

Experienced professional with solid history of success in academics, litigation, law enforcement, and boards of directors. Military veteran and retired police commander with strong ability to build and lead large teams that meet and exceed designated goals and expectations. Demonstrated skills in analyzing, identifying, developing, and implementing processes and procedures that enhance organizational efficiencies. Background in teaching and training students and corporate personnel.

Highlights of Expertise

- Strategic Business Planning
- Cost Reduction and Avoidance
- Team Building and Leadership
- Staff Training and Development
- Contract Development/Negotiations
- Budget Administration/Management
- Process Improvement/Change Management
- Bilingual English and Spanish
- Issue Resolution and Troubleshooting
- Regulatory Compliance

Career Experience

St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio, TX

Teaches Trial Advocacy Skills Course each semester and directs the internal and external advocacy programs.

HARDY DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY PROGRAMS AND SERVICE PROFESSOR OF LAW (Jan 2018 to Present)

Supervises adjunct professors and coaches teaching Trial Advocacy and directs the law school's National Team consisting of Appellate Advocacy, Trial Advocacy and Alternative Dispute Resolution and is the faculty advisor to the Board of Advocates. The National Team prepares students to be successful advocates first, by the development of practical, real world litigation skills in a courtroom setting. Students selected to be a member of the National Team compete against other teams in regional and national competitions. In 2018, the St. Mary's National Team expanded from a Negotiation Team to the National Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Team winning their first ever ABA Regional competition and becoming the National Runner up Champion. A.J. doubled the size of the team, giving more students access and a greater visibility to the team in 2018-2019.

Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, Baltimore, MD

Oversee school board office operations and enact district strategic planning as administrative officer on Board of School Commissioners.

BOARD EXECUTIVE OFFICER (2015 to May 2018)

Managed Office of Governmental and Legislative Affairs and Internal Audits team including executing district's legislative agenda, and served as primary contact for intergovernmental affairs. Worked as the Board's representative on Ethics Panel. Trained and supervised 10 hearing examiners acting as administrative law judges handling contested educational matters including student and employee disciplinary actions within school system and rendering decisions and recommendations to Board.

- ◆ Supervised additional three full-time direct reports plus eight internal audits employees, worked with five Ethics Panel members and administered the Parent and Community Advisory Board with six officers.

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Thomsen-Reuters, Washington, DC

CONTRACT INSTRUCTOR (2013-Present)

Teach introductory and advanced deposition skills training to about 50 Federal Trade Commission staff 2-3 times annually.

University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, MD

Taught experiential learning and trial advocacy classes to 24-50 students each semester. Prepared 20-28 students for and traveled with teams to nationwide mock trial tournaments by teaching fundamentals of trial practice, civil and criminal procedures, and rules of evidence.

LAW LECTURER/NATIONAL TRIAL TEAM DIRECTOR (2008 to 2016)

Recruited, trained, and managed assistant coaches and tracked progress with students and coordinated team travel. Served previously as advocate, student coach, assistant coach, competition coach, travel coach, head coach and director.

- ◆ Helped team win 2006 National Championship plus 19 other titles.
- ◆ Earned Impact Award by Black Law Students Association (BLSA) in 2010 for “significantly extending” on behalf of BLSA after coaching 2010 Thurgood Marshall National Trial Team.

CLINICAL LAW OFFICER MANAGING DIRECTOR (2008 to 2015)

Directed daily operations of Clinical Law Program and strategic planning and administrative functions of clinic including 30 faculty members, 8 fellows, and 8 administrative staff supporting more than 250 students.

- ◆ Provided more than 116,000 hours of annual pro bono legal services to community.
- ◆ Served as law school’s representative to Maryland Section of Legal Education and Admission to bar and former section chair.
- ◆ Recognized as 2014 Outstanding Staff Member by Student Bar Association and 2013 Faculty of the Year by one of Maryland’s pro-bono organizations.

LAW INSTRUCTOR (2008 to 2015)

Appointed as lead instructor for seven-credit General Practice Clinic during summer session and two-credit National Trial Team Advanced Trial Advocacy course each semester. Served as guest lecturer in clinical and non-clinical courses. Guided work of professors and students to ensure no interruption in client services. Helped other professors deliver legal services by preparing students in all facets of trial process. Readied mooted law students to present cases before district, circuit, and federal district courts, immigration hearings, and multiple administrative hearings. Taught upper level Advanced Law Enforcement Administration required for undergraduate Criminal Justice degree.

- ◆ Honored as guest professor for Stetson University College of Law’s Summer Program at Oxford University, England, and Teacher Trainer in Teaching Advocates Teaching Students (TATS) Program.

CENTER FOR HOMELAND SECURITY SENIOR LAW AND POLICY ANALYST (2006 to 2008)

Created Department of Homeland Security training program to teaching top government and business planners how to create organizational COOP plans. Served as lead instructor for Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) initiative helping state and local governments prepare for and recovering from various emergencies. Worked directly with high-ranking nationwide government and business professionals.

- ◆ Taught 56 classes of 50-100 students each in 32 states and 2 territories.
- ◆ Helped program earn certification in 2007 and approved for additional funding of more than \$1.5M.

ADJUNCT FACULTY, COMMUNITY JUSTICE TEACHING FELLOW (2004 to 2007)

Aided City of Baltimore in developing problem-solving model to address issues of crime and violence. Conducted research, facilitated community and team meetings, and assisted in designing new law school clinical curriculum. Helped clinic director study, write, and receive grant.

- ♦ Served as supervising attorney for 12 students prosecuting cases for Baltimore City State's Attorney Office practicing under Rule 16.
- ♦ Sworn in as Special Assistant State's Attorney in 2006.

Palmer/Cooper, LLC – Baltimore, MD

Merged Law Offices of A.J. Bellido de Luna, LLC with the law office of Palmer Cooper, LLC.

LAWYER (2009 to 2013)

Maintained modest criminal and civil practice in Maryland District and Circuit Courts.

Law Offices of G. Russell Donaldson, P.C./Law Offices of A.J. Bellido de Luna, LLC, Crofton, MD

Investigated civil and criminal legal issues, negotiated and resolved cases before trial, engaged in extensive contact with clients, drafted complaints, motions, memorandums and answers for firm specializing in real estate litigation and civil rights representation.

LAWYER (2005-2008)

Interviewed witnesses and all other aspects of case preparation from start to finish, including lead chair in civil and criminal trials.

Additional Experience

Commander/Sergeant/Corporal/Detective/Police Officer First Class/Police Officer/Recruiter Officer ▪ Howard County Department of Police, Ellicott City, MD

Legal Intern ▪ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D.C.

Police Officer ▪ University of Maryland at Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore, MD

Staff Sergeant ▪ United States Marine Corps/United States Marine Corps Reserves, Various Locations

Education & Credentials

Juris Doctor

University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, MD

Bachelor of Science in Management and Leadership (Honors)

The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Certifications

- National Institute of Trial Advocate Certified Instructor
- Certified Instructor, Maryland Police Training Commission
- Certified DUI Instructor, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Drug Recognition Expert Certification, Maryland Police Training Commission

Affiliations

- Member of Maryland Bar, Federal District Court of Maryland, Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court of the United States
- Board of Directors Citizenship Law-Related
- Board of Directors Citizenship Law-Related Education Program (CLREP)
- Past Chair, Maryland State Bar Association, Section Council for Legal Education & Admission to the Bar
- American Association of Justice Law School Committee - Appointed =
- American Association for Justice
- American Bar Association
- National Hispanic Bar Association
- Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys Association
- Maryland State Bar Association
- Maryland Hispanic Bar Association
- Howard County Bar Association
- Phi Delta Phi, National Legal Honors Society
- Howard County Retired Officers Association