

Experience

Nova Southeastern University

2013 – Present

Director - Shepard Broad College of Law's Veterans Law Clinic, Director - Shepard Broad College of Law's Legal Incubator Program, Staff Attorney

Director - Shepard Broad College of Law's Veterans Law Clinic

Established Veterans Law Clinic. Ensure the effective and efficient operation of the Veterans Law Clinic. The Veterans Law Clinic advises and provides direct legal representation to the veteran community including drafting legal opinions in the following areas: rights and entitlements arising under Title 38, rights and entitlements arising under Title 10, powers of attorney, advanced directives, qualified income trusts, wills, consumer rights, family law, child support, paternity, veteran's court, driver's license restoration, sealing and expungement, and debtor-creditor issues, social security, and guardianship. Appear in court as attorney practitioner for clinic clients. Supervise students representing individuals in administrative or judicial forums. Teach Veterans Law Clinic Seminar and Veterans Law Workshop (Stateside Rights).

Director - Shepard Broad College of Law's Legal Incubator Program

Developed Legal Incubator Program for recent law school graduates to attain legal and business skills enabling them to launch a solo or small firm practice while expanding legal services for the modest income and veteran community. Facilitate the College of Law's Legal Incubator Program by recruiting participants, providing training, promoting marketing concepts, and offering mentoring resources.

Staff Attorney

Develop and administer intake process for screening individuals to determine eligibility for representation in the NSU Clinical Programs Law Office. Ensure legal and ethical compliance within the NSU Clinical Programs Law Office. Vet law office management programs. Supervise clinic staff. Participate in community outreach. Draft grant proposal and create course curriculum for new Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Clinic.

The National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA)

2016 Next Generation Faculty (NGF) 01/2016 - 12/2016

NITA is the nation's leading provider of legal advocacy skills training. A 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization based in Boulder, Colorado, NITA pioneered the legal skills learning-by-doing methodology over 40 years ago and has since remained the ultimate standard in continuing legal education. Each year NITA selects three NGF out of twelve nominations. The NGF are invited to teach legal advocacy skills at geographically diverse NITA trial and deposition programs for a full year. Participated as NGF in six trial skills programs: ACLU, Chicago, San Francisco, San Diego, Boulder, Baton Rouge, Florida and deposition programs in New Jersey and Florida.

Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida 2009-2013
Supervising Attorney

Managed and supervised attorneys, support staff, and interns. Supervisory responsibilities included assignment of caseload, review of work product, administrative and personnel management, legal education and development. Drafted cultural sensitivity initiatives. Established strategic goals. Developed partnerships and collaborations with community partners and governmental agencies. Performed grant writing. Conducted self-help workshops. Delivered pro bono assistance. Facilitated community outreach for EACH and VALOR Projects. Engaged media. Served as Veterans Task Force member. Accomplished statewide systemic advocacy.

EACH Project (Economic Advocacy and Community Health)

Advocated on behalf of low-income individuals eligible for federal and state public benefits. Interacted daily with Social Security Administration, Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Economic Opportunity, Department of Children and Families, and Department of Veterans Affairs. Prepared motions and briefs for hearings and appeals. Attended federal and state hearings.

VALOR Project (Veteran Advocates Legal Outreach & Representation)

Conceptualized, designed, and implemented project. VALOR is a medical legal partnership with the Department of Veteran Affairs. VALOR provides free civil legal services to veterans, active duty military and their families on site at the Broward VA Outpatient Clinic. Provided legal assistance with Title 38 issues, Title 10 claims as well as general civil legal issues.

*Experience
(Continued)*

Special Counsel, Inc. 2006 – 2008
Attorney Search Director

Specialized in recruiting the nation's elite lateral attorneys and partners and facilitating direct hire placements in Florida's most prestigious firms and corporations. Assisted clients with diversity recruitment and retention initiatives. Executed statewide marketing and business development.

Law Office of the Public Defender, Broward County, Florida

Chief Assistant Public Defender 2005 – 2006

Responsible for the recruitment, training, and supervision of county court assistant public defenders and support staff. Liaison between county court judges, county clerk's office and the Law Office of the Public Defender. Media representative for Law Office of the Public Defender regarding county court issues and sexual predator topics. Recruiting and hiring committee. Community Outreach forum speaker.

Assistant Public Defender 2000 – 2004

Chief Counsel for Sexual Violent Predator Unit. Defended against state civil commitment petitions (Jimmy Ryce). Served as lead attorney in felony domestic violence unit and general felony divisions litigating life felonies, second and third degree crimes. Worked in mental health court and misdemeanor divisions.

Carnival Cruise Lines, Florida

1997-1999

Litigation Counsel

Defended and litigated maritime caseload consisting of crew and passenger personal injury claims and breach of contract claims in federal and state courts. Directed New York and New Jersey federal litigation.

Office of the Attorney General, Florida

1996-1997

Assistant Attorney General

Dependency and Appellate Divisions

Represented the State in termination of parental rights trials. Researched, wrote and filed civil and criminal appeals before the Fourth District Court of Appeals.

Bower & Gardner, NY

1993-1996

(dissolved & merged Garbarini & Scher)

Associate

Managed a civil litigation caseload of insurance defense and medical malpractice defense from inception through trial. Effectuated all aspects of litigation including: drafting pleadings, motion practice, depositions, hearings, court conferences, trial preparation, and daily client contact. Represented major insurance companies in state and federal courts. Conducted jury trials and municipal administrative hearings in state and federal courts.

Scholarship

Suddenly Discharged the Combat Continues: Eliminating the Legal Services Gap to Ensure Veterans' Success After Leaving Military Service, 45 *U. Mem. L. Rev.* 837 (2015). (Invited symposium issue).

Speeches & Presentations

Faculty: National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) 2013-Present.

Panelist/Speaker: *Dateline Health*, Veterans Legal Services (03/2016).

Panelist/Speaker: National Law School Veterans Clinic Coalition, William & Mary Law School Clinics (11/1/15).

Trainer/Workshop: Veterans Law Clinic NSU Shepard Broad College of Law, Military Upgrades Workshop (11/11/15).

Trainer/Workshop: Fort Lauderdale VET Center, Child Support Workshop (09/04/15).

Trainer/Workshop: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 23, End of Life Preparation Workshop (09/01/15).

Panelist/Speaker: L.Cpl. Janos V Lutz Live to Tell Veterans Affairs in Broward County Executive Roundtable, *PTSD Awareness Webinar* (06/24/2015).

Speaker: The University of Memphis Law Review Symposium, *In re Valor: Policy and Action in Veterans Legal Aid: Bridging the Legal Services Gap & Recognizing the Impact Legal Assistance has on Transition, Reintegration, and Ultimately*

Stabilization (03/ 27/15).

Panelist/Speaker: The John Marshall Law School, Veterans Legal Support Center's 2014 National Conference & VA Accreditation (09/26/14).

Trainer/Workshop: Veterans Law Clinic NSU Shepard Broad Law Center, Military Upgrades Workshop (09/17/14).

Speaker: The Broward Veterans Coalition, Veteran's Legal Needs (09/15/14).

Trainer/Workshop: Veterans Law Clinic NSU Shepard Broad Law Center, Don't Ask Don't Tell Workshop (06/4/14).

Panelist/Speaker: NSU College of Optometry Faculty Retreat, HPD Interdisciplinary Legal Hypo (03/18/14).

Trainer/Workshop: VFW Post 8195, Sealing & Expungement of Criminal Record Workshop (02/27/14).

Speaker: UM/JM Medical Center- Public Service Announcement, Permanency Planning (02/13/14).

Facilitator: Veterans Law Clinic NSU Shepard Broad Law Center, *Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder & National Security Clearance: The Gamble of Not Treating PTSD* (02/04/14).

Trainer/Workshop: JC's Recovery House-Hollywood, Legal Services Workshop (01/28/14).

Speaker: Nova Southeastern University-Faculty Symposium, Why Do We Have Hopeless Heroes? (01/09/14).

Speaker: EL CENTRO, Working Effectively with Vulnerable Populations: Academic and Community Perspectives: US Veterans (11/09/13).

CLE Speaker: The Broward Domestic Violence Counsel, Domestic Violence and the Military: Serving Those Who Serve and Their Families (10/25/13).

Speaker: Lifelong Learning Institute NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, Legal Services for Veterans and Military Families in South Florida (10/03/13).

Panelist: Miami VA Healthcare System, Mental Health Summit (08/16/13).

Trainer/Workshop: Army Reserve 724th Military Police Battalion, Legal Rights Presentation (07/13/13).

Trainer/Workshop: Veterans Law Clinic NSU Shepard Broad Law Center, Removing Legal Barriers to Employment Workshop (06/5/13).

Awards

- **2016 NITA's Next Generation Award (NextGen)**
National Institute for Trial Advocacy
 - **2014 President's Excellence in Community Engagement Award**
Nova Southeastern University, FL
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