

MICHAEL HAMILTON KUGLER, ESQ.

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LEGAL EXPERIENCE

SEARCY DENNEY SCAROLA BARNHART & SHIPLEY, P.A.

AUGUST 2014 – PRESENT

Associate Attorney

West Palm Beach, FL

- Representing injured victims in complex civil litigation including product liability, medical malpractice, wrongful death, automobile negligence, and premise liability. Successfully prosecuted million and multi-million dollar settlements on behalf of clients.

OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY, 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

AUGUST 2006 – AUGUST 2014

Assistant State Attorney

West Palm Beach, FL

- *Special Victims Unit:* Investigation, filing, and prosecution of felonies involving sexual violence against adult and child victims, child abuse and neglect, and physical violence against persons 65 years of age or older. Serve as lead contact for review of all search and arrest warrants from law enforcement agencies throughout the county. Initiate and direct criminal investigations of sexual offenses and offense against children including developing criminal leads, execution of search warrants, interviewing witnesses, subpoenaing documents and other evidence. Coordinate with the Department of Justice and the United States Marshals Service for the extradition of violent sexual offenders.
- *Felony Trial Division:* Filed and prosecuted felonies ranging from grand theft to attempted first degree murder. Supervised other felony attorneys in developing trial strategy including predicate questions for the proper admission of evidence at trial, drafting motions and responses to motions, and role playing.
- *County Court Division:* Filed and prosecuted misdemeanors with a focus on driving under the influence. Responsible for the training and supervision of new assistant state attorneys and interns.

LAW OFFICES OF JOHN K. EASTHAM, JR., P.A.

JULY 2004 – APRIL 2006

Law Clerk

Boca Raton, FL

- Prepared all trust, corporation, and limited partnership documents. Initiated and processed probate proceedings. Prepared estate tax returns. Assisted clients in transferring assets and managing revocable and irrevocable trusts. Met with clients to ensure proper administration of trust and probate assets.

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, SHEPARD BROAD LAW CENTER

JUNE 2004 – AUGUST 2005

Trial Advocacy Intern and Research Assistant

Fort Lauderdale, FL

- Coordinated schedules, documents, and exhibits for NITA Trial Advocacy Institute. Assisted trial instructors on classroom presentation. Organized trial advocacy assignments. Determined relevance and value of case law pertaining to provisions of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. Updated statutes for compilation in published materials on family law. Researched case law relevant to specific family law statutes.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND BAR ADMISSIONS

- Florida Bar, Member since 2006
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- Palm Beach County Bar Association
- Palm Beach County Bar Association, Judicial Relations Committee 2014 – 2015
- Palm Beach County Bar Association, Criminal Law Practice Committee 2014 – 2015
- Martin County Bar Association
- Martin County Bar Association, Judicial Relations Committee
- Florida Justice Association
- American Association of Justice
- Attorney Information Exchange Group
- Sexual Assault Response Team, Palm Beach County, Attorney Representative
- Florida Sex Crimes Investigators Association

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Commission – Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics – Appointed to 4 year term, 2020-2024
- 2014 ABA Sharon Corbitt Award Nominee
- 2014 PBSO Sheriff's Special Commendation Recipient
- Assisted in establishing The Butterfly House (Palm Beach County's Sexual Assault Center)
- Founding Member of South Florida Regional Sexual Assault Response Team
- Drafted legislation relating to sexual offenses
- Mentored new Assistant State Attorneys
- Coached for Nova Southeastern University Law School Mock Trial Team
- Judged law student mock trial, appellate argument, and negotiation competitions

EDUCATION

Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Juris Doctor, May 2006

Honors: Order of the Barristers; Moot Court Honor Society Upper-Class Intramural Competition Finalist (2006); Traveling Trial Team Member (2005); Association of Trial Lawyers of America, Vice President of Competitions (2005-2006); Financial Coordinator (2004-2005); Craig C. Barnard American Inns of Court LIV, Pupil Member (2005); Book Award, Property (2003)

University of Miami, School of Business, Coral Gables, Florida

Bachelor of Business Administration, May 2002 Major: Business Law; Minor: Political Science

Honors: President's Honor Roll; Dean's List; Business Dean's Scholarship; George E. Merrick Scholarship

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sexual Assault Response Team (2014)

West Palm Beach, FL

- "Testifying for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners"

Florida Sex Crimes Investigators Conference (2013)

Jupiter, FL

- "Legal Standards for Obtaining Physical Evidence in Sex Crime Investigations"
- "Legal and Ethical Concerns for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners"

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (2013)

Palm Beach County, FL

- "Prosecutorial Perspective for First Responders to Sex Crime Investigations"

South County Law Enforcement Training (2013)

Boca Raton, FL

- "Prosecutorial Perspective for First Responders to Sex Crime Investigations"

Florida Traffic Safety Resource Program

Tallahassee, FL

- "Cross Examination"