

**Education****University of North Carolina School of Law, Chapel Hill, NC**Juris Doctor, *with honors*, May 2006.

GPA: 3.4/4.0

**Honors and Activities:**

- *North Carolina Law Review*, Volume 84 Editorial Board, Comments Editor, 2005–06.
  - Volume 83 Staff Member, 2004–05.
- Attorney General, Law School Honor System, 2005–06.
- Dean's List, each semester of enrollment.

**Rollins College, Winter Park, FL**Honors A.B., political science, *summa cum laude*, May 2003.**Honors and Activities:**

- **General Charles McCormick Reeve Award**, Recognizing five students with highest undergraduate academic record over four-year career, May 2003.
- **Pi Sigma Alpha Honors Thesis Award**, April 2003.
- **Men's Varsity Soccer**, Four-Year Letter Winner, 1999–2002.
  - Second Team Verizon Academic All-Region, 2002.

**Publications**

*The Devil They Know: The DOJ's Flawed Antitrust Leniency Program and Its Curious Pursuit of Stolt-Nielsen*, 85 *North Carolina Law Review* 974 (2006).

**Selected Experience****State Attorney's Office, Ninth Judicial Circuit**

Orlando, FL

**Assistant State Attorney**

August 2006–August 2011

- Prosecuting every type of criminal offense with a specialty in sex crimes and crimes against children for over two years. Litigated nearly 100 jury trials including life felonies and homicides.

**United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina  
Externship Clerk for the Honorable Judge Earl Britt**Raleigh, NC  
Fall 2005**Howard, Stallings, From & Hutson, P.A.**

Raleigh, NC

**Summer Associate**

Summer 2005

- Researched and wrote legal memoranda on issues including bank liability for forgeries under the U.C.C. and will construction and interpretation.

**Fisher, Rushmer, Werrenrath, Dickson, Talley & Dunlap, P.A.**

Orlando, FL

**Summer Associate**

Summer 2004

- Researched and wrote legal memoranda on issues ranging from personal jurisdiction to contracts failing for lack of consideration. Drafted pleadings and motions for summary judgment, dismissal, and change of venue.

**Interests**

Distance running and all athletic activities, coaching, hiking, and reading.

## **Selected Cases Prosecuted**

**48-2009-CF-13807-A/B-O: Timothy Thomas & Patrick Maxwell**

April 2011

These co-defendants committed at least three home invasion robberies with firearms in the Orlando and Orange County jurisdictions from January through March of 2009. A tip from co-defendant Thomas' former girlfriend led law enforcement to co-defendant Maxwell who gave a lengthy, incriminating statement. A conviction was obtained with the help of DNA evidence and *Williams* Rule testimony when Maxwell refused to testify against Thomas at trial. Both Defendants were convicted as charged, with the help of Assistant State Attorney Karen Bankowitz, of Attempted Sexual Battery with Physical Force or a Deadly Weapon, Burglary of a Dwelling with an Assault or Battery with a Firearm, Robbery with a Mask with a Firearm, and False Imprisonment with a Firearm over a one-week trial with two juries. Judge Alan Apte sentenced Timothy Thomas to Life in prison and Patrick Maxwell to 50 years in the Department of Corrections.

**48-2010-CF-9035-O: George W. Girtman**

January 2011

Known as the "Malibu Rapist," the Defendant is estimated to have committed more than 40 Sexual Batteries in the Orlando area in the late 1980's and early 1990's. The Defendant pled to several 40 year sentences in 1994 but was set for release from the Department of Corrections in February of 2011 due to outdated laws on gain-time. Detective Michael Moreschi with the Orlando Police Department followed up on the victim's inquiries and used a cold-case grant to have the victim's sexual assault kit from 1990 tested. DNA linked the Defendant to the crime where he pled to the bench on the morning of trial and was sentenced to Life in prison for Sexual Battery with Physical Force or a Deadly Weapon and Burglary of a Dwelling with an Assault or Battery by Circuit Judge Marc Lubet.

**48-2009-CF-11277-O: Ian Lamar Tafarrin Scott**

January 2011

In July of 2009, the Defendant entered the apartment of the female victim and restrained her as she attempted to call 911. The Defendant then forced the victim to perform sexual acts with the threat of scissors before excellent police work led law enforcement to the Defendant and the victim's stolen property. The Defendant was convicted at trial of Sexual Battery with Physical Force or a Deadly Weapon and Burglary of a Dwelling with an Assault or Battery and sentenced to Life in prison by Circuit Judge Alan Apte.

**48-2009-CF-7299: Phillip Eugene O'Connor**

August 2009

On May 5th of 2009, the Defendant forced the female victim into bushes just off of Central Boulevard in downtown Orlando near Lake Eola, using the cover of dark to commit a violent sexual battery. Law enforcement and the media helped identify the Defendant within a few days and his identity was solidified through his statement to law enforcement and DNA testing of the victim's sexual assault kit. The Defendant pled guilty to Sexual Battery with a Deadly Weapon or Physical Force, sparing the victim any testimony, and was sentenced to 25 years in the Department of Corrections.

**48-2010-CF-7416-O: Leshawna Issac**

August 2011

The Defendant and mother of an 11 year-old child gave birth at home in the bathroom of her apartment in May of 2010, telling no one about the child or even that she was pregnant. Law enforcement discovered the deceased child nine days after it was born. The Defendant was convicted at trial of Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child and Aggravated Child Neglect. Her sentencing is pending before Circuit Judge Alan Apte.

**48-2008-CF-18238-O: James E. Gilbert**

February 2010

A Florida Highway Patrolman at the time, the Defendant sent numerous, sexually-explicit text messages to the minor daughter of his FHP superior. After filing 14 separate pre-trial motions and several motions to dismiss, the Defendant pled to the bench before Circuit Judge Marc Lubet and was sentenced to 18 months in the Department of Corrections, to be followed by eight years of sex offender probation.

**48-2009-CF-377-O: Wanda Smith**

June 2010

A long-time teacher in the Orange County Public School System, the Defendant engaged one of her 11 year old male students in various sexual acts over a number of years in the 1980's. With the victim's blessing, the Defendant pled to a year in jail followed by several years of sex offender probation before Circuit Judge Marc Lubet in June of 2010.

**48-2009-CF-10821-O: Yehisson Acevedo**

August 2010

In the middle of 2009 the Defendant, while acting as a security guard, engaged the intoxicated victim at a convenience store near downtown Orlando. The Defendant traveled to the victim's apartment and engaged her in sexual intercourse despite clear intoxication and the use of the prescription sleep aid Ambien. The Defendant showed his knowledge of the victim's inability to consent by taking several items of her property and later pawning them. The Defendant pled to eight years of sex offender probation before Circuit Judge Marc Lubet in August of 2010 rather than facing a jury.

**48-2009-CF-1665-O: Donald Ray Firth**

May 2009

The Defendant was charged and found guilty at trial of Sexual Battery with a Deadly Weapon or Physical Force and False Imprisonment after raping a woman at knife-point in a homeless camp in early 2009. Judge Jennifer Davis sentenced the Defendant to 30 years in the Department of Corrections.

**48-2009-CF-15188-O: Travis Louis Shaw**

March 2011

The Defendant harbored the juvenile victim in his home in September of 2009 until the morning he shot her in the face with a .38 pistol for unexplained reasons. The Defendant was convicted of Aggravated Child Abuse with a Firearm at trial, and with the help of Assistant State Attorney Karen Bankowitz was sentenced to 25 years in the Department of Corrections by Circuit Judge Reginald Whitehead.

**48-2008-CF-12374-O: Pedro Antuna**

November 2009

The Defendant committed several acts of sexual abuse on his three stepdaughters, the victims in the case, over a number of years. The victims testified courageously and the Defendant was convicted of multiple counts of Sexual Activity with a Child in a Familial or Custodial relationship in November of 2009. The Defendant committed suicide just before closing arguments but was nonetheless found guilty by a jury of his peers and posthumously adjudicated and sentenced to more than 70 years in the Department of Corrections by Circuit Judge Marc Lubet.