

TAB 1
INFORMATION

Janet A. McDonald

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Education

University of Miami School of Law, Coral Gables, Florida, J.D. 1979
Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania A.B. 1974

Work Experience

Polk County Florida
Land Use Hearing Officer
2019 – present

Reviewed the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan prior to the land use hearing and conducted a hearing for the individual who wanted to appeal the denial of a variance by a Land Development review board. Reviewed the testimony and evidence presented during the hearing by the Land Development Division representative and the individual requesting the review. Rendered a written Order based upon facts presented during the hearing and further review of the Land Development Code.

Chastain-Skillman, Inc.
General Counsel
2015 – 2018

Overall responsibility for the corporation's legal matters. Represents the corporation together with outside counsel and advises the corporation in risk management matters. Drafts, negotiates, and revises critical contracts to minimize corporate risks and maximize legal rights with business clients and governmental agencies. Reviews business practices to determine risks and exposure of business transactions. Provides updates of legislative changes in state and federal law which could impact the business. Supervises the administrative staff in the preparation of bid proposals. Advises senior management team members on legal matters.

Polk County Attorney's Office
Senior Assistant County Attorney
2011 – 2014

Represented the Long Range Planning and Land Development Divisions in administrative hearings and served as counsel for the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment. Represented and advised 4 Community Redevelopment Agencies. Litigated complex land use cases and assisted outside counsel in trial. Drafted appellate briefs on land use cases. Represented the Polk HealthCare Plan and the Rohr Home. Reviewed and drafted complex health care and social services contracts. Provided training on public records and Sunshine Law to various citizen boards. Drafted ordinances and resolutions for presentation to the Board of County Commissioners on behalf of various departments.

Hillsborough County Attorney's Office

Senior Assistant County Attorney

2006 – 2010

Prepared ordinances that established a Senior Safety and Child Safety Zones, restricting residences of sexually predatory individuals. Provided legal research and prepared memorandums of law for Commissioners and various county agencies. Represented the Animal Services Division in abuse, neglect, torture, confiscation, and hoarding cases. Represented the Justice information System and worked with the on litigation involving juvenile detention housing over-payments. Represented the Disadvantaged Minority and Disadvantaged Women Business Enterprise Program. Represented the Head Start Program.

Osceola County Sheriff's Office

Associate General Counsel

2004 – 2006

Advised the Sheriff and agency members on civil and criminal law, conducted civil litigation including civil forfeiture cases, drafted and reviewed contracts and interagency agreements. Regularly taught law enforcement officers on recent statutory changes and provided recent case law updates.

Florida Office of the Attorney General

Assistant Attorney General

1997 – 2004

Criminal Appeals Unit

2003 – 2004

Prepared appellate briefs in "Jimmy Ryce" cases, responded to federal writs of habeas corpus, and conducted oral arguments in the appellate courts. Provided information and conducted training to various law enforcement agencies concerning the Ryce Act.

Economic Crimes Unit

2000 – 2003

Prosecuted civil litigation against telemarketing, internet, telecommunications corporations, and automobile franchises for theft, fraud, racketeering, and unfair and deceptive trade practices. Conducted training sessions for law enforcement agencies in the Florida Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act. Presented seminars on consumer fraud including fraudulent installment contracts to businesses, trade, and consumer groups.

Children's Legal Services

1997 – 2000

Responsible for building a law office with 20 attorneys and 16 support staff. Responsible for the supervision and training of 19 assistant attorney generals who litigated termination of parental rights and dependency adjudicatory hearings. Provided training for local law enforcement agencies in dependency matters.

Office of the State Attorney (Thirteenth Judicial Circuit)

Juvenile Director, Senior Attorney of the Sex Offender Division, Senior Intake Attorney

1990 – 1997

Responsible for the supervision and training of 7-12 assistant state attorneys and certified legal interns. Reviewed and compiled documentation and evidence obtained by law enforcement agencies and presented evidence and witnesses to the sitting grand jury of Hillsborough County on juvenile cases. Advisor to various law enforcement agencies including Tampa Police Department and Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Assisted various government agencies in their investigations. Prosecuted 8 complex felony trials to rendering of a verdict. Prosecuted in excess of 20 misdemeanor and traffic cases.

Florida Department of Transportation (District One)

General Counsel, Litigation Attorney

1986 – 1990

Responsible for the overall operation of the District One Office of General Counsel. The District encompassed a 12 county region of southwest Florida from Collier and Okeechobee Counties to Polk County. Litigated 6 complex condemnation cases to rendering of a verdict. Conducted numerous Order of Taking hearings for roadway projects. Drafted, reviewed, and supervised the drafting of contracts for the district. Engaged in contract negotiations on behalf of the District.

Office of the Public Defender (Thirteenth Judicial Circuit)

Juvenile Division Chief, Felony Division Chief, Assistant Public Defender

1979 – 1986

Responsible for the supervision and training of 3-6 assistant public defenders. Prepared and presented training lectures and conducted mock trials. Litigated approximately 12 complex jury trials including several first degree murder case and RICO cases. Conducted juvenile, misdemeanor, traffic, and felony litigation, including life felony trials and appeals. Litigated in excess of 65 felony jury trials to rendering of a verdict. Litigated in excess of 30 misdemeanor trials to rendering of a verdict.

References

Charles L. Stutts, Esq.

*3016 Fair Oaks Drive
Tampa, Florida 33611*

Robin Gibson, Esq.

*Gibson Law Firm
299 E. Stuart Avenue
Lake Wales, Florida 33853
863.676.8584*

Linda Davidson, Esq.

*404 Montgomery Drive
Erie, Colorado 80516
813.205.1658*

Michael S. Craig, Esq.

*421 S. Orlando Avenue
Cocoa Beach, Florida 32931
863.412.2738*

TAB 2

EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE

Experience and Expertise

Since 1979, I have lived in Polk County. I am familiar with most rural and city neighborhoods within the County. During this time, I have been employed as a trial attorney. I have tried over 100 civil and criminal jury trials to the rendering of a verdict.

These jury trials, together with numerous bench trials, decided by a judge, taught me how a trial is conducted. I used this knowledge when I represented the Polk County Planning Commission and various Land Development Divisions when I was a member of the Polk County Attorney's Office from 2011 to 2014.

In this capacity, I advised planners and their supervisors when legal questions arose in their daily work and prepared planners for their testimony and cross examinations prior to their presentations to the Planning Commission. I advised the Development Review Committee on potential projects that were submitted for review and also worked with the Board of Adjustment.

The Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan were my daily reference books during this time. Since 2019 to the present, I have been a Land Use Hearing Officer who conducted hearings on Administrative Decisions, Administrative Determinations, and Administrative Interpretations.

Michael Craig, former Polk County Attorney, assigned me to work with the Land Development Division and to represent and assist the Planning Commission from 2011 – 2014. Mr. Craig can be reached by phone at 863.412.2738 by email at michaelscraig123@gmail.com.

Randy Mink, current Polk County Attorney, is familiar with my work conducting Administrative Decisions, Determinations, and Interpretations from 2019 to the present. Mr. Mink can be reached by phone at 863.534.6730 and by email at randymink@polk-county.net.