

Hon. Robert E. Belanger
Circuit Judge, 19th Judicial Circuit, State of Florida

EDUCATION

Duke University Law School, Durham, North Carolina
Master of Laws (LL.M) in Judicial Studies, 2014

Naval Justice School, Newport, Rhode Island
Certified Trial/Defense Counsel.
Graduated with Honors, 1988 (top 10%)

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University, Ohio
Juris Doctorate,
Dean's List. 1986
Highest Grade in Class, Federal Income Tax I (Spring 1985) and Tax Policy (Spring 1986)

John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio
B.A. (Political Science), 1981 Dean's List

EMPLOYMENT

2004- Present **Circuit Judge, 19th Judicial Circuit**

Currently assigned to St. Lucie County Felony Division. Administrative Judge, 19th Judicial Circuit Veterans Court. Previous assignments include Civil Division, Probate Division and Family Law Division. Appointed in January 2005 by Governor Jeb Bush.

July 2007/ October 2018 **Associate Judge, 4th District Court of Appeals**

Published decisions include: *Bardowell v. Bardowell*, 975 So. 2d 628, 629 (Fla. 4th DCA 2008); *State v. Barnes*, 979 So. 2d 991 (Fla. 4th DCA 2008); *Wesby v. State*, 966 So. 2d 1031 (Fla. 4th DCA 2007); *Olivas v. Peterson*, 969 So. 2d 1138, 1139 (Fla. 4th DCA 2007); *State v. Schultz*, 238 So. 3d 288 (Fla. 4th DCA 2018); *Rouffe v. CitiMortgage, Inc.*, 241 So. 3d 870 (Fla. 4th DCA 2018).

1994-2004 **Office of the State Attorney, 19th Judicial Circuit of Florida**

Assistant State Attorney. Attorney in Charge, Martin County Office. Attorney in Charge, St. Lucie County Office. Responsible for the daily operation of the State Attorney's Office. Supervised attorneys and clerical staff. Jury trials include first degree murder, drug trafficking, armed robbery, armed burglary and DUI manslaughter. Experienced in drafting applications and orders for wiretaps. Provided advice to law enforcement regarding wiretaps and minimization. Previously Misdemeanor Division Supervisor responsible for the training and supervision of new Assistant State Attorneys.

1990 - 1994 Svete, McGee & Carrabine, Co., L.P.A., Chardon, Ohio

Associate in an AV-rated firm. Represented a wide variety of clients. Emphasis in civil litigation, including personal injury, insurance defense and domestic relations. Represented injured parties and insurance companies. Handled all phases of litigation, including extensive discovery and heavy motion practice, negotiation, settlement and trial work. Tried 11 civil jury trials and 4 criminal jury trials. Numerous additional contested bench trials and arbitrations. Clients included small businesses and construction companies as well as State Farm Insurance, Nationwide Insurance and Cincinnati Insurance companies.

1986 - 1990 Captain, United States Marine Corps

Unrestricted Line Officer assigned to Judge Advocate billet. Deputy Counsel to the Commanding General, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area, MCAS-El Toro, California. Provided legal advice to the Commanding General on a wide range of legal matters including environmental law, Federal Tort Claims Act, land use and encroachment, procurement integrity and government ethics. Responsibilities included extensive research and writing on a variety of complex and sensitive matters. 14th Combat Service Support Group (CSSG-14) 1988-1990. 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines (3/25) 1990-1993. (3/25 was activated during Operation Desert Storm to support operations conducted in Iraq. Although the Marines of 3/25 did not deploy to Iraq, they played a key role in other operations). Held a Secret security clearance.

BAR ADMISSIONS / PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS/ MEMBERSHIPS

Florida (1993), Ohio (1986), U.S. Court of Military Appeals (1989), U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio (1990), U.S. Supreme Court (1992).

The Florida Bar, 1993 -Present
- Meritorious Public Service Award, 2003
for service as Chairman of Grievance Committee 19A

The Federalist Society

Justice Major B. Harding American Inn of Court, 2002-present
- President, 2010
- Founding Master of the Bench
- Executive Board Member

Awarded Martindale-Hubbell AV rating while serving as an Assistant State Attorney ¹

¹ Martindale-Hubbell is the facilitator of a peer review process that rates lawyers. Ratings reflect the confidential opinions of the bar and judiciary. Martindale-Hubbell ratings fall into two categories-legal ability and general ethical standards. The A legal rating is “very high to preeminent” while the V ethical rating is “very high”. CV, BV and AV are registered certification marks of Reed Elsevier Properties Inc., used in accordance with Martindale-Hubbell procedure standards and policies.

Fellow, Royal Society of Arts, London

Marine Corps Association
- Charter Life Member

The Army and Navy Club, Washington, D.C.

American Legion

Who's Who in American Law
- 7th Edition, 1994-1995
- 8th Edition, 1996-1997

Who's Who in America
- 54th Edition, 1999-2000

Pro Bono Commendation Award
- 19th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee, 2000 and 2001

LECTURES

Indian River State College, Law Enforcement Academy – presented lecture regarding the Fourth Amendment, law of search and seizure and exclusionary rule to police cadets. Primary Instructor State Attorney Investigator Edward Arens. May 2011.

Indian River State College – presented lecture on constitutional interpretation, contrasting originalism with the living constitution. Primary Instructor Circuit Judge William Roby. May 2014.

Stuart Police Department Citizen's Academy 2000-2004 - lecture on criminal justice system.

Martin County CARES 2000-2004 - lecture on criminal justice system. Martin County CARES is sponsored by Martin County Board of County Commissioners.

Fort Pierce Police Department / Multi-Agency Task Force- lectured on wiretap procedures and investigations.

Indian River State College - Survey of Law Class- Taught class of 14 legal assistant students; overview of criminal justice system, Miranda, search & seizure issues; Juvenile Justice.

Martin County Sheriff's Office- Taught two-hour block of instruction for all sworn law enforcement officers of the Martin County Sheriff's Office, required for agency certification. Overview of criminal justice system, warrantless arrests, custodial interrogations and *Miranda* warnings, search & seizure issues search warrants and probable cause. 1998-2002.

State Attorney's Office - lectured at the monthly CLE training sessions sponsored by State Attorney Bruce H. Colton on confidential informants, discovery issues and trial preparation. 2004-2010.

PUBLICATIONS

Judicial Decision Making and the Exclusionary Rule, 21 TEX. REV. L. & POL. 65 (Fall 2016).

Published Opinions:

Olivas v. Peterson, 969 So.2d 1138 (Fla. 4th DCA 2007)

Wesby v. State, 966 So.2d 1031 (Fla. 4th DCA 2007)

Bardowell v. Bardowell, 975 So.2d 628 (Fla. 4th DCA 2008)

State v. Barnes, 979 So.2d 991 (Fla. 4th DCA 2008)

State v. Schultz, 238 So. 3d 288 (Fla. 4th DCA 2018)

Rouffe v. CitiMortgage, Inc., 241 So. 3d 870 (Fla. 4th DCA 2018)

JUDICIAL EDUCATION

Florida Judicial College, Phase I January 2005

Florida Judicial College, Phase II March 2005

Civil Fundamentals, Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies May 2006

Handling Capital Cases, Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies May 2006

Civil Fundamentals, Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies May 2007

Search & Seizure, Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies May 2007

Handling Capital Cases Refresher Course, 2008 United Judicial Conference August 2008

Jurisprudence, Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies May 2010

Sentencing, Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies May 2010

Faculty Training Course, Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies February 2011

Handling Capital Cases Refresher Course, 2012 United Judicial Conference August 2012

Handling Capital Cases Refresher Course, 2014 United Judicial Conference July 2014

Baseball Litigation, Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies June 2015

Gangs in Florida, Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies June 2015

Juvenile Alternative Sanctions, Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies June 2015

George Mason University Law & Economics Center, Symposium on the Economics and Law of Public Pension Reform February 2018