

Christopher Benjamin

Name	Christopher Benjamin
Judicial position sought	County judge
County Jurisdiction	Miami-Dade County, Group 29
Florida Bar number	561029
Date admitted to The Florida Bar	5/30/2002
Years in legal profession	22
Jurisdiction(s) in which admitted to practice and date (s) admitted	FLORIDA SUPREME COURT United States Supreme Court US Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, US District Courts for Southern, Middle & Northern District of Florida US District Court for the Southern District - Bankruptcy
Are you a current or former judge?	No
Area(s) of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil • Criminal • Government

List the primary areas in which you specialize or have legal expertise and allocate a percentage of your practice to each area.

For the entirety of my career, I have practiced general litigation. I built a practice dedicated to helping as many litigants as possible by offering legal services in the areas of law they needed and at fees they could afford. This means that, at times, the areas of law and their percentages have varied over time. My current practice is split between my law clients and my ADR clients. Currently, 60% of my practice is ADR. Of the 40% of my law clients, I would approximate that 5% is government, 5% is collection defense, 5% is landlord/tenant, 5% is real estate/title, 5% is corporate startups, 5% is family and 10% is probate administration.

Number of evidentiary hearings, trials and/or oral arguments in which you have participated as legal counsel:	51-100
Number of jury trials in which you have participated:	15
Number of bench trials in which you have participated:	15
Number of arbitration hearings in which you have participated as legal counsel or hearing officer:	31-50

Number of administrative hearings in which you have participated as legal counsel or hearing officer:	6-15
Percentage of your time representing plaintiffs:	60
Percentage of your time representing defendants:	40

In 400 words or fewer, without discussing any issue that may come before you as a judge, explain why you would be a good judge. Consider what relevant skills and experience you gained from previous employment that you will bring to the bench.

As a CLI with the Public Defender's Office, I was assigned to the felony division, assisting supervising counsel, and then given my own caseload in the juvenile division. I worked daily handling client communications, depositions, investigations, and trials. Upon graduating (as I awaited my background check to be completed), I worked as a case manager for the family division of Miami-Dade County Courts. After being admitted to the Bar, my early practice consisted of criminal (private and wheel cases), family, real estate/title, county cases, foreclosure defense, and bankruptcy. Five years after being admitted to practice, I obtained my mediation certification (in family law and county). I contracted with the 17th Judicial Circuit as a mediator for their court-managed mediation division. I mediated family and county court cases (mostly collections and evictions). Within another three years, I was appointed as a hearing officer in the Traffic Division of Miami-Dade County Courts, joined FINRA as a panel arbitrator, was appointed as a special magistrate in a number of our municipalities, and joined the ADR panel at Salmon & Dulberg where I mediate commercial, civil, family and insurance disputes. After 18 years of practice (and ten years of service to the Bench), I was elected to the Florida House of Representatives. I advocated for laws that gave unwed fathers equal standing and consumers greater protection, removed barriers for creditors, provided more significant benefits for veterans, and improved the education of our children. In my 22-year career, I have strengthened my empathy and fairness values and developed an excellent judicial temperance. I greatly appreciate the rule of law and greatly appreciate the role of professionalism and decorum in the courtroom. I understand what it means to have a complete system that aims to guarantee justice for all. When I sat on the bench, I felt responsible for how the public experienced justice, and I aimed to ensure that when they came before me, they could be assured that justice would be served. During those ten years, I felt more connected to my community because of my impact on their lives. I understood that no matter the outcome of the hearing, justice was in the participants' experience that day, and I always aimed to make it the best experience it could be - for everyone. As judges, we are the facilitators of justice, and I want to help us achieve and maintain justice for all.

Are you or have you ever been Florida Bar Board Certified in any area(s) of practice?	No
UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE	Florida Memorial University
Degree received:	BS in Political Science and Public Administration
Academic awards, honors, recognition, leadership roles:	Dean's List, Who's Who, All American Collegiate Scholar, President of Omega Psi Phi (Kappa Gamma Chapter), President of NAACP college division, Attorney General of SGA, Vice President of Pre-Law Society, and Senior Class President. Omega Man of the Year and Proclamation of Christopher Benjamin Day (City of Opa Locka).

GRADUATE DEGREE	St. Thomas University School of Law
Degree received:	Juris Doctorate
Academic awards, honors, recognition, leadership roles:	Florida Bar Foundation Scholar, Who's Who, Moot Court, Inns of Court, SBA Senator, and Treasurer for Southern Region of National Black Law Students Association.
Number of hours devoted to public work while in law school:	100

WORK EXPERIENCE	cbenjamin_resumefull3.pdf
Upload Resume	242.43 KB · PDF

Please list activities, accomplishments, honors or leadership roles in pro bono, volunteer, public or military service:

Martindale-Hubbell: AV Preeminent Attorney (2012-2024), Super Lawyers (2014-2024), South Florida Legal Guide: Top Attorney (2020-2022), Florida Trend Magazine: Legal Elite (2015), Marquis Who's Who in American Law (18th and 19th editions) and Legal Aid Outstanding Pro Bono Award. 5000 Role Models, Teen Court (Volunteer Judge {10 yrs}), William Dandy Middle School Law Magnet (Sponsor/Mentor), and annual moot court competitions (volunteer judge). I am an Army veteran and received an honorable discharge and Army Achievement Medal. (complete list of awards and activities on CV)

Have you ever been found, either involuntarily or by consent, to have committed a violation of The Florida Bar Disciplinary Rules, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, or the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct for which the discipline imposed was one of the following: (a) public reprimand; (b) suspension; or (c) disbarment?	No
Have you ever been convicted or pled no contest to a crime involving dishonesty or moral turpitude?	No
Have you served in the military?	Yes
Was your discharge anything other than honorable, or did you receive a court martial?	No

Please note: Florida has very broad public records laws. Many written communications to or from The Florida Bar regarding Bar business may be considered public records, which must be made available to anyone upon request. Your e-mail communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.