

Jacqueline Dowd

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Legal work experience:

Legal Advocacy at Work
Managing Attorney, 2006-present

Founded and developed non-profit law firm which provides legal services to homeless families and individuals. Handled cases involving "quality of life" criminal violations, family law, access to public benefits, collections court, credit problems and consumer and employment law. Recruited, trained and supervised volunteers. Legal counsel to IDignity, which provides ID to homeless and low-income people (see www.idignity.org for details). Led the team that worked on ID card problems for Project Homeless Connect and served on event planning committee.

Acting Director of Clinical Programs at Florida A&M College of Law
2005-06

Instructor for Housing Clinic and Homelessness and Legal Advocacy Clinic. Supervised students' representation of indigent clients and taught classroom sessions on poverty law, landlord-tenant law, fair housing, consumer law, ethics and advocacy skills such as interviewing and negotiation. Developed clinical program for evening students, including the only clinic program focused on homelessness issues in Florida. Expanded clinical program with five new clinical courses for Fall '05, including launch of judicial externship program.

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida
Managing Attorney, 2004

Laid the foundation of transforming a underperforming office into a highly functioning legal-services team. Concentrated on housing and consumer law. Served as field supervising attorney for the Florida A&M College of Law Housing Clinic.

Office of the Attorney General
Assistant Attorney General, 1993 to 2004

Prosecuted consumer protection, RICO and contraband forfeiture cases, from initial intake and evaluation through discovery and motion practice to trial. Litigated cases involving telemarketing, Internet fraud, deceptive advertising, gambling and organized schemes to defraud. Accomplished forfeitures of proceeds of money laundering, drug trafficking, prostitution and racketeering. Developed effective working relationships with other consumer-protection agencies, media and law enforcement.

Achievements:

- Leader of work group honored with a 2003 Davis Productivity Award for increasing annual recoveries by more than 400% to more than \$2.4 million in 2002, without an increase in staffing or budget. Returned almost \$1 million in restitution to consumers.
- As supervisor of the Orlando Economic Crimes Unit, developed a team approach which applied the skills of experienced staffers to challenging issues while providing opportunities to less-experienced team members to develop their skills in identifying, investigating, prosecuting, resolving and ultimately, preventing consumer crimes.
- Argued before the Florida Supreme Court on homestead forfeiture in *Tramel v. Stewart*, 697 So. 2d 821 (Fla. 1997) and on racketeering in *Department of Legal Affairs v. Bradenton Group*, 727 So. 2d 199 (Fla. 1998).
- Conducted numerous evidentiary hearings, presenting witnesses and documentary evidence in support of preliminary injunctions which restricted the defendants' future activities and/or froze assets.
- Earned AV rating.

Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell, P.A.
Associate, 1987 to 1993

Primary responsibilities: preparation of complex products liability cases, representing General Motors. Extensive experience in motion practice and discovery, including expert depositions. Applied strong writing skills, including research and analysis, to present effective legal arguments on a wide variety of issues.

Achievements:

- Planned and executed strategy for handling of cases from preliminary investigation to trial. Worked closely with experts and in-house engineers to develop defense theories and strategies.
- Organized General Motors trial teams, setting up temporary offices in towns such as Brownsville, Texas, and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Managed attorneys, support staff and witnesses. Coordinated efforts to achieve the most effective presentation of cases at trial.
- Directed the work of local counsel in many states and established effective working relationships with attorneys of varying levels of skill, experience and familiarity with technical issues.

Publications and presentations:

Stories from the Front Lines: How a Legal Clinic for the Homeless Changes Lives
36 Stetson L. Rev. 169 (2006)

Interpreting RICO: In Florida, The Rules Are Different,
40 U. FLA. L. REV. 127 (1988)

*The Antitrust Laws Applied to Newspaper Distribution Systems:
The Sherman Act Turned on Its Head*, 38 U. FLA. L. REV. 479 (1986)

Frequent speaker and lecturer to consumer groups and professional organizations. CLE instructor on consumer protection and forfeiture issues. Presented analysis of state consumer-protection laws and enforcement efforts at 2003 ALI-ABA seminar on Product Distribution and Marketing.

Principal speaker in the Attorney General's campaign to persuade local governments to enact ordinances limiting the interest rate on auto title loans. After 36 counties and several cities, encompassing a majority of the state's population, enacted ordinances, the Florida Legislature passed a law limiting interest rates and reforming the title-loan industry.

Legal education: University of Florida College of Law
Juris Doctor degree, May 1987, *cum laude*
Grade point average: 3.23 (top 11 percent)

Honors and activities include:

- Two terms as Managing Editor of the University of Florida Law Review
- Florida Blue Key
- Book Award in antitrust law
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Independent Florida Alligator

Journalism experience:

Before attending law school, served as an editor of various Florida newspapers, including the Orlando Sentinel and several papers owned by The New York Times. Worked with reporters in developing stories and prepared daily news budgets. Responsibilities included staff development, helping reporters improve skills to reach long-range career goals as well as daily coaching and motivation. Also taught computer courses for newspaper staffers.

Honored twice by The Florida Bar, for investigations of rape prosecution and medical malpractice. Edited 10 projects that won Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Publisher's Awards in The New York Times newspaper group. Won School Bell Award for distinguished education reporting. As managing editor, guided St. Cloud News to runner-up for Florida's best weekly honors; won first-place award for in-depth reporting.

Undergraduate education: The George Washington University
Bachelor of Arts in Journalism

Academic honors include:

- Full four-year Board of Trustees scholarship
- Who's Who in American College Students
- National Merit Scholar
- One of the STAR Students for the 10th Congressional District
- Florida Girls' State