

Tom Thomas

10119 Thousand Oaks Circle, Tallahassee, FL 32309 • Home: 850-878-4862 • Cell: 850-556-6594
TGT622@yahoo.com

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Dear Hiring Manager,

I am writing to express my interest in the position of Director and Chief Judge of the Division of Administrative Hearings. I believe my education and experience qualify me for your consideration. My career includes serving in the capacity of a hearing officer in several situations. I served as Special Master to the House of Representatives on Claim Bills for eight years. I have heard hundreds of cases for several divisions at the Department of Business and Professional Regulation. I have many years of experience supervising large legal offices.

I consider myself well-versed in administrative law. Serving as research assistant for two years to Professor Patricia Dore at the Florida State University College of Law led to my career interest in the Florida Administrative Procedures Act. I assisted in writing two Florida Bar continuing education chapters with her on administrative law. I served as the rules ombudsman at DBPR for several years.

In addition to handling my own cases, I have supervised dozens of lawyers over the years in the handling of litigation pursuant to Chapter 120, Florida Statutes. This includes license discipline, bid disputes, rule challenges, and resulting appeals.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I can provide excellent references upon request.

Sincerely

/s/ Tom Thomas

TOM THOMAS

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Professional Summary

Highly accomplished attorney with broad legal and legislative knowledge who has provided counsel to several government organizations for 29 years. Team player who communicates with empathy and compassion while consistently exhibiting a professional work ethic.

Work History

Deputy General Counsel, 11/2017 to Present

Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation – Tallahassee, Florida

Supervise 40 lawyers, 10 law clerks. Provide legal counsel on regulatory issues, administrative prosecution, legislation, litigation, rulemaking, public records, and other legal issues.

General Counsel, 01/2015 to 06/2017

Florida Department of Transportation – Tallahassee, Florida

Supervised 9 offices statewide, 78 lawyers, and 43 paralegals. Provided legal counsel on eminent domain, contracts, legislation, litigation, rulemaking, outside counsel, personnel, public records, and other legal issues.

Deputy Staff Director; Special Master, 02/2003 to 01/2015

Florida House of Representatives – Tallahassee, Florida

Provided legal counsel, research, bill drafting, and analyses on proposed legislation. Helped manage the Judiciary Committee with a staff of 9 attorneys, 2 interns, and 3 assistants. Served as Special Master on claim bills. Served as the Staff Director for the Select Committee on Claim Bills, staffed the Select Committee on Constitutional Amendments, and the Select Committee on Workers' Compensation.

General Counsel, 02/2002 to 02/2003

Department of Elder Affairs – Tallahassee, Florida

Provided legal counsel as needed on various agency issues. Served as the Department's Legislative Affairs Director. Supervised the Office of General Counsel.

Chief Attorney; Assistant General Counsel, 09/1993 to 02/2002

Department of Business and Professional Regulation – Tallahassee, Florida

Provided legal counsel on various issues. Served in several roles, including, supervisor of the professional regulation litigation section, rules ombudsman, counsel to the State Boxing Commission, hearing officer, and Deputy Legislative Affairs Director.

Senior Attorney, 12/1990 to 09/1993

Florida House of Representatives – Tallahassee, Florida

Provided legal research, bill drafting, and bill analyses on proposed legislation for the Business and Professional Regulation Committee.

Education

Juris Doctorate: Law, 1990

Florida State University College of Law - Tallahassee, Florida

- Graduated with Honors
- Recipient of Public Service Fellowship
- Research Assistant to Professor Pat Dore (2 years)

Bachelor of Arts: Political Science, 1987

Florida Atlantic University - Boca Raton, Florida

- Graduated with Honors
- Recipient of Becker Award in Political Science