

**Group Legal Services Association
Solo, Small Firm, and General Practice Section
2016 Joint Spring Meeting
May 11-14, 2016, Key West, Florida**

**The Strangest Statutes of the Southernmost:
A Town Tour of Weird Key West Laws**

**Friday, May 13
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Offsite**

Presenter: Ronald Ramsingh, City of Key West, Key West, FL



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EXPERIENCE

THE CITY OF KEY WEST

Key West, FL

Assistant City Attorney:

(November 2007-Present)

Currently, I am responsible for defending the City of Key West in personal injury cases such as trip and fall, auto liability and worker's compensation claims. I am also responsible for litigation in circuit court involving contracts, takings, leaseholds, collections, police excessive force, as well as seizure and forfeiture cases. In addition to these responsibilities, I am the municipal prosecutor for the City of Key West in county court, where I criminally prosecute cases involving vagrancy on behalf of the City of Key West. Typical cases include: open container, alcohol on beaches and in parks, being in parks after hours, lodging in vehicles, and obstruction of sidewalks. I am also the attorney advising several municipal boards including Code Compliance, the Historic Architectural Review Commission, the Contractor's Examining Board, Art in Public Places, the Key West Bight Management District, and the Tree Commission. I handle all Human Resources legal issues such as union negotiations with the 3 unions associated with the city; IAFF (Firefighters), PBA (Police) and the Teamsters. This also includes labor related arbitrations concerning discipline issues as well as contract interpretations. I also draft new and revised ordinances for the City Commission at their request.

REICH & MANCINI, P.A.

Port St. Lucie, FL

Associate Attorney:

(April 2004 to June 2007)

I practiced at the largest, highest volume Worker's Compensation claimant's law firm on the Treasure Coast. I successfully prosecuted claims against insurance companies at trial, took and defended hundreds depositions of claimants, insurance adjusters and fact witnesses. I was also responsible for attending motion calendar once a week. Most importantly, I participated in and successfully negotiated over 1,000 mediations on behalf of the firm's Worker's Compensation clients. My responsibilities also included heading the firm's criminal defense group whereby I was in charge of generating and handling all of the criminal defense cases that the firm handled including drafting motions, attending trials and negotiating pleas for felony, misdemeanor, DUI, and traffic cases.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Miami, FL

Assistant State Attorney:

(August 1999 to March 2004)

Career Criminal/Robbery Unit (March 2003-March 2004): Selected to be a member of this prestigious specialized unit. Responsibilities included extensive pre and post arrest investigations of some of the most notorious career criminals in Miami-Dade County and the country. This unit only selects the most dangerous of crimes committed by criminals who qualify for enhanced penalties under Florida's repeat offender statutes including but not limited to: murder, manslaughter, armed home invasion, smash and grab robbery, armed robbery, armed kidnapping and armed burglary. Work in this unit involved the introduction of firearms, DNA, crime scene and ballistics evidence at trial. Responsibilities also included an extensive written and oral motion practice including subsequent oral arguments pre and post trial. Additionally, a 24-hour duty rotation was shared between the 10 specialized unit prosecutors. On-call duty entailed visiting crime scenes immediately after a crime had occurred, meeting with witnesses and victims on site; including tourist victims in order to effectively prosecute these crimes. I was also accountable for the drafting of arrest & search warrants, attending, conducting and defending numerous depositions on all cases in anticipation of trial.

Gang Prosecution Unit (October 2002-March 2003): Selected to be a member of the specialized Gang unit where I, along with my team of 3 prosecutors and detectives worked together in conjunction with all municipal police agencies in Miami-Dade County to conduct detailed, sophisticated investigations of active criminal street gangs in Miami-Dade County. Investigations involved the use of electronic wiretaps, video surveillance, undercover investigations and extensive work with confidential informants. R.I.C.O. cases were built from the ground level involving the trafficking of arms, narcotics, as well as conspiracy, extortion, and murder cases. Several investigations and prosecutions were in conjunction with the United States Attorneys Office and federal law enforcement agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Agency, Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and the Federal Bureau of Investigations in parallel prosecutions. Duties also included the drafting of extensive wiretap, trap and trace, pole camera, search and arrest warrants, planning the execution of raids and warrant sweeps in conjunction with law enforcement on the local and federal level.

Division/Line Prosecutor (August 1999-October 2002): Prosecuted DUI, criminal traffic and misdemeanor cases including complex appellate issues in county court, where I gained invaluable experience conducting 14 jury trials including arguing subsequent appeals. Promoted to the Circuit Court, Juvenile Division where I prosecuted misdemeanor and felony level crimes committed by Miami-Dade County juveniles. In the Juvenile Division, I tried over 20 bench trials in 7 months including an airport heroin smuggling case involving various federal agencies including the Drug Enforcement Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigations and the (then) Immigration and Naturalization Service. Promoted to Circuit Court (adult felonies) where I had over 25 jury trials and experience in building and prosecuting cases including drug possession cases, murder, home invasion robbery, armed robbery, the investigation of 3rd, 2nd, 1st and life degree felonies post-arrest in order to make filing decisions. I was also responsible for a national DUI media case involving intoxicated commercial airline pilots. Typical responsibilities included witnesses and police officer interviews, taking sworn statements, and visits to crime scenes. Responsibilities after charges were filed included preparing for, attending, conducting and defending numerous depositions on all cases in anticipation of trial. Additional responsibilities included being a member of the Assistant State Attorney Screening and Selection committee where I traveled to various law schools around the state interviewing candidates to be Assistant State Attorneys within our office.

Hightower & Rudd, P.A.

Miami, FL

Law Clerk:

(June 1998 to October 1998)

Prepared medical summaries and depositions for litigation in an insurance defense firm.

St. Thomas University School of Law

Miami, FL

Research Assistant:

(September 1998 to November 1998)

Prepared memoranda and conducted research on various Maritime Law issues for Professor Costabel.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Miami, FL

Summer Intern:

(June 1997 to August 1997)

Analyzed evidence, ascertained facts and researched applicable law and regularly discussed issues with a felony attorney; gained insight into prosecutorial decision-making and strategies.

PRE-TRIAL SERVICES, 16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONROE COUNTY *Key West, FL*

Investigator:

(April 1994 to September 1995)

Conducted background checks on felony arrestees and made recommendations to judges on possible candidates for Pre-Trial release and bond reductions.

TRUVAL VILLAGE DELICATESSEN AND CONVENIENCE STORE

Key West, FL
(August 1982 to January 1999)

General Manager: Ran all facets of the family gas station, deli and convenience store business including but not limited to customer service, negotiations of commercial leases, payroll, inventory, ordering, and bookkeeping and employee issues such as hiring, firing and disciplinary actions.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONROE COUNTY

Key West, FL

Judicial Clerk-Field Placement Clinic:

(May 1998 to August 1998)

Researched and drafted bench memoranda pertaining to relevant law on motions before the court including Constitutional and Civil Procedure issues for Judge Wayne Miller.

St. Thomas University School of Law

Miami, FL

Legal Assistance Wednesday - Volunteer:

(September 1997 to November 1997)

Researched legal issues and advised underprivileged citizens in the inner cities of Miami on such areas as Employment, Contracts, Immigration, Real Estate and Family Law.

ACTIVITIES

Volunteer, Celebration of Life

Lowell, MA

Volunteer, Special Olympics

Aventura, FL

Volunteer, Monroe Association of ReMARCable Citizens

Key West, FL

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Proficient in Spanish

EDUCATION

St. Thomas University School of Law

Miami, FL

J.D., May 1999

Activities: President, Catholic Lawyer's Guild
Member, North Dade Bar Association
Member, Hispanic American Law Society

University of Florida

Gainesville, FL

B.S., May 1995 in Criminal Justice

Activities: Member, Hispanic American Law Society
Member, Caribbean Student Association

MEMBERSHIP

The Florida Bar

RECOMMENDED READING

1. [Key West's Dead Raised to Learn Their Secrets](#), CNN, November 26, 2007
2. [Key West Chickens: Local Nuisance or Beloved Icon?](#), WFSU, June 13, 2014
3. [Another Eaton St. project sparks debate](#), Keysnews.com, September 19, 2015

