

September 28, 2020

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Administration Commission
Room 1802, The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001
AC.Clerk@laspbs.state.fl.us

Re: Director and Chief Judge of the State of Florida Division of Administrative Hearings

Distinguished Members of the Administration Commission:

Please find enclosed, my resume as application for the position of Director and Chief Judge of the State of Florida Division of Administrative Hearings ("DOAH"). For the past twenty (24) years, I practiced administrative law both in the public and private sectors. I worked in the public sector for twenty years, last as General Counsel for the Office of Financial Regulation; and, for the past four years as a partner in private practice.

I have handled over one hundred cases at DOAH as either first chair or supervising counsel. I have litigated cases including rule challenges, land use disputes and workers' compensation compliance. I was appellate counsel, drafted appellate pleadings, and engaged in oral argument before most District Courts of Appeals. I was a Hearing Officer at the Public Employees Relations Commission and presided over labor and employment cases and engaged in appellate oral argument on behalf of the Commission. I also supervised employees including chief counsels, lawyers, administrative staff and law clerks and reviewed all major pleadings prior to filing.

I am AV-Rated Preeminent and have been Board Certified in State and Federal Government and Administrative Practice (SFGAP) since 2007. I was an Adjunct Professor at the Florida State University College of Law where I taught Florida Administrative Litigation, and Depositions. I have created and lectured in administrative and other Continuing Legal Education Programs and published articles and blogs on a variety of topics, including administrative law.

Throughout my career, I focused on how best to serve my client, my supervisors, and those whom I supervised, ethically and professionally. As Director and Chief Judge I see the culmination of my career to serve the State of Florida, both the public and private sectors and all who are touched by DOAH. I have the skills and experience to lead DOAH and will not hesitate to make improvements where necessary and create a standard of which you may be proud.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my application.

Respectfully,



Colin Mark Roopnarine, Esq.

COLIN MARK ROOPNARINE, ESQUIRE
Board Certified State and Federal Government and Administrative Practice Lawyer

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Former General Counsel appointed by Governor Rick Scott. Highly skilled Board Certified, and AV Rated Pre-eminent administrative lawyer, litigator, appellate counsel, hearing officer, adjunct professor and lecturer who brings a public and private perspective having worked in state government and is now a partner in a statewide law firm. Supervised large teams of legal and administrative personnel statewide, involved in budget matters, legislation and ethics and personnel issues. Extensive formal hearing experience as a litigator and PERC Hearing Officer. Published numerous articles and blogs and lectured on a variety of legal issues.

EMPLOYMENT

Partner (Berger Singerman LLP) September 2016-Present

Member of the firm's Government and Regulatory Team with an emphasis on overall administrative law and appeals, state licensing and permitting and any other state agency related matters. Consult on administrative litigation matters for Florida and other states and assist in civil litigation involving state agencies. My clients range from corporations to individuals in regulatory compliance both statewide and nationwide.

General Counsel (Florida Office of Financial Regulation) June 2013-August 2016

Appointed by Governor Rick Scott. Counsel to the Commissioner rendering advice and counsel to the OFR's executive leadership and management personnel and Chief Counsels, including the Directors of the Divisions of Financial Institutions (banks and credit unions), Securities, and Consumer Finance for all OFR legislation and proposed legislation that affected the agency. Provided guidance and recommendations on Office policies and regulations, budget, legislative matters, statutory interpretations and rule promulgation, contracts, inter-agency agreements, proposed administrative rules and proposed final civil and administrative actions. Represented the OFR in matters including but not limited to human resources/personnel, public records law compliance, contracting, ethics and legal actions against the agency and its employees. Managed and directed the day-to-day operations of staff in the Office of General Counsel. As the OFR's Ethics Officer provided legal advice to all OFR employees regarding ethics compliance issues.

Deputy General Counsel (Department of Business and Professional Regulation) July 2011-June 2013

Chief legal counsel for program enforcement activities for all construction, professions and real estate attorneys. Supervised all chief attorneys and attorneys for the Florida Building Commission and Child and Farm labor programs. Litigation Team Chief. Prepared Attorney Litigation Manual (and update). Instituted a CLE Litigation Training Program. Senior legal advisor to the Secretary, Deputy Secretaries, General Counsel and Division Directors. Consultant on personnel matters and labor and employment issues. Assisted in legislative, budget and rule matters. Informal Hearing Officer in complex Division of Business matters relating to declaratory statements.

Hearing Officer (Public Employees Relations Commission) September 2009-July 2011

Administrative Law Judge for labor and employment cases. Drafted all orders, and issued recommended orders, including findings of fact, evidentiary rulings, legal analysis, and conclusions of law. Drafted orders and Final Orders for Commission and cases assigned to the General Counsel for sufficiency review. Represented the Commission in appellate oral argument. Provided other assistance to the Chairman, Commissioners, and General Counsel.

Managing Attorney (Department of Financial Services, Division of Legal Services) February 2008-September 2009

Supervised litigation unit and office, and formulated policy and procedure for the Division of Workers' Compensation. Reviewed and assigned cases and charted progress, major pleadings and appellate briefs prior to filing with the relevant courts. Drafted litigation forms and implemented a training program for all new attorneys. Advised investigators and legal staff on statutory and rule interpretation, and advised on a wide range of subjects. Lectured at investigator seminars on litigation basics and tips for effective investigation. Consultant to the General Counsel and division directors.

Assistant General Counsel (Department of Financial Services) April 2003-January 2008

Provided legal advice to the Division of Workers' Compensation, and represented it in all matters of litigation before the Division of Administrative Hearings, and in Circuit Court. Drafted appellate briefs and represented the Division at oral argument. Trained all new attorneys in the Division in matters relating to the Division, and in litigation before DOAH.

Assistant General Counsel (Department of Community Affairs) April 1996-April 2003

Administered the Growth Management Act for the State, and advised staff members and the Secretary thereon. Involved in all aspects of litigation, appeals and rulemaking for the Department.

ACADEMIA

Adjunct Professor (Florida State University College of Law) August 2013-Present
(Florida Administrative Litigation – Fall 2013, Spring 2015 and Spring 2016; Depositions – Fall 2014, 2015 and 2016)

EDUCATION

Florida State University College of Law - Juris Doctorate (May 1995)

University of South Florida Graduate School (August 1990 – May 1992)

University of South Florida - Bachelor of Sciences in Zoology/minor - Medieval History (May 1990)

MARTINDALE-HUBBELL RATING

AV Preeminent – representing the highest nationwide peer review rating obtainable by a lawyer.

HONORARIA

2014 – 2018 “Florida Trend Magazine” - Legal Elite.

2014 - “850 Magazine” Recognition for Board Certification

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP and COMMITTEES

Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education (2017-Present)

Board Certification in State and Federal Government and Administrative Practice (SFGAP) (2007-Present)

SFGAP Board Certification Committee (2013-2016) (Chair 2016)

Florida Government General Counsels’ Association (2013-2016) (President 2015-2016)

Administrative Law Section of the Florida Bar – Executive Committee, CLE Committee (2012-Present)

Second Judicial Circuit Professionalism Panel (2012-Present)

Tallahassee Bar Association – 2010-2011

Labor and Employment Law Section of the Florida Bar - Long Range Planning Committee (2010-2011)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit – August 1999

PRESENTATIONS

“Pro Se Litigants” presentation – Pat Dore Admin. Law Conf. (Oct. 2016)

“FSU College of Law Networking Nosh – General Counsels Panel” – (October 2015)

“Common Final Hearing Objections at DOAH.” (February 2015)

“Head Coaches Meeting” –General Counsels Panel – 2014 Pat Dore Admin. Law Conf. (Oct. 2014)

Moderator – “The Road Ahead – Advising Financial Institutions About Transacting With State-Legal Marijuana Businesses.” (July 2014)

Moderator – “Tribal Ownership of a State-Chartered Bank With A Perspective On Tribal Sovereign Immunity” (June 2014)

“Overview of Florida’s Office of Financial Regulation” – Florida Bar CLE (June 2014)

“Management and Leadership Skills” – Florida Office of Financial Regulation (June 2014)

“Pro Se Litigants, Difficult Lawyers and Uncooperative Witnesses” and “Pre-Trial Conferences and Stipulations” – Interactive Trial Skills at DOAH CLE (May 2014)

“Business and Professional Etiquette” - Florida State University College of Law (Spring 2014)

“Leadership Skills” – Florida Department of Financial Services’ Leadership Excellence Training Program (December 2013)

“Statutory Interpretation and Constitutional Challenges” – Short Course in Administrative Litigation CLE (July 2013)

“Expert Witnesses” – Florida Bar Webinar CLE (December 2012)

“PERC Update” – 36th Annual Public Employment Labor Relations Forum (Co-Chair) (September 2010)

“Investigatory Skills; DOAH Practice and Procedure” – Florida Dept. of Financial Services (2008)

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Steering Committee Member “Pat Dore Administrative Law Conference” (2014 and 2016)

Organizer/Panelist “Interactive Trial Skills at DOAH” (May 2014)

Organizer/Panelist “Short Course in Administrative Litigation” (July 2013)

CLE Program Organizer/Director for DBPR

CLE Webinar – “Deposing the Expert Witness” (December 2012 – Lecturer)

Assistant Chair and Lecturer for the 36th Annual Public Employment Relations Forum – “PERC Update” (2010)

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Tallahassee Federalist Society

Florida Elite Soccer Club U15 Boys and U9 Coach (2016-Present)

FSU College of Law 1L Oral Argument Judge (2016 and 2013)

Rotary Club of Tallahassee (2015-2019)

Maclay High School Mock Trial Team Attorney Coach (2011-2014)

Boy Scouts of America Leader (2011-2016)

Top of Florida Youth Soccer Coach (2015-2016)

ASG/Warner Youth Soccer Coach (2015)

Tallahassee Parks and Rec. Youth Soccer Coach (2012-2015)

YMCA Youth Soccer Coach (2013)

Capital Soccer Association Coach/Assistant Coach (2010-2012)

Shriners International (2009-2019)

Salvation Army Bell Ringer (2015 and 2012)

High School Mock Trial Judge (1997-1998)

PUBLICATIONS and ARTICLES

Growing Florida, "Hemp's Future in Florida." February 19, 2019.

Daily Business Review, "The State of Medical Marijuana Is at a Crossroads in Florida." February 1, 2019.

Growing Florida, "Agency Intensive State - What That Means for Ag Labor." November 28, 2018.

South Florida Legal Guide, "Florida's Cannabis Law - First Cannabis Bank of Florida?" March 3, 2018.

South Florida Legal Guide, "Florida's Cannabis Law - Sessions Memorandum May Have a Chilling Effect on Financial Institutions." February 1, 2018.

South Florida Legal Guide, "Florida's Cannabis Law - Lawsuits Generated by Amendment 2." January 8, 2018.

South Florida Legal Guide, "Florida's Cannabis Law - A Brief History." December 18, 2017.

Daily Business Review, "The Road Less Traveled - Florida's Medical Marijuana Journey." January 1, 2000.

Areas of Critical State Concern, Treatise on Florida Environmental and Land Use Law, REGfiles, Inc. (2000)

Growth Management Programs: A Comparison of Selected States. (2000)

Areas of Critical State Concern, Treatise on Florida Environmental and Land Use Law, REGfiles, Inc. (2000)

Growth Management Programs: A Comparison of Selected States. (2000)

BLOGS

Blogs prepared for "Doing Business in Florida"

"Why Hemp?" June 10, 2019.

"Attorney General Nominee, William Barr, and Fixing Florida's Medical Marijuana Industry." January 29, 2019.

"Let's Talk About Hemp." December 20, 2018.

"Florida's Rejection of Chevron Deference." December 19, 2018.

"The Fate of Florida Administrative Law in Light of the Passage of Amendment 6." December 3, 2018.

"The Sun Shines Down on Florida – Alluring Yet Regulated." January 25, 2018.

"The Week in Marijuana (November 13-17, 2017)." November 21, 2017.

"Workers' Compensation Compliance (Securing It and Consequences for Violation) and, State Authority to Enforce." September 18, 2017.

"What Was That You Said...A Compliance Examination?" August 29, 2017.

"Rules." July 31, 2017.

"Administrative Law in Florida." July 12, 2017.

"The Week in Marijuana (May 22-26, 2017)." May 30, 2017.

(Vlog) "Cloud of Uncertainty Obscuring the Implementation of Medical Marijuana in Florida." May 22, 2017.

"No Funding for Sessions in the War Against Medical Marijuana." May 4, 2017.

“The week in Marijuana (April 24-28, 2017).” May 1, 2017.

“The week in Marijuana (April 17-21, 2017).” April 20, 2017.

“The week in Marijuana (April 10-14, 2017).” April 17, 2017.

“Upcoming Sessions in the State Legalized Marijuana and Financial Services Industry.”
November 22, 2016.

“Time is Running Out – the Florida Family Trust Company Clock is Counting Down.”
November 8, 2016.

“Match or Clash? – Marijuana Related Businesses and Financial Institutions.” October 27,
2016.

“Court Ruling on CFPB.” October 17, 2016.