal law enforcement agencies through FOIA requests.
- Organized local "Know Your Rights" events and presented in English and Spanish at said events.
- Recruited private attorneys and law firms in south Florida to secure pro bono representation for individuals which Catholic Charities lacked the resources to assist.
- Recognized by the Catholic Legal Immigration Network at the 2018 annual convening near the U.S./Mexico border in Arizona for my work with unaccompanied minors.

Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow, November 2015 – November 2017

- Selected as one of 46 attorney-fellows to the national *justice* AmeriCorps program, which was a partnership between the Department of Justice and the Corporation for National & Community Service administered by Equal Justice Works, to provide pro bono representation to unaccompanied minors.
- Performed intake consultations during site visits to the children's homes.
- Explained the complexities of our immigration system to children from indigenous populations.
- Effectively conveyed the severity of these children's plight to the immigration authorities.
- Communicated with foreign embassies and attorneys from the children's home countries.
- Supervised and mentored a Nova law student from the AmeriCorps JD program.

Department of Homeland Security - Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Miami, FL

Legal Intern, May 2014 – December 2014

- Worked under various ICE trial attorneys at the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor.
- Tasked with preparing files for calendar calls, litigating hearings, cross examining witnesses, contacting local law enforcement for assistance in gathering evidence, drafting various pleadings concerning grounds of removability, filing country condition reports, and extensively researching complicated immigration and criminal issues.

Benson, Mucci & Weiss, PL

Coral Springs, FL

Summer Law Clerk, May 2013 – August 2013

- Researched matters related to real estate, probate, construction law, and commercial litigation.
- Drafted demand letters, pleadings, and motions; organized discovery materials.
- Prepared the firm's newsletter which updated clients on potential impacts to their businesses.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Huntington Learning Center

South Florida

Instructor, August 2011 – July 2018

- Coached SAT/ACT preparedness courses.
- Tutored K-12 students in English, Math, and Science.

Kaplan Virtual Education

Plantation, FL

Partnership Specialist/Online Instructor, January 2010 – August 2010

- Taught middle and high school language arts and English composition via virtual classrooms.
- Assisted in developing supplemental (virtual) curriculum for school districts across the country.
- Provided specialized support for districts that received grants from the "Race to the Top" program.

EDUCATION

Florida International University College of Law

Miami, FL

Juris Doctor, December 2014

- Dean's List scholar (Spring 2014, Fall 2014)
- Excellence in Service Award – Carlos A. Costa Immigration and Human Rights Clinic (2014)
- H.T. Smith Trial Advocacy Program (Fall 2014)
- President of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (2013-2014)
- Student Representative for LexisNexis (2013-2014) and Themis Bar Prep (2012-2014)

University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Gainesville, FL

Bachelor of Arts - English, December 2009

- Florida Academic Scholar (Bright Futures)
- Dade County Police Benevolent Association scholarship recipient (2005)
- Research assistant for Sidney Homan, PhD (2009)
- Delta Epsilon Iota; National Society of Collegiate Scholars; National Scholars Honor Society

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **Equal Justice Works Alumni Advisory Council** – Member of Outreach Committee since 2022. Incoming Chairperson of Programming Committee for 2023-2024.
- **12th Man Football & Cheer Camp** – Volunteer & Mascot since 2010 for an annual event where special needs kids and young adults are able to live out their dreams of being a professional athlete.

RELATED QUALIFICATIONS

Member of the Florida Bar in Good Standing. Fluent in Spanish. Expert in LexisNexis legal research. Founded Fernandez Legal Services, P.A. in January 2021 for occasional case work in various areas of law.