



Mediation Issues and Techniques for the Complex Business Case

Monday, September 14 11:30 A.M. – Telephonic Presentation

Presented by:



Joseph P. Farina

Retired Chief Judge, 11th Judicial Circuit



Scott J. Silverman

Retired Judge, 11th Judicial Circuit

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide the tools for advocates and neutrals to effectively and efficiently work together to successfully resolve complex commercial disputes at mediation. Techniques and skills specifically tailored to the complex commercial case will be explored and developed. Issues of both process and substance will be considered.

This hour program will present:

1. What are the hallmarks of a complex commercial case?
2. What special challenges must the neutral confront in managing complex commercial cases?
3. Setting Up The Mediation Process
4. Preparing For The Formal Session
5. How can the attorney advocate select a neutral appropriate for complex cases?
6. What are the advantages of using an organization-managed ADR process?
7. Conducting the Mediation Session

A question & answer session will follow the presentation.



Joseph P. Farina (Retired Chief Judge 11th Judicial Circuit)

Joseph P. Farina, retired Chief Judge 11th Judicial Circuit, is highly regarded as an active and effective settlement judge who has handled and managed numerous settlements of complex cases. He served as a Circuit Judge in the Circuit Civil Division of the 11th Judicial Circuit in Miami-Dade County, Florida. From 1995 to 2009, he served for 14 years as Chief Judge and supervised the full operations of the Miami-Dade Court system, which is comprised of 123 judges, 15 general magistrates, 20 traffic hearing officers, and more than 500 administrative court staff serving in 10 courthouses.

Mr. Farina has been recognized by many national, state, and local organizations for his leadership, professionalism, and accomplishments. During his more than 30 years on the bench, Mr. Farina has consistently been rated one of the top judges in bar association polls.

ADR Experience and Qualifications

- While handling the asbestos and Chinese drywall calendars, Mr. Farina presided over 3,500 cases, including complex business and financial disputes, class actions, product liability claims, significant personal injuries, including death claims, and a substantial number of commercial and residential foreclosure cases together with a civil docket involving claims in excess of \$15,000
- Conducted numerous settlement conferences during his service on the Circuit Court
- Florida Supreme Court's Civil Mediator Certification, 2005
- Florida Supreme Court Certified Arbitrator
- Mr. Farina presided over hundreds of hearings and trials involving a wide variety of issues including:
 - **Business/Commercial:** Breach of contract and indebtedness, civil forfeitures, commercial foreclosures, corporate and business governance, declaratory judgments, discovery disputes, fraud, factoring and financing, indemnification and contribution, injunctive relief, insurance claims, partnerships/joint ventures, premises liability, replevin, shareholder disputes, trade names, unfair/deceptive business practices
 - **Class Action/Mass Tort:** Presided over nation's first Chinese drywall jury trial, asbestos and Chinese drywall litigation, class certification, constitutional challenges, economic loss rule, fairness hearings, Frye hearings, mesothelioma, motions in limine
 - **Construction:** Disputes involving construction of and damage to residential and commercial buildings, construction liens
 - **Employment:** Breach of employment contracts, non-compete agreements
 - **Environmental:** County ordinance and state statute enforcement, regulation, violation
 - **Personal Injury/Torts:** Presided over wrongful death actions involving an Arrow Air plane crash, change of venue, Fabre issues, forum non conveniens, libel/slander, motor vehicle and water craft negligence, negligent security, premises liability, product liability, punitive damages, sexual abuse, slip and fall, treble damages, trust litigation, wrongful death actions
 - **Professional Liability:** Business, legal, and medical malpractice claims, loss of license hearings
 - **Real Property:** Residential and commercial claims, leases, purchases and sales, commercial and residential mortgage foreclosures, commission claims, condemnation, condominium, deposit returns, homeowner associations, landlord-tenant disputes, land use

Honors, Memberships, and Professional Activities

- **Honors**
 - Recipient of the "OSCA" award for Outstanding Leadership and Inspired Vision for Florida's Judicial Branch, presented by the State Courts Administrator, August 11, 2012
 - Appreciation recognition for Leadership, Dedication and Guidance to the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges, presented by the Conference Chair, August 14, 2012
 - Chief Justice's Commendation in recognition of service to the judicial branch during tenure as Chief Judge, June 2009
 - Proclamation by Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, establishing Joseph P. Farina Day on June 17, 2009 in honor of service to the community
 - Greater Miami Jewish Federation's 2009 Community Service Award, March 2009

T: 305-371-5267
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Recipient of the "OSCA" award for Outstanding Leadership and Inspired Vision for Florida's Judicial Branch, presented by the State Courts Administrator, Since 2012

Case Manager

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- Justice Teaching Champion Award in recognition of dedication to the education and protection of Florida's children, June 2009
- Cuban American Bar Association's Mario P. Goderich P.A.V.E.R (Professionalism, Achievement, Values, Excellence & Respect) Award, January 2009
- Florida Association for Women Lawyers' Theodore Klein Award, December 2008
- Justice Harry Lee Anstead Professionalism Award, Miami-Dade Justice Association, June 2007
- Honorable Gerald Kogan Judicial Distinction Award, Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Miami Chapter, May 2007
- David W. Dyer Professionalism Award, Dade-County Bar Association, June 2005
- Sookie Williams Award Recognizing Exemplary Service to the Miami-Dade Legal Community, *Daily Business Review*, July 2004
- Jurist of the Year, Florida Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates, June 2004
- Distinguished Leadership Award, Conference of County Court Judges of Florida, May 2004
- Judicial Achievement Award, The Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers, June 2002
- Justice Tom C. Clark Award for Giving Outstanding Service to the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts, October 1999
- Judge of the Year Award for Outstanding Leadership in Providing Quality Law Related Educational Experiences for Florida Youth, July 1998
- Justice Harry Lee Anstead Professionalism Award, Dade County Trial Lawyers Association, November 1997
- Honorable Gerald Dogan Judicial Distinction Award, Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Miami Chapter, May 1995
- **Memberships and Professional Activities**
 - Advisory Board Member, Association of Certified E-Discovery Specialists ([ACEDS](#)), 2013
 - Founding Advisory Board Member and guest instructor for the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial High School, a Miami-Dade County magnet high school dedicated to Legal Studies, Forensic Science and Homeland Security, 2010-present
 - Member, Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility, Judges Advisory Committee for American Bar Association, 2011-present
 - Florida Chief Justice Representative on Executive Council of the Florida Clerk of Court Operations Corporation, July 2010-July 2012
 - Vice Chair, Florida Supreme Court's Judicial Branch Governance Study Group, 2009-2011
 - Chair, Florida Supreme Court's Strategic Planning Committee on Long Range Planning for the State Court System and Task Force on Judicial Branch Planning, November 2004-June 2009
 - Chair, Florida Supreme Court's Judicial Management Council, 2006-June 2008
 - President of the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts, which is composed of the Chief Judges of the Nation's Metropolitan Courts, October 1998-September 1999
 - Chair of the Judicial Administration Section of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges, which is comprised of all Chief Judges of the State of Florida, July 1997-June 1999
 - Chair, Florida Conference of Circuit Judges, July 2001-June 2002
 - Member, Executive Committee of the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges, July 2002-July 2012
 - Member, Executive Committee of the Florida Supreme Court's Trial Court Budget Commission, July 2004-March 2012
 - Member, Florida Supreme Court Historical Society, July 2002-present
 - Member, 11th Judicial Circuit Historical Society, October 2006-present
 - Member, Alliance for Human Services Board of Directors, July 1998-December 2008
 - Chair, Florida Supreme Court's Interpreter Committee, 2003
 - Member, Florida Supreme Court's Special Committee on Judicial Evaluations, 2006
 - Member, Florida Legislature's Article V State Indigent Services Board, Florida Supreme Court Appointee, 2004-2005
 - Chair, 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida's Indigent Services Committee, 2004-2008
 - Presiding Judge at the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) Master's in Trial in Miami, 2005
 - Adjunct Professor, University of Miami Law School, 1992-1997

Background and Education

- Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, 1979-2012
 - Chief Judge, 1995-2009
 - Administrative Judge, Circuit Criminal Division, 1992-1995
 - Judge, Circuit Court, 1981-2012
 - Judge, County Court, 1979-1981
- Mayor, Miami Shores, Florida, 1977-1979

- J.D., University of Florida College of Law, 1970
- B.A., George Washington University



Scott J. Silverman (Retired Judge 11th Judicial Circuit)

Scott J. Silverman, retired Judge 11th Judicial Circuit, joined the JAMS panel of neutrals after nearly 22 years on the bench in Miami. He distinguished himself as a stellar judge and one of South Florida's highest rated circuit court judges.

Known for his keen intellect, down to earth manner, and pragmatic approach to problem solving, Scott J. Silverman fosters an atmosphere that is conducive to achieving positive results, and he is determined to achieve a successful outcome, regardless of the complexity or the time needed.

As a jurist, Mr. Silverman presided over tens of thousands of cases. He believes that a trial is the most inefficient way of resolving a conflict. The "abyss of litigation," as he calls it, can be aggravating, time consuming, expensive, and places the lives of otherwise productive people on hold. His experiences and breadth of knowledge can prove useful to the parties as they work towards the conclusion of their case.

Scott J. Silverman is available to serve as a mediator, arbitrator, special magistrate, neutral evaluator, private judge, or umpire. He is available to preside over mock trials.

Representative ADR Matters

As follows is a selection of Mr. Silverman's successfully resolved mediations and arbitrations:

- Numerous international maritime/admiralty arbitrations in which seafarers claimed serious personal injuries under the Jones Act and sought monetary damages for maintenance and cure
- Complicated closely held corporate dissolution which resulted in a buy-out from one corporate officer to another
- Commercial landlord-tenant dispute between a large well-known Florida law firm and its lessor over a security deposit
- International labor arbitration in which a multi-national corporation allegedly engaged in unlawful age and sex discrimination
- Half-million dollar corporate mortgage foreclosure deficiency dispute between a guarantor and the lender bank
- Personal injury case in which a propane gas grill, sold by a national retailer, exploded causing the plaintiff third and second degree burns
- Claim for damages brought by the client of well known accounting firm who alleged that she loaned the firm's partner a large sum of money and the partner defaulted. The claimant alleged a breach of a fiduciary duty and negligent supervision/hiring in part because the loan violated the firm's ethics code.
- Petition to modify a judgment of dissolution of marriage which sought to increase one parent's time sharing with the divorced couple's minor children
- Dispute between a hospital and a professional recruiter over a claimed commission
- Claim by a major for-profit hospital chain against an international insurance company regarding alleged monies owed to it by the insurance company for medical services provided to its insureds
- Commercial loan default by an institutional lender against a well known physician
- Legal Malpractice and spoliation case in which a prominent attorney allegedly lost an integral piece of evidence, which resulted in an adverse result for a plaintiff in an underlying lawsuit
- Claim for injuries resulting from exposure to asbestos
- Dispute in which an officer was allegedly denied the opportunity by a city to make payments from his IRC 457(b) deferred compensation plan to the city's defined benefit plan, to purchase service credits
- Personal injury claim in which a plaintiff was seriously injured after coming into contact with a power line
- Served as an umpire between an insurance company and homeowners for losses arising from a storm
- Dispute between the FDIC, as receiver, and the officers and directors of a failed bank

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"Scott Silverman is an outstanding mediator. He is caring, professional, accommodating, and highly knowledgeable. His extensive experience as a former trial judge provides a very unique insight into the benefits of settlement thereby ensuring that the parties reach a mutually acceptable resolution."
- Attorney

"Though I am now in the private sector, my role as a problem solver continues. I actively facilitate and promote discussions between the parties to a dispute. I work towards developing options and alternatives that enable them to craft a resolution to their disagreement. My goal is to achieve an end to the dispute so the parties can move forward with their lives."

Case Manager

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Additional Experience and Qualifications

- **Appeals:** presided by designation on Florida's First and Fourth District Court of Appeals, adjudicating appeals in civil and criminal cases; presiding on the Eleventh Judicial Circuit's Appellate panel adjudicating appeals in civil and criminal cases, including coverage disputes
- **Arbitration:** presided over litigation involving the enforcement of arbitration clauses, cases pertaining to arbitration awards, and matters related to non-binding arbitration; presiding arbitrator in international cases under JAMS, ICDR, IBA and ICC rules; served as both sole and presiding arbitrator on tripartite panels
- **Business/Commercial:** presided over thousands of commercial disputes, including a case in which a judgment creditor brought an action against transferees of funds from the judgment debtor's bank account, alleging a violation of Florida's Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act (FUFTA); Unfair Trade Practices; and the foreclosure of a mechanic's lien on a Boeing 767
- **Construction:** presided over cases involving delay, defects, and complex/multiparty disputes
- **Defamation:** presided over cases in which parties claimed defamation by an international producer of television programming
- **Employment:** presided over cases in which
 - Former employees alleged racial discrimination and sexual discrimination, as well as retaliation, lost wages, and compensatory damages;
 - Former employees claimed unpaid wages
 - Former employees claimed harassment
- **Family Law:** presided over all types of family law cases, including disputes involving:
 - Equitable distribution of assets
 - Time-sharing among parents
 - Parental relocation
 - Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
 - Adoptions
- **High Profile Parties:** presided over cases involving high profile entertainment and sports figures, as well as numerous cases which appeared in electronic and print media. These cases included contractual disputes, family matters, criminal charges, and torts.
- **Insurance:** presided over declaration of rights actions; first party claims against carriers; and many types of coverage issues resulting from claims of breach of contract
- **Maritime:** presided over numerous maritime cases, including:
 - Actions involving injured seamen (Jones Act; maintenance and cure) and passengers;
 - A case in which a cruise ship passenger took her own life;
 - Facilitated and coordinated a program at Florida's Advanced College of Judicial Studies entitled, "Maritime Law-A Primer, or How to be the Captain of Your Own Ship While Avoiding Motion Sickness," 2010
- **Motor Vehicle:** presided over a multitude of vehicular accident cases, including wrongful death or serious bodily injury claims
- **Personal Injury:** presided over numerous personal injury actions, including:
 - A wrongful death case allegedly caused by mold;
 - A case in which a premises owner was allegedly negligent for failing to provide adequate and reasonable security causing plaintiff to be sexually battered by a third person;
 - A vehicular accident in which plaintiff received a verdict in excess of \$2 million
- **Products Liability:** handled a case in which an allegedly defective tire resulted in a crash and death; and an allegedly defective boat engine
- **Professional Malpractice/Medical:** experience in addressing a variety of malpractice matters, including
 - Medical malpractice against a hospital in which the hospital, after learning of a discrepancy in the reading of test results, failed to notify the patient which allegedly resulted in the patient's death;
 - A healthcare provider allegedly failed to appropriately diagnose, treat, and/or prevent the formation or aggravation of a decubitus pressure ulcer resulting in a verdict in excess of \$3 million;
 - A case in which the plaintiff, a charitable foundation, allegedly relied on the work of the defendant, accounting and auditing firms, and invested in a real estate company which ultimately went bankrupt
- **Real Property/Condominium:** presided over a wide variety of litigation involving real property, including:
 - A dispute between a major South Florida city and a veteran's organization in which the city claimed the veteran's group violated a deed restriction, and sought the return of the property;
 - Condominium contract rescission and revocation cases brought under common law and the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act (ILSA);
 - A dispute in which the plaintiff sought to enjoin the construction of a two-story bank which purportedly violated a lease agreement;

- Foreclosure matters and issues related to lis pendens.
- **Securities:** presided over a case in which investors in a shipping company brought an action against shareholders of that company alleging fraudulent inducement, a violation of the Securities Act, and other claims

The following are examples of decisions authored by Mr. Silverman while serving as an Associate Judge on Florida's First and Fourth District Courts of Appeal:

- *Remington, v. City of Ocala*, 940 So.2d 1207 (Fla. 1st DCA 2006) (A worker's compensation case in which the claimant sought reimbursement for travel to and from his pharmacy)
- *Solorzana v. First Union Mortgage Corporation*, 896 So.2d 847 (Fla. 4th DCA 2005) (Purchaser of a residential property filed an action for fraudulent nondisclosure against the seller who failed to disclose the existence of material housing code violations)
- *Broz v. Rodriguez*, 891 So.2d 1205 (Fla. 4th DCA 2005) (Dispute on whether a general release signed in connection with the settlement of a negligence action barred the injured party from proceeding with a medical malpractice action)
- *Haskins v. City of Fort Lauderdale*, 898 So.2d 1120 (Fla. 4th DCA 2005) (Former civilian employee of a police department who brought an action against the city for invasion of privacy and negligent investigation of allegations that the employee had illegally sold diet pills to police department employees)
- *Bellino v. W&W Lumber and Building Supplies*, 902 So.2d 829 (Fla. 4th DCA 2005) (A lumber company sued a general contractor for damages on unpaid invoices and sought to foreclose its mechanic's lien)
- *Anesthesiology Critical Care & Pain Management Consultants v. Kretzer*, 802 So.2d 346 (Fla. 4th DCA 2001) (A mother brought a medical malpractice action against the anesthesia clinic on behalf of her minor child who suffered temporomandibular joint dysfunction after the administration of anesthesia during sinus surgery)

Honors, Memberships, and Professional Activities

- **Honors**
 - Manny Crespo Award, Miami-Dade Justice Association, 2012
 - Justice Award, League of Prosecutors, 2011
 - David C. Brotemarkle Award, Florida Historical Society, 2011
 - Pro Bono Service Award, Put Something Back, 2005, 2011
 - Miami Beach Senior High School, Hall of Fame, 2010
 - Public Service Award, Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Attorneys' Division, 2010
 - First recipient of the Judge Scott J. Silverman Award in Judicial History and Preservation, Eleventh Judicial Circuit Historical Society, 2007
 - Meritorious Public Service Award for service on the Rules of Judicial Administration Committee from 1999 to 2005, presented by The Florida Bar, 2005
 - Distinguished Community Service Award, Dade Heritage Trust, 2004
 - Presidential Merit Citation, Florida Historical Confederation, 2003
 - Nominated by the Judicial Nominating Commission for service on Florida's Third District Court of Appeal, 2002
 - Herbert Harley Award (premiere state honor), American Judicature Society, 2000
 - Judge Harvey Ford Leadership Award (highest honor conferred), Conference of County Court Judges of Florida, 1998
 - Chief Justice Commendation, Florida Supreme Court, 1998
 - President's Award, Conference of County Court Judges of Florida, 1997
 - Certificate of Award, The National Judicial College, for service to the College with distinction as a Special Presenter, March 15, 1996
 - Florida Bar Citation of Merit, member of *Florida Bar Journal* Editorial Board, 1995
- **Professional Activities**
 - Founder, member, board of trustees, Eleventh Judicial Circuit Historical Society, 2006-present
 - Board of Trustees, Florida Supreme Court Historical Society, 2009-present
 - Court Historian, Eleventh Judicial Circuit, 2004-2012
 - Led the effort to restore courtroom 6-1 of the Dade County Courthouse, 2003-2008
 - Led the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in its centennial celebration, 2011
 - Member, Miami International Arbitration Society, 2012
 - Member, Conference of Circuit Court Judges of Florida, 1999-2012
 - Board of Trustees, History Miami (f/k/a Historical Museum of Southern Florida), 2004-2010, 2012-present
 - Member, Rules of Evidence Committee, Florida Bar, 2005-2009
 - Member, Judicial Independence Committee, Florida Bar, 2007-2010
 - Member, Florida Supreme Court Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, 1994-2003

- Chair, 1997-1998 and 2001-2002
- Vice-Chair, 1996-1997 and 2000-2001
- Member, Rules of Judicial Administration, Florida Bar, 1997-2005; 2012-present
 - Chair, 1999-2000
 - Vice-Chair, 1997-1998
- Member, Florida Supreme Court Technology Commission, 1996-2003
 - Trial Court Technology Subcommittee, 2000-2003
 - Drug Court Subcommittee, 2001-2003
 - Chair, 2001-2003
- Member, Technology Committee, Conference of County Court Judges, 1996-1998 (Chair, 1996-1998)
- Member, Conference of County Court Judges of Florida, 1991-1999
- Member, Editorial Board of the *Florida Bar Journal* and *Florida Bar News*, 1992-1995
- Judicial Mentor, appointed by Florida Supreme Court Chief Justices, 1996-2004
- Faculty, Florida Advanced College of Judicial Studies, 1994-2011
- Faculty, Florida New Judges College, 2000
- Member, Cuban American Bar Association, 1999-present
- Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice, St. Thomas University, Miami, Florida, 1996
- **Selected Publications and Writings**
 - Author, "Birth of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit," *Tequesta*, The Journal of History, Miami, 2012: 32-53
 - Author, "Mediation Well on its way to Becoming the New Trial," *Daily Business Review*, Miami, May 11, 2012: 1A and 8A
 - Author, "Time for Buildings to Reflect Vibrant Justice System," *The Miami Herald*, December 29, 2011
 - Author, "A South Florida Legal Brief," *The Green Bag - An Entertaining Journal of Law*, 14 Green Bag 2d 467, 2011
 - Author, "The 1904 Dade County Courthouse," *Eleventh Judicial Circuit Historical Society*, Fall 2007
 - Co-Author, "Living with the Death Penalty," *Judicature*, March 2006
 - Co-Author, "Judge Henry Fulton Atkinson – One of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Greatest Judges," *South Florida History*, 2006
 - Author "Separate, but Equal' by Design," *The Miami Herald*, June 16, 2005
 - Author, "The Florida Supreme Court Takes Aim at Unethical Judicial Campaign Conduct," *Judicial Conduct Reporter/American Judicature Society*, December 1998
 - Author, "Imposing and Recouping Attorneys Fees from Publicly Represented Criminal Defendants," *The Florida Bar Journal*, May 1996 [This article was chosen as a finalist for the Barbara Sanders Memorial Award for Legal Writing by a panel of the *Florida Bar Journal* Editorial Board.]
 - Co-Author, "Expanding the Role of Jurors in Florida Courts," *The Florida Bar Journal*, October 1991 [The article was selected as a finalist for the Barbara Sanders Memorial Award for Legal Writing.]
 - Co-Author, "Impairment of Earning Capacity as an Element of Damages," *The Florida Bar Journal*, November 1990
- **Selected Lectures and Presentations**
 - Lecturer, "Being a Better Advocate in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit," University of Miami School of Law, November 2011
 - Facilitator, "Maritime Law-A Primer, or How to be the Captain of Your Own Ship While Avoiding Motion Sickness," Florida Advanced College of Judicial Studies, 2010
 - Lecturer, "Current Issues in Community Activities," presented at the 17th National College on Judicial Ethics and Conduct, sponsored by the American Judicature Society, Chicago, Illinois, October 27-28, 2000
 - Panelist, "Merit Selection vs. Elections," presented in Washington, D.C. at the American Judicature Society, March 2000
 - Lecturer, "Judicial Ethics for Eastern European Judges," presented to judicial attendees at the American Bar Association's Central and Eastern European Law Initiative in Budapest, Hungary, December 9-11, 1998
 - Lecturer, "Judicial Ethics Advisory Committees," presented to attendees of the American Judicature Society's bi-annual Ethics Conference, Chicago, Illinois, October 23-24, 1998
 - Lecturer, "Ethics in Government," sponsored by Florida International University and the Northeast Dade Coalition, June 7, 1998
 - Lecturer, "Ethics: In & Out of Court," 1998 College of Advance Judicial Studies, Orlando, Florida, May 21-22, 1998
 - Lecturer, Judicial Issues, Public Policy and Ethics, Florida International University, September 10, 1997

Background and Education

- Mediator and Arbitrator, JAMS, 2012-present
- Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida, 1991-2012
 - Judge, Circuit Court (Civil, Criminal, and Family Divisions), 1999-2012
 - Judge, Miami-Dade County Court (Civil and Criminal), 1991-1999
 - Associate Administrative Judge for Traffic Related Matters, 1996-1999
 - Judge, Appellate Division of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, 1999-2012
 - Associate Judge, Florida's First District Court of Appeal, by designation, Tallahassee, Florida, 2006
 - Associate Judge, Florida's Fourth District Court of Appeal, by designation, West Palm Beach, Florida, 2001 and 2004
 - Florida Supreme Court appointed referee, 1993, 1996, 2011
 - Presided over the Miami-Dade County Grand Jury, 2009
- Private Practice, Law offices of Scott J. Silverman, 1985-1991
- Private Practice, Marlow, Connell, Smith, DeMahy, and Valerius, 1983-1985
- Law Clerk, Fredericka G. Smith, Circuit Court Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit, 1982-1983
- Assistant Attorney General, State of Oklahoma, 1981-1982
- Law Clerk, Getty Refining and Marketing Company, 1980-1981
- J.D., University of Tulsa College of Law, 1981
 - Concentration, Energy law
 - Phi Delta Phi
- B.B.A., University of Miami, 1978
 - *Magna Cum Laude* graduate, finance major and economics minor
 - Phi Kappa Phi National Collegiate Academic Honor Society (the nation's oldest and most selective for all academic disciplines)
 - Beta Gamma Sigma (Business Honor Society)
 - Omicron Delta Epsilon (International Economic Honor Society)
 - Alpha Lambda Delta (Freshman Honor Society)
 - President's Honor Roll
 - Dean's List