

**Education:**

Southwestern University School of Law (1995) | Juris Doctorate

Los Angeles, California

- American Jurisprudence Book Award (*Contracts*)
- American Jurisprudence Book Award (*Remedies*)
- Dean's Merit Award
- University Scholarship

University of Notre Dame (2014) | M.A., Theology

South Bend, Indiana

University of Redlands (1993) | B.S., Business & Management

Redlands, California

**Certifications:**

- Board Certified Specialist | Labor & Employment Law, Florida Bar (2004 - present)
- Board Certified Specialist | City, County & Local Government Law, Florida Bar (2008 - present)
- Certified Circuit Civil Mediator | Florida Supreme Court (2011 - present)
- Certified Appellate Mediator | Florida Supreme Court (2011 - present)
- Qualified State Court Arbitrator | Florida Supreme Court (2012 - present)

**Appointments & Positions:**

- Special Prosecutor (Code Enforcement) | Town of Grant-Valkaria (2015 - present)
- Special Counsel (Code Enforcement Board) | City of Palm Bay (2015 - present)
- Special Counsel (Planning & Zoning Board) | City of Palm Bay (2014 - present)
- Commercial Arbitrator | American Arbitration Association (2014 - present)
- Special Magistrate (Code Enforcement) | City of Indian Harbour Beach (2014 - present)
- Special Magistrate | Florida Public Employees Relations Commission (2013 - present)
- Labor Arbitrator | Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service (2013 - present)
- Special Magistrate (Code Enforcement) | Town of Palm Shores (2013 - present)
- Special Magistrate (Red Light Camera) | City of Boynton Beach (2013 - present)
- Labor Arbitrator | American Arbitration Association (2012 - present)
- Member, Arbitrator Panel | Public Risk Management of Florida (2012 - present)
- Special Magistrate (Employee Appeal) | Town of Melbourne Beach (2013)
- Member, Risk Management Committee | City of Palm Bay (2008 - 2011)
- Special Magistrate (Code Compliance) | Town of Golden Beach (2003 - 2010)
- Special Magistrate (Vehicle Impoundment) | City of Hollywood (2002 - 2005)
- Special Magistrate (Code Compliance) | City of Hollywood (2002 - 2005)
- Special Counsel for Labor Relations | City of South Miami (2003 - 2005)
- Special Investigative Counsel | Miami Beach Housing Authority (2004 - 2005)

**Community Positions:**

- Assistant District Legal Officer | U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (2015 - present)
- Deacon | Diocese of Orlando (2008 - present)
- Chaplain | Boy Scout Troop 520; Cub Scout Pack 520 (2009 - present)
- Board Member | Catholic Campus Ministry, Florida Tech (2013 - present)
- Board Member | Melbourne Central Catholic High School (2007 - 2011)



### Legal Memberships:

The Florida Bar (*admitted to State & Federal Courts*)  
State Bar of California (*admitted to State & Federal Courts*)  
Florida Municipal Attorneys Association  
International Municipal Lawyers Association  
Saint Thomas More Society of South Florida

### Instructional Experience & Speaking Engagements:

*"Professional Ethics in Fraud Examination"*  
Florida Association of Certified Fraud Examiners  
October, 2013 | Brevard County, Florida

*"So They Say You Can't Do That In Mediation? The Local Government Perspective."*  
35th Annual Local Government Law in Florida, The Florida Bar  
May, 2012 | Saint Augustine, Florida

*Diversity Issues & Tolerance for the Law Enforcement Officer (8 sessions)*  
Winter Park Police Department  
January, 2012 | Winter Park, Florida

*Social Media in the Public Sector Workplace*  
Space Coast Public Personnel & Risk Management Association  
February, 2010 | Viera, Florida

*501(c)(3) Corporations in the Public Sector, A Good Tool or A Risky Business?*  
Annual Conference, International Municipal Lawyers Association  
October, 2009 | Miami, Florida

*Attendance Issues: Aren't Employees Supposed To Attend And Ask To Leave?*  
Annual Conference, National Public Employers Labor Relations Association  
April, 2008 | Clearwater, Florida

*Privileges, Exemptions and Ex Parte Communications.*  
33rd Annual Public Employment Labor Relations Forum, The Florida Bar  
October, 2007 | Orlando, Florida

*Military Leave and USERRA in the Public Sector*  
Space Coast Public Personnel & Risk Management Association  
May, 2007 | Viera, Florida

*Conducting Workplace Investigations: Weingarten, Bill of Rights, and Other Issues.*  
31st Annual Public Employment Labor Relations Forum, The Florida Bar  
October, 2005 | Orlando, Florida

### College Teaching Positions:

Adjunct Professor | Labor Law & Employee Standards (Aviation Management Program)  
Florida Institute of Technology, College of Aeronautics (*2012 - present*)

Visiting Professor | Labor Relations & Employee Rights (Legal Studies Program)  
University of Central Florida (*2012*)

Academy Instructor | Law Topics for Law Enforcement Officers  
Broward College, Institute of Public Safety (*2003 - 2007*)

Adjunct Professor | Business Law  
The Union Institute, Los Angeles (*1996 - 1998*)

Reserve Academy Instructor | Firearms, Impact Weapons & Use of Force  
Cerro Coso Community College, Ridgecrest (*1986 - 1988*)

## Employment History:

### **Law Office of James D. Stokes**

(2011 - present) Arbitrator, Mediator, Special Magistrate

### **Office of the City Attorney | City of Palm Bay**

(2006 - 2011) City Attorney, Deputy City Attorney

### **Office of the City Attorney | City of West Melbourne**

(2006 - 2008) Interim City Attorney

### **Office of the City Attorney | City of Pompano Beach**

(2002 - 2006) Senior Assistant City Attorney, Chief Litigator

### **Muller Mintz, P.A. (Miami, Florida)**

(1998 - 2002) Associate Attorney, Senior Associate

### **Franscell, Strickland, Roberts & Lawrence, P.C. (Pasadena, California)**

(1995 - 1998) Associate/Graduate Attorney

### **Office of the City Attorney | City of Los Angeles**

(1995) Certified Legal Intern (*full-time*)



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### **Riverside County Sheriff's Department (California)**

(1988 - 1992) Deputy Sheriff

### **China Lake Police Department (California)**

(1984 - 1988) Police Officer, Corporal, Detective Sergeant

(1980 - 1984) Police Dispatcher

### **Ridgecrest Police Department (California)**

(1982 - 1986) Reserve Police Officer

## Published Cases:

- *Barakat v. Broward County Housing Authority*, 771 So.2d 1193 (Fla. 4th DCA 2000)  
(An executive employment contract with a severance provision which does not provide an exception for terminations "for cause" renders executive entitled to full benefit of severance provision even upon a termination based upon criminal conduct).
- *Alloco v. City of Coral Gables*, 221 F. Supp. 2d 1317 (S.D. Fla. 2002);  
*aff'd without op.*, 88 Fed. Appx. 380 (11th Cir. 2003)  
(University security personnel who are also Reserve Police Officers are not entitled to city employment benefits and pension, and failure to file a tort claim rendered state law claims time-barred).
- *Frank A. Ciolli v. City of Palm Bay*, 59 So. 3d 295 (Fla. 5th DCA 2011)  
(In defense of the foreclosure of a code enforcement lien, the property owner has the right to dispute the validity of the notice by claiming that the return receipt from the post office was inaccurate or signed by a person unrelated to him).
- *City of Palm Bay v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, 114 So.3d 924 (Fla. 2013)  
(Supreme Court decided that code enforcement liens attached to real property pursuant to an ordinance enacted by Home Rule Power cannot have super-priority over a previously recorded purchase-money mortgage).