

# VANESTI E. BENNETT \*

## ATTORNEY AT LAW

\*Admitted to practice law in FL, D.C. and GA

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### EDUCATION

#### St. Thomas University School of Law, Miami Gardens, Florida

*Juris Doctor, cum laude*

May 2012

GPA: 3.045 Class Rank: 56/197 (Top 28%)

Honors: Dean's List (Spring 2012, Fall 2011, Spring 2011); Merit Scholarship Award Recipient (2011-2012).

Activities: Stephen R. Booher Inn of Court; The Honorable Peter T. Fay American Inn of Court; Student Bar Association, Ambassador; Phi Delta Phi International Spellman Inn (Honors Fraternity); Caribbean Law Students Association; Public Interest Law Students Association; Black Law Students Association.

#### Florida Metropolitan University n/k/a Everest University, Pompano Beach, Florida

*Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice, cum laude*

April 2006

GPA: 3.56

Honors: Dean's List (4 semesters); President's List (3 semesters).

*Associates of Science in Paralegal*

July 2003

GPA: 3.2

### ADJUNCT PROFESSOR EXPERIENCE

#### Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad College of Law, Davie, Florida

October 2016-present

##### Adjunct Professor of Law

Instruct students enrolled in the Master's Degree in Law program on legal issues to add value to their individual careers.

### PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

#### Roberts, Reynolds, Bedard & Tuzzio, PLLC, Coral Springs, Florida

December 2014-present

##### Associate Attorney, Complex Commercial Litigation

Represents clients in construction matters (i.e. construction defects and telecommunication construction), *inter alia*. Attends hearings (UMC and special set) and depositions. Attends pre-deposition meetings with clients. Attends discovery document inspection to inspect documents produced by developers, general contractors and subcontractors. Prepares declaratory judgment complaints (Florida and other states). Prepares demand letters to subcontractors and subcontractors' carriers. Prepares answers and affirmative defenses. Prepares motions to dismiss, memoranda of law, motions to compel discovery, *inter alia*. Prepares and propound discovery. Prepares responses to discovery requests. Confers with clients (including adjusters and subcontractors). Confers with engineer re: construction defects. Negotiates settlement agreements. Attends property inspections. Analyze documents responsive to discovery. Research case law on indemnification, contribution, subrogation rights, *inter alia*. Prepares mediation summaries. Prepare initial case assessments and status reports. Email and confer with opposing counsels.

#### Sachs Sax Caplan, P.L., Boca Raton, Florida

August 2013-September 2014

##### Associate Attorney, Complex Commercial Litigation and Civil Litigation

Represented clients in construction, post judgment, eviction, bad check, specific performance, foreclosure (note only) and collection matters. Attended hearings (UMC and special set), trials, case management conferences, mediation and depositions on construction and general commercial litigation matters. Obtained favorable rulings on motions to dismiss, premature claim of exemption, and motion to compel defendant's answers to questions asked at post-judgment deposition. Attended discovery document inspection to inspect documents produced by developers, general contractors and subcontractors. Prepared complaints (State and Federal Court) for breach of contract, specific performance, bad check, collections, breach of commercial lease/eviction matters, etc. Prepared answers, affirmative defenses, motions to dismiss, memoranda of law, motions for summary judgment, motions for extensions of time, motions to compel discovery for construction defect, post judgment, violation of condo governing documents, breach of residential lease agreement, breach of contract and negligence matters, *inter alia*. Prepared and propounded discovery. Prepared responses to discovery requests. Analyzed documents responsive to discovery. Prepared witness lists and exhibit lists. Conferred with clients and provided advice and representation as appropriate. Conferred with engineers re: construction defects. Negotiated partial settlement agreements with general contractors and subcontractors. Negotiated successful settlements with former clients on behalf of firm. Attended property inspections with engineers and developers' and subcontractors' attorneys. Researched case law on economic loss rule, abuse of process, indemnification, Fifth Amendment, claim of exemption, fraudulent transfer, *inter alia*. Prepared deposition exhibit binders for trial. Prepared mediation summaries for construction matters. Emailed and conferred with opposing counsels. Responded to writs of certiorari in appellate court. Reported updated case law to litigation department.

**The Rakusin Law Firm, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida**

*March 2013 – June 2013*

**Law Clerk, Complex Commercial Litigation**

Researched corporate records information for entities (in and out of State). Prepared subpoenas and notices for deposition duces tecum for individuals and corporate representatives of corporations. Prepared complaints. Prepared Fla. Stat. § 57.105 motion for sanctions and attorney's fees. Prepared motion to transfer. Prepared motions to dismiss/motions to strike, *inter alia*. Researched case law on several marital and commercial law issues (derivative actions, confidential information, and temporary alimony). Analyzed financial records in dissolution of marriage proceeding. Prepared responses to interrogatories, request to produce and request for admissions. Prepared and propounded interrogatories, request to produce and request for admissions. Drafted correspondences. Prepared and filed motions and pleadings with the Court.

**Esler & Lindie, P.A., Ft. Lauderdale, Florida**

*December 2011 – October 2012*

**Law Clerk, Commercial and Civil Litigation (w/emphasis on Condo Law)**

Attended hearings and depositions. Researched case law relative to issues on: superiority of mortgage, SOL pled in a motion to dismiss as a basis for dismissal, denials pled as affirmative defenses, the affect amending a final judgment has on a sale date, *inter alia*, and prepared subsequent memoranda and motions. Prepared attorney for trials and hearings. Scheduled depositions and hearings both special set and motion calendar in the tri-county areas. Drafted subpoenas for deposition duces tecum. Arranged for court reporters. Drafted, filed and served answers or other responsive pleadings, summons, foreclosure complaints against unit owners and homeowners and complaints to quiet title. Drafted motions corresponding to cases dealing with foreclosures on claim of liens, quiet title actions and cases involving violations of Declarations of Condominium. Drafted motions for default by the clerk and by the Court, motions to compel, motions in limine, motions for extension of time, motions to reschedule foreclosure sale, motions to dismiss, *inter alia*. Drafted exhibit lists and witness lists. Scheduled trials online and organized case files for trials. Researched information on potential defendants. Filed pleadings and motions with the Court. Submitted requests for non-military affidavits for named defendants. Requested title reports.

**The Honorable Michael A. Robinson, Broward County Circuit Court, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida**

*January 2012 – May 2012*

**Judicial Intern, Broward Circuit Court Criminal Felony Division**

Attended calendar calls, trials, and motion to suppress hearings. Researched issues before the Court. Prepared memorandum of law on the issue of Stand Your Ground. Made copies of case law and assisted the Judge.

**The Honorable Gisela Cardonne Ely, Dade County Circuit Court, Miami, Florida**

*July 2011 – October 2011*

**Judicial Intern, Miami-Dade Circuit Court Civil Division**

Attended foreclosure motion calendar hearings and special set hearings. Mailed out executed orders by the Judge.

**The Rakusin Law Firm, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida**

*March 2007 – August 2010*

**Certified Paralegal, Complex Commercial Litigation**

Attended court hearings and depositions. Researched case law. Prepared trial and exhibit notebooks. Attended trials. Scheduled conferences, depositions, and mediations. Prepared and filed pleadings with the State and Federal Courts and Bankruptcy Court. Prepared and propounded request to produce and interrogatories. Prepared responses to request to produce and interrogatories. Prepared subpoenas for deposition duces tecum. Analyzed and organized financial records in dissolution of marriage and bankruptcy proceedings. Arranged for court reporters and video technicians. Drafted, filed and served answers or other responsive pleadings, summons and complaints. Prepared motions for default and motions to compel. E-filed with the Federal Courts (PACER)-Southern District and Bankruptcy. Analyzed and organized files. Drafted correspondence. Delegated assignments to other support staff.

## **ADMISSIONS, SKILLS, CERTIFICATIONS, AND MEMBERSHIPS**

Admissions: Florida; Georgia; Washington D.C. and U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida

Skills: Proficient in Amicus attorney; PC Law; Assets plus; Divorce Planner (FinPlan); Prolaw; CT Summation; AIM; Trial Works; Juris.

Certifications: Certified Paralegal (National Association Of Legal Assistants/Paralegals, 2007-2012); Florida Registered Paralegal (Florida Bar, 2008-2010); Notary Public (Current); Certified in LexisNexis and Westlaw.

Memberships: Broward County Bar Association, Member (Commercial/Business Litigation and Family Law sections); Palm Beach County Bar Association, Member; The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Law Student Division, Student Member (2011-2012); Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr., Bar Association, Student Member (2011-2012); American Bar Association, Student Member (2011-2012) (Criminal Law and Litigation sections); National Association of Legal Assistants/Paralegals (2007-2012); Paralegal Association of Florida (Broward Chapter); Stephen R. Booher Inn of Court, Member; TJ Reddick Bar Association, Member (2014-present), Executive Board Member (2016-present); Georgia Bar Association (2015-present); Washington D.C. Bar Association (2015-present); The Urban League of Broward County, Member (2014-present).