

ROBERT CRUZ, ESQ.

Attorney at Law & Mediator

RESUME

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

FLORIDA A & M UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (FAMU), Orlando, FL, **Clinician** 2016-Present
Provide hands-on-legal experience to law school students and legal services. Substitute law professor and clinic instructor in mediation classes. Represent clients and mediate cases.

LIFE CARE PLANNING LAW FIRM, PLLC, Windermere, FL, **Contract Lawyer** 2016-Present
Represent and counsel businesses and individuals on a contract basis.

COAST TO COAST LEGAL AID OF SOUTH FLORIDA, Plantation, FL, **EACH/VALOR Attorney** 2014-2016
Provide economic advocacy and community health (EACH) services under the United Way's Mission United project. The Project achieved "functional zero" on housing chronically homeless veterans. Represent clients in housing, criminal, public benefits and family law matters.

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES OF MID-FLORIDA (CLSMF), *and sister corporation* LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTER OF CENTRAL FLORIDA (LACCF), Kissimmee, Sanford, and Orlando, FL 2007-2014
Managing Attorney. Manage the operation of the legal services program at the Kissimmee field office, including implementing program policy and directives, providing leadership and direction of the legal work. Represent employer in collective bargaining with the National Organization of Legal Services Workers. Supervise and litigate cases assigned to the Housing and Fair Housing units. Train and supervise attorneys, support staff, legal externs and volunteers through clinical training and continuing legal education (CLE). **Advocacy Director.** Perform duties of chief executive officer (CEO) for sister corporation in Sanford. Supervise and litigate impact cases in the areas of consumer law, foreclosure defense, fair housing and landlord/tenant law.

Cruz Law Firm, PL, ORLANDO, FL, **Managing Member/Attorney** 2004-2007
Deliver outsourced legal services to businesses and individuals in commercial litigation.

ESTRELLA, LLC, SAN JUAN, PR, **Trial Lawyer/Consumer Rights Section Head** 2002-2004
Provide legal counseling to individual and Fortune 100 corporate clients in matters related to personal injury, premises liability, commercial litigation, landlord/tenant law, consumer law and civil notary law. Litigate of cases before Federal, State and Administrative forums. Head the Consumer Rights Section. Organize seminars and train executives.

DE LA CRUZ SKERRETT LAW OFFICE, SAN JUAN, PR, **Trial Lawyer** 2000-2002
Concentrate practice on real estate, commercial litigation, debt collections and consumer law. Perform investigations, inquiries and negotiations. Render professional opinions and litigated cases. Represent businesses, developers, contractors, and homeowner associations (HOA). Write business legal structures, covenants of assessments and restrictions, and civil notary documents.

PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, SAN JUAN, PR, **Assistant State Attorney** 1998-2000
Assigned to the Public Policy and Fast Track Litigation Section of the General Litigation Division. Litigate high profile constitutional law and civil rights matters.

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EDUCATION

Juris Doctor 1997	INTERAMERICAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW	SAN JUAN, PR
• Winner of the 1995 Annual Law Review Competition	• Member of the Law Review	
Bachelor of Arts 1994	UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO	CAYEY, PR

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

US Courts of Appeals for the Armed Forces, the First Circuit and the Eleventh Circuit
 US District Courts for the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida and the District of Puerto Rico
 State of Florida and Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
 Broward County Bar Association, *The Barrister Magazine*, **Contributing Writer**, 2015 - 2016

AWARDS RECEIVED

Puerto Rico Attorney General's Letter of Commendation	1998
United Who's Who Registry of Executives and Professionals	2004
Legal Advocacy Center of Central Florida, Inc.'s (LACCF) Above and Beyond Award	2007
League of United Latin American Citizens' (LULAC) Hero of Advocacy Award	2008
Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc.'s (CLSMF) Amazing Advocate Award	2008
CLSMF's Outstanding Supervisor Award	2010
LACCF's and CLSMF's Five (5) Years of Service Certificate	2012
Florida A & M University College of Law Certificate of Appreciation	2017
Osceola County Courthouse Dispute Resolution Program Invaluable Service Award	2017

PUBLISHED CASES

Partido Acción Civil (PAC) v. Puerto Rico, 149 D.P.R. 615; 1999 PR Sup. LEXIS 173
PAC v. Puerto Rico (US Supreme Court), 531 U.S. 920; 121 S. Ct. 283; 2000 U.S. LEXIS 6554
Las Americas Professional Center v. Roman Irizarry, 2001 PR App. LEXIS 657
Scotland Guard Services, Inc. v. Fondo del Seguro del Estado, 2006 PR App. LEXIS 8
Asset Acceptance, LLC v. Turner, 15 Fla. L. Weekly Supp. 719a (Fla. Volusia Cty. Ct. December 18, 2007)
Flagler, et al. v. The Housing Authority of the City of Sanford, Florida, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 21982
North Star Capital Acquisitions, LLC v. Stone, 15 Fla. L. Weekly Supp. 720a (Fla. Putnam Cty. Ct. May 9, 2008)
Equable Ascent Financial, LLC v. Stambaugh, 20 Fla. L. Weekly Supp. 277b (Fla. Marion Cty. Ct. Oct 22, 2012)
Burt v. Hudson & Keyse, 39 Fla. L. Weekly D1077a (Fla. 5th DCA May 23, 2014)
Department of Revenue v. Smith, 23 Fla. L. Weekly Supp. 141a (Fla. Broward Cty. Ct. July 2, 2015)

PUBLICATIONS

Roberto Cruz et als., Basic Foreclosure Defense Litigation Manual (2008), <http://www.scribd.com/doc/17241581/Basic-Foreclosure-Litigation-Defense-Manual>
 Roberto Cruz, Wounded Warriors' Justice Denied: Should Barriers to Expungement Keep Veterans Jobless and Homeless?, 20 Rich. Pub. Int. L. Rev. 231 (2017), at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/pilr/vol20/iss3/5>

CERTIFICATIONS

Florida Supreme Court Certified County Court Mediator	2017
Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Law Mediator	2017

LANGUAGES

Spanish & English
