

J. BRUCE CULPEPPER
(850) 566-1620
JBruceculpepper@gmail.com

Florida Administration Commission
Room 1802, The Capitol Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

RE: Application for Appointment to Director and Chief Judge of the Division of
Administrative Hearings

To the Florida Administration Commission:

This letter accompanies my resume for appointment to the position of Director and Chief Judge of the Division of Administrative Hearings.

Having served as an Administrative Law Judge for the past five years, I have gained a keen understanding of the duties and responsibilities of Florida's executive judiciary. With this experience, I offer much to the Administration Commission to ensure that DOAH fulfills its unique purpose in Florida's administrative and regulatory system. I know the diverse and varied legal issues heard at DOAH. I appreciate the perspectives of the state agencies and citizens who appear before it. I am acutely aware of the importance for all parties to have confidence in fair, impartial, and well-prepared judges.

I also understand what is required from DOAH's Director and Chief Judge. My time with DOAH has familiarized me with the expectations and responsibilities placed on this organization. I possess the discernment, energy, and temperament to effectively manage Florida's statutory judges. I also draw upon my experience in both the Air Force and Army, which has helped me develop many of the leadership traits that have stood me in good stead as both advocate and jurist. I will bring these characteristics and skills to DOAH.

Finally, I am confident that I will provide the Administration Commission the leadership it seeks. I will bring a congenial, responsive, and thoughtful disposition to the position of Director and Chief Judge. I possess excellent communication, listening, and organization skills. I also believe that having an individual in the role of Director and Chief Judge who understands the singular and vital function of the statutory judge is crucial to ensuring that DOAH discharges its distinct role. I will work extremely hard to ensure that DOAH earns the trust of Florida's executive agencies, as well as meets the needs of the citizens of this state.

Very Respectfully,



BRUCE CULPEPPER
Administrative Law Judge
Florida Division of Administrative Hearings

J. BRUCE CULPEPPER
(850) 566-1620
JBruceCulpepper@gmail.com

Practice Profile:

Bruce Culpepper currently serves as an Administrative Law Judge for the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings, a position he has held since 2015. Judge Culpepper attended the University of Florida for both his undergraduate and law degrees. He began his law practice in the US Air Force as a Judge Advocate. After his active duty service, Judge Culpepper returned to his hometown of Tallahassee. There, he entered private practice where he concentrated on administrative, appellate, and commercial litigation.

After 14 years of private practice with several statewide law firms, Judge Culpepper ventured back into public service. He joined the Florida Department of Financial Services, then later, the Office of Insurance Regulation, where he handled a wide range of administrative and regulatory matters. Judge Culpepper has litigated in Florida state and federal courts, as well as before a number of state administrative agencies. Judge Culpepper currently serves as a Judge Advocate, with the rank of Major, in the US Army Reserve.

Judge Culpepper is a member of the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary, for which he serves on the Board of Governors. Among Judge Culpepper's community and professional activities, he teaches as an adjunct professor at the Florida State University College of Law. He has also been involved in the William H. Stafford Inns of Court, Leadership Tallahassee, the Leon High School Foundation, and the Boy Scouts of America. He is an active member of St. Peters Anglican Church. Judge Culpepper is married with two children.

Employment History:

Florida Division of Administrative Hearings: May 2015 – current

Administrative Law Judge: Serves in Florida's central adjudicatory forum for administrative proceedings; Exercises statutory authority to issue recommendations to state agencies formulating final agency action; Fulfills the role of fact finder and enters final and recommended orders in disputes affecting litigants' substantial interests.

Florida Office of Insurance Regulation: May 2011 – April 2015

Assistant General Counsel: Concentrated on administrative and regulatory issues and litigation; Advised the Office on employment and human resource matters; Represented the Office in administrative, appellate, and civil courts.

Florida Department of Financial Services: June 2010 – April 2011

Assistant General Counsel: Handled a broad array of administrative litigation and regulatory matters; Concentrated on personnel and employment issues.

Sachs Sax Caplan, P.L.: November 2006 to May 2010

Senior Counsel: Practiced civil and administrative litigation; Concentrated on employment issues involving discrimination and wrongful termination; Litigated in state, appellate, and federal courts, as well as before Florida administrative agencies.

Akerman Senterfitt: May 1997 – November 2006

Of Counsel: Focused on civil and appellate litigation representing both corporations and individuals; Engaged in a government and administrative practice handling professional license disputes, bid protests, and Sunshine/Public Records Act issues.

Military Assignments and Experience:

US Army Reserve (Major/04): Feb 2018 - present

213th Legal Operations Detachment: Judge Advocate: Team Leader responsible for the provision of legal advice and services to Reserve and Active duty units and Soldiers, as well as eligible civilians in the Team 4 area of responsibility; Supervises and mentors subordinate Judge Advocates and paralegals; Served as Officer in Charge of the 2019 US Reserve Legal Command regional training event.

FL Army National Guard: Mar 2011 – Dec 2017

1565th Trial Defense Team (Apr 2013 – Dec 2017): Senior Defense Counsel/Trial Defense Counsel: Managed the FLARNG Trial Defense Services office; Defense counsel liaison to the Staff Judge Advocate and unit commanders; Provided legal representation to soldiers throughout the Florida Guard; Responsible for detailing counsel and processing requests for defense services.

HHC 53rd IBCT (March 2011 – Mar 2013): Brigade Judge Advocate/Trial Counsel: Advised the Brigade Commander, as well as Command Group, staff, and subordinate commands and commanders; Responsible for the administration of military justice for the Brigade; Provided ongoing legal support to all levels of command regarding military justice, administrative law, fiscal & contract law, and legal assistance to Soldiers.

United States Air Force: Oct 1991 – May 1997

Judge Advocate: Performed a wide range of legal duties while stationed at two base legal offices (Kelly AFB, TX and Dover AFB, DE); Assignments included Chief of Military Justice, Chief of Legal Assistance, Chief of Administrative Law, and Medical-Law Advisor.

Education:

University of Florida College of Law: 1991

University of Florida: 1988
BA (History)

Honors, Awards, and Activities:

- National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary (Board Member): 2019 – current
- Adjunct Professor – Florida State University College of Law
- Government Lawyers Section, Florida Bar (Past Board Member)
- William H. Stafford Inns of Court (Tallahassee)
- St. Peters Anglican Church Foundation (Past Chairman)
- Tallahassee Camellia Society
- Leadership Tallahassee (Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce): 2001
- Martindale Hubbell, AV rating
- Florida Blue Key (University of Florida leadership honorary): 1989 - 1991
- Eagle Scout