

# **CHRISTOPHER E. BENJAMIN**

PO Box 694011, Miami, FL 33269  
(305) 407-11780 - (786) 463-4606 Facsimile  
(954) 790-7221 Cellular  
cbenjamin@thebarrister.net

## PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Experienced educational professional with 6+ years of experience as an adjunct professor in law related subjects. Track record of teaching courses in synchronization with the learning objectives along with real life scenarios. Strong facilitating, teaching and public speaking skills for a diverse population (including continuing adult education).

- Proficient in the areas of Employment Law, Criminal Law, Corporations, Family Law, Civil Rights, Consumer Law and Bankruptcy Law.
- Experienced with teaching non-legal students in diverse areas of law.

## CORE COMPETENCIES

- Lesson Planning
- Classroom Instruction
- Course Assessment
- Student Evaluation
- Assignment Checking
- Grading

## EDUCATION

**St. Thomas University School of Law**, Miami, FL

Juris Doctorate, May 2001

Member of the Florida Bar: # 561029

Honors: Florida Bar Foundation Scholarship  
Who's Who Among American Law Students  
St. Thomas University School of Law Moot Court Board  
Peter T. Fay American Inns of Court  
Student Bar Association, *Senator*  
Southern Region of National Black Law Student Association, *Treasurer*

**Florida Memorial University**, Miami, FL

B.A., Political Science/Public Administration, 1998

Honors: Dean's List  
Herman Dreer Leadership/Scholarship  
All American Collegiate Scholar  
Student Government Association, *Senior Class President & Attorney General of Student Disciplinary Council*  
Christopher Benjamin Day (Proclamation from the City Council of Opa Locka, Florida)  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (State, District & International), Undergraduate of the Year

## ADJUNCT EXPERIENCE

**Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad College of Law**

*Adjunct Professor* (October 2016 – Present)

- Instruct Masters students on the principles, theories and application of various elements of Employment Law in the American legal system.

**Miami-Dade College**, Miami, Florida

*Adjunct Instructor* (November 2015 – Present)

- Teach the Florida Title Insurance pre-licensing course to adult students;
- Create an intellectually stimulating classroom environment augmented by real life scenarios
- Coordinated coursework and curriculum
- Developed and managed syllabus materials
- Designed assignments and tests
- Established positive classroom relationships and incorporated higher level learning

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## **City College, Miami, Florida**

### Adjunct Professor (January 2010 – May 2010)

- Taught undergraduate students in paralegal studies in the areas of:
  - Business Law, Criminal Law, Torts and Contracts.
- Facilitated class instruction and evaluates student performance
- Managed grade determination

## **Florida Memorial University, Miami, Florida**

### Adjunct Professor (July 2001-July 2006)

- Taught various undergraduate courses such as:
  - Business Law, Criminal Law, Public Administration and Criminal Justice.
- Developed and managed syllabus materials
- Developed coursework and curriculum with academic objectives

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

### **The Barrister Firm, P.A., Miami, Florida**

#### Senior Managing Shareholder (June 2002-present)

- First chair responsibility in over 2000 cases
  - Conduct depositions
  - Examine expert witnesses
  - Prepare pretrial discovery requests
  - Conduct client interviews
  - Supervise supporting staff
  - Manage office operations
- Practice in the Areas of: commercial litigation, foreclosure litigation, commercial and residential real estate transactions, bankruptcy, criminal litigation, employment and labor, business transactions, business formation, software licensing agreements, collections and family litigation. Title Agency: providing real estate transactional services such as; title searches, title examinations, encumbrance and ownership reports and title opinions. Providing supervision of personnel performing closings and escrow services.

### **City of Opa Locka, FL**

#### Special Magistrate (November 2012 – present)

The Special Magistrate is an attorney and member of the Florida Bar who is appointed by the City Council to preside over code enforcement matters. The Special Magistrate has the jurisdiction and authority to hear and decide alleged violations and exercise the powers of a Code Enforcement Board as provided in chapter 162, Florida Statutes.

### **City of North Miami, FL**

#### Special Magistrate (April 2013 – present)

### **City of South Bay, FL**

#### Special Magistrate (August 2014 – present)

### **City of Hallandale Beach, FL**

#### Special Magistrate (June 2014 – January 2015)

### **Administration of Courts/11<sup>TH</sup> Judicial Circuit-County Court Traffic Division, Miami, Florida**

#### Hearing Officer (January 2011-present)

As a traffic hearing officer, I perform the task of taking and evaluating evidence and testimony from witnesses, making findings of fact and conclusions of law. Traffic hearing officers conduct both pretrial hearings and infraction trials for civil traffic infractions, parking infractions, Florida's Sunpass toll infractions and general toll infractions. Traffic hearing officers hear between 100-425 cases per docket and hear cases once or twice a week (with 6-7 dockets per day).

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## **Salmon & Dulberg, P.A., Miami, Florida**

*Mediator/Arbitrator/Umpire* (October 2009 – Present)

An alternative dispute expert assisting litigants with the resolution of matters in the legal areas of: insurance (windstorm) disputes, Family/Divorce, Commercial Litigation, Consumer Litigation, Bankruptcy and Real Estate.

## **The Title Experts of South Florida, Inc., Miami Gardens, Florida**

*Attorney/CEO* (August 2004-June 2010)

Providing real estate transactional services such as; title searches, title examinations, encumbrance and ownership reports and title opinions. Providing supervision of personnel performing closings and escrow services.

## **Administration of Courts/11<sup>TH</sup> Judicial Circuit-Family Division, Miami, Florida**

*Case Manager* (February 2002-July 2002)

Assisted the Judges in reviewing the cases filed in their divisions, for accuracy and completeness, in order to ensure that cases progressed through the system in an efficient manner. These cases included divorces, name changes, adoptions, child support/visitation, and paternities. Scheduled the Judges' uncontested matters for final hearings and all other matters for case management and/or status conferences. Prepared various orders and final judgments as per the Judges' request.

## **Miami-Dade County Public Defender's Office, Miami, Florida**

*Certified Legal Intern* (July 2000-May 2001)

Performed research. Conducted client interviews and depositions. Drafted and argued dispositive motions. Litigated jury and bench trials in the felony and juvenile divisions.

## **Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr., Ft. Lauderdale, Florida**

*Summer Clerkship* (June 1999-September 1999)

Performed research and reviewed causes of action in order to advise the Judge on the various points of law argued by the parties. Wrote proposed summary judgments, directed verdicts, and memorandums of law to assist the Judge in his final drafts. Assisted with interoffice operations.

## **Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) Internship, Washington, D.C.**

*Congressional Internship, Congresswoman Carrie Meek* (June 1997-September 1997)

Assisted with interoffice operations, researched legislative issues, attended meetings/hearings, wrote constituent correspondence letters and assisted with legislative drafting.

## LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS

**Florida Supreme Court**

**Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator**

**Florida Supreme Court Qualified Arbitrator**

**Supreme Court of the United States of America**

**United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces**

**United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit**

**United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida (including the Bankruptcy Court)**

**United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida**

**United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida**

**Real Estate Broker**

**Attorney Title Insurance Agent**

**Notary Public**

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## MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

### **The Florida Bar**

- Consumer Civil Procedures Rules Committee (2015- 2017)
- Family Law Rules Committee (2009-2011)
- Protection Committee (2004-2006)

### **Dade County Bar Association**

- Solo/Small Firm Committee Co-Chairman (2012-2013)
- Juvenile Court Committee Chairman (2010- 2011)
- Legal Aid Committee Vice Chairman (2005- 2006)

### **Florida Muslim Bar Association**

- President (2011- 2012)

### **Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association a/k/a Black Lawyers Association**

- President (2009-2010)

### **NAACP, Dade County Branch**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President (2011- 2014)
- Legal Redress Committee Chairman (2005- 2014)

### **Florida Memorial University National Alumni Association**

- General Counsel (2010-present )

### **Florida Democratic Black Caucus**

- General Counsel (2016 – present)

### **Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Florida Statewide Organization**

- State Counselor/Attorney (2004- 2006)

### **North Dade Bar Association**

### **Cuban American Bar Association**

### **Federal Bar Association**

### **National Association of Hearing Officials**

### **Florida Association of Professional Mediators**

### **Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**

### **Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, Inc.**

### **100 Black Men of South Florida, Inc.**

### **F&AM/AASR/AAOMS**

## HONORS

Trayvon Martin Foundation: Father of the Year Honoree (2016)

Bme Leadership Award (2016 Nominee)

Dade County Bar Association: Legal Luminaries (2016 Finalist)

World Wide Registry of Experts (2015)

National Black Lawyers: Top 100 (2015 Invitation)

National Association of Distinguished Counsel: Top One Percent (2015 Invitation)

The Brown Girls, Inc.; Outstanding Greek Alumni of Florida Memorial University (2015)

Dade County Charmettes; Man of the Year; Civic Honoree (2015)

JM Family Enterprise; African American Achievers: ( 2015 Nominee)

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Florida Trend - Florida Legal Elite (2015)  
World Wide Registry of Executives and Professionals (2014)  
ALM Florida Legal Leaders (2014)  
11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit: General Magistrate Nominee (2012)  
South Florida Business Journal 40 under 40 (2012)  
Legacy Magazine Top 40 under 40 Black Leaders of Today and Tomorrow (2012)  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation 40 under 40 Outstanding Lawyers of Miami-Dade County (2012)  
Listed in ALM: South Florida's Top Rated Attorneys (2013)  
National Trial Lawyers Top 40 under 40 (2012 and 2013 Invitation)  
Super Lawyers 2014 -2017  
Super Lawyers Rising Star 2012 and 2013  
Client Distinction Award (Martindale-Hubbell) 2015  
AV Preeminent Attorney (Martindale -Hubbell) 2011 -2017  
AVVO.com (rated Superb)  
Marquis Who's Who in American Law 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Editions  
Marquis Who's Who in America 67<sup>th</sup> and 68<sup>th</sup> Edition  
International Who's Who of Entrepreneurs (2003)  
Florida Memorial University Fountain of Excellence (2003)  
Put Something Back Program-Dade County Bar Association: Outstanding Pro Bono Award (2003)  
National Alumni Council/UNCF: Outstanding Young Alumni (2002)

## APPOINTMENTS

Miami-Dade County, Citizens Independent Transportation Trust (July 2010 – 2012)  
City of Miami Gardens Nuisance Abatement Board (Co-Chairman, 2010- present)  
City of Opa Locka Ad Hoc City Attorney Search Committee (Chairman; 2008)  
Miami Gardens Mayoral Task Force on Underage Drinking (August 2008- 2012)  
Gubernatorial appointment to the Local Advocacy Council (2005- 2009)  
Miami-Dade County Parks & Recreation Citizens Advisory Committee (2005-2008)

## PRO BONO ACTIVITIES

Miami-Dade Legal Aid: Put Something Back  
Legal Services of Greater Miami: Small Claims Clinic  
Volunteer Lawyers Project for the Southern District of Florida  
Lawyers for Children of America  
Teen Court (Volunteer Judge)  
William Dandy Middle School Law Magnate Program (Sponsor/Mentor)