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EDUCATION

Columbia University School of Law, New York, NY
Columbia College, Columbia University, New York, NY

Juris Doctorate May 2002
Bachelor of Arts May 1999

Georgia Bar Admission November 2002
Admitted in all Georgia courts, Northern District and Middle District
State Registered Mediator, Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution 2021

HONORS

2012, 2014-2016 Georgia Rising Star
2016 Alumni Medalist, Columbia University
2007 Keynote Speaker, Columbia University Black Alumni Council Graduation Reception
Alumni Award 1999 **Houghton Room Prize Award 1998-1999**
Kluge Scholar 1995-1999 **Cum Laude Society (Western Reserve Academy, Hudson, OH) 1995**

EXPERIENCE

Smithers Law Group, LLC, Atlanta, GA April 2012-Present
Corporate/Business Law, Litigation/Dispute Resolution, General Counsel Services, and Mediation
Nationwide practice that focuses on providing clients with the expertise, quality, and tailored legal services of Big Law for the benefit of Small and Medium size businesses. As a Business Attorney, regularly advising clients in corporate matters involved with running their business. That includes advising clients during contract drafting, reviews and negotiation (both private and public contracts). Working with clients who seek to purchase a business, sell their business as part of an exit planning strategy, or grow their business through investors and third-party financing. In terms of Dispute Resolution, Expertise in tackling matters in multiple state and federal jurisdictions across the country, including, breach of contract, enforcement of business covenants (competition, solicitation, and confidentiality), payment actions, premise liability defense, and general business disputes. General Counsel, routinely advising clients in various aspects of their businesses including formations, deal negotiations, property acquisitions, joint ventures, corporate governance, and compliance investigations. Speaking engagement and presentations to educate business owners about the legal issues that impact their ventures every day. Finally, court registered mediator focused on business disputes.

Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan, LLP, Atlanta, GA June 2010-March 2012
Personal Injury Defense, Construction Law, and Commercial Litigation Senior Associate
Provided general counsel services to nonprofit health provider. Matters included diversity and harassment training, bylaw compliance, response to discovery inquiries, contract negotiations, and general advising regarding the application of state and federal regulations to the day to day operations. Provided premise liability defense, including slip/fall, malicious prosecution, food borne illness, and elevator injuries. As regional counsel for Fortune 100 company in approximately 12 states handled construction matters including: reviewing, drafting, and negotiating public and private contracts, handling litigation and pre-litigation matters. Represented corporate clients in commercial and tort litigation matters including preparation of corporation representatives for depositions, enforcement of indemnification provisions, breach of contract claims, enforcement of confidentiality provisions, responses to third-party discovery requests, litigation and alternative dispute resolution of matters in magistrate, state and federal courts nationally.

Adorno & Yoss LLC, Atlanta, GA August 2005-May 2010
Personal Injury Defense, Construction Law, and Commercial Litigation Associate
Represented national hospitality chain in premise liability matters in Georgia with an emphasis on personal injury claims. Served as regional counsel of construction matters for Fortune 100 company in approximately 12 states. Duties entail reviewing, drafting, and negotiating public and private contracts, and handling litigation and pre-litigation matters. Handled contract disputes for Fortune 100 chemical company. Represented regional construction services company and national bank in debt collection matters. Experience training staff and associates with contracts and litigation, depositions and discovery generally, managing local counsel, utilizing alternative dispute resolution methods, advising clients regarding how to balance business and legal interests.

Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Atlanta, GA
Construction and Commercial Litigation Associate

November 2004-April 2005

Handled commercial and construction litigation matters, including demands for arbitration, initiation of suit, initial defense, discovery, motion practice, settlement, and enforcement of settlement. Pro Bono work with the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyer's Foundation. Gained arbitration certification through Henning Mediation.

King & Spalding LLP, Atlanta, GA
Tort and Environmental Litigation Associate

August 2002-October 2004

Summer Associate

Summer 2001

Served as regional counsel for clinical testing laboratory defending medical malpractice and negligence claims. Represented major American automotive manufacturer in multi-state product liability and personal injury litigation. Represented high profile pharmaceutical company in nationwide and statewide class actions, mass joinder and individual product liability matters. The Tort Litigation team was a finalist for the 2003 American Lawyer Product Liability Department of the Year.

Hahn Loeser + Parks, Cleveland, OH
Summer Associate

Summer 2000

Major projects included telecommuting agreement, telecommuting advisory article, multi-state mechanics lien summaries and due diligence reports for telecommunication towers.

A. William Zavarello Co. LLP Law Offices, Akron, OH
Legal Intern

1996-2000

Conducted legal research, handled correspondence, assisted with the drafting of pleadings, obtained and coordinated medical records and maintained updated client files for personal injury and medical malpractice litigation.

AFFILIATIONS

Member, American Bar Association
Member, Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys
Section Board Member, Atlanta Bar Association (Dispute Resolution Section)
Member, National Bar Association
Member, XPX Atlanta
Mentor and Trainer, Start: ME Business Accelerator (Emory University)
Co-Founder, ATL Small Business Mastermind Forum
ARC Chair, Columbia Club of Atlanta (former President)
Executive Board, Columbia College Alumni Association
Board of Directors, Columba Alumni Association (former)
Board of Governors, City Club of Buckhead (former)
Chair of the Board of Directors, Children's Burial Assistance, Inc. (former)
Board of Trustees, Providence Missionary Baptist Church (former)
Member, Smyrna Rotary Club (former)
Member, Cascade United Methodist Golf League
Member, Ultimate Tennis League

PUBLICATIONS

- "A Primer for Contract Reviews," *Equal Construction Record*, July 2007, 1B
- "Protecting Your Right to Payment: Part One Liens," *Equal Construction Record*, July 2007, 5B
- "Protecting Your Right to Payment: Part Two Bonds," *Equal Construction Record*, September 2007, 1B
- "Securing Your Payment Rights: Part Three Georgia Prompt Pay Act," *Equal Construction Record*, November 2007, 2B
- "Why Lawyers Love Paper," *Equal Construction Record*, November 2007, 5B
- "Understanding Your Rights to Government Records," *Equal Construction Record*, February 2008, 1B
- "Understanding Pay If Paid Provisions" *Equal Construction Record*, March 2008, 1B
- "The Case of the Missing Bond and Avoiding the Contractors Sandwich," *Equal Construction Record*, July 2008, 1C
- "A Day Late and a Dollar Short: A Guide to Liquidated Damages," *Equal Construction Record*, November 2008, 1C
- "Mitigation of Damages" *Equal Construction Record*, February 2009, 1C
- "The Legal Effect of Lien Waivers," *Equal Construction Record*, April 2009, 2C
- "The Accidental Amendment," *Equal Construction Record*, June 2009, 2C
- "Be Careful Before You Terminate," *Equal Construction Record*, July/August 2009, 1C

PRESENTATIONS and SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Notes From My Legal Pad (www.youtube.com)
- The SORS Collective (www.meetup.com)
- “Beyond Google, Esq. Trending Legal Questions for Business Owners Post Covid”
- “By Hook or Crook: Resolving Disputes in Mediation, Arbitration, and Litigation”
- “Deal Making in Virtual Mediations and Arbitrations”
- “Does and Don’ts of Business Divorce”
- “Focus Forward: The Blueprint to Employer/Employee Relations in the Time of COVID 19”
- “Focus Forward: The Blueprint to Planning the New Future of Your Business”
- “Everything You Wanted to Know About Litigation Holds and 30(b)(6) Depositions but Were Afraid to Ask!”
- “Corporate Structure and Formation Business Law Basics”
- “Get Ready to Stay Ready”
- “When You are Right You are Right: Dispute Resolution”
- “Lawyers are for Everyone”
- “Corporate Governance Checklist”
- “Business Law Basics”
- Career Impact Radio “Small Business Do’s & Don’ts”
- Giving up the Grind Podcast: “Partnerships”
- Do you know the difference between registering as an LLC, LLP, or Inc.?
- Atlanta Business Radio
- “Cybersecurity for CPAs, Finance Professionals, and Attorneys?”
- “Ask the Professionals: Manage Human, Contractual and Monetary Resources”
- “How to Plan a Graceful Exit from Your Business”