



# ALFREDA D. COWARD, ESQUIRE

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## BAR ADMISSIONS

U.S. District Court for the Southern, Middle and Northern Districts of Florida, 2001-03  
The Florida Bar, Admitted November 1995

## EDUCATION

**Juris Doctor**, May 1995  
University of Florida College of Law, Gainesville, FL  
**Bachelor of Science in Psychology**, May 1992  
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL  
**Minor in Criminology**, May 1992  
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Coward & Coward, P.A., Ft. Lauderdale, FL**  
**Partner**, May 2004 – Present

Represent clients in the areas of criminal law, family law and general civil litigation, including governmental law. Conduct all aspects of trial preparation including witness interviews, legal research, pre-trial motions, depositions, conferences and hearings. Conduct non-jury and jury trials.

**One Voice Children's Law Center, Ft. Lauderdale, FL**  
**Founder**, July 2004 - Present

Provide pro bono representation to indigent cross-over children who have pending cases in the dependency, delinquency and/or educational systems. Conduct all aspects of trial preparation. Supervise volunteer lawyers.

**FIU College of Law, Miami, FL**  
**Adjunct Professor**, July 2007 – June 2008

Supervised students in the Educational Advocacy Clinic. Taught the seminar portion of the program. Supervised and provided direct client representation in suspension/expulsion and special education matters. Conducted community outreach activities. Collaborated with community agencies and other legal providers.

**Office of the Public Defender, 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Ft. Lauderdale, FL**  
**Assistant Public Defender, Felony/Career Criminal Division**, May 2000 - May 2004

Represented clients that had been classified as habitual felony offenders. Co-counseled capital murder cases. Conducted over a hundred jury trials including two televised trials on Court TV and NBC Dateline. Argued and presented case law in support of various motions; deposed witnesses; and performed all other aspects of trial preparation. Attended training workshops ranging from basic trial techniques to defending capital murder cases.

**Office of the Public Defender, 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Gainesville, FL**  
**Assistant Public Defender, Felony Division**, July 1996 - May 2000

Represented hundreds of indigent clients in criminal cases. Conducted all aspects of trial preparation.

**Virgil Hawkins Civil Clinic, University of Florida**

**Certified Legal Intern, January 1995 - May 1995**

Certified by the Florida Supreme Court to represent indigent clients in civil matters. Interviewed and counseled clients. Drafted pleadings and other legal memoranda. Represented clients in hearings, depositions and mediations.

**Law Office of Horace Moore, Sr., P.A., Gainesville, FL**

**Law Clerk, May 1993 - March 1995**

Participated in aspects of trial preparation including witness interviews, legal research, pre-trial motions, conferences and hearings. Drafted appellate briefs, legal memoranda and other legal documents in the areas of personal injury, workers compensation and estates and trusts.

**PROFESSIONAL  
ASSOCIATIONS**

American Bar Association:

Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division: Vice Chair

Section of Litigation: Committee Chair

Young Lawyers Division: Former Officer/Council Member

T.J. Reddick Bar Association, Past President

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Immediate Past Chapter President

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc., Former First Vice-Chair

City of Lauderhill Retirement System, Board of Trustees

American Cancer Society, Operating Board, Former Event Chair

Broward County Ethics Commission, Former Commissioner

**TASK FORCES  
AND COMMITTEES**

The Florida Bar Juvenile Rules Committee, 2005-2014

School-to-Jail Pipeline – Statewide Initiative, 2008-2013

Florida Advisory Board Youth Empowerment Project, 2008-2013

ABA Young Lawyers Division Children and the Law Committee, 2001-2007

ABA Young Lawyers Division Minorities in the Profession Committee, 2001-2007

ABA Section of Litigation Children’s Rights Litigation Committee, 2001-present

ABA Section of Litigation Woman Advocate Committee, 2001-present

ABA Section of Litigation Minority Trial Lawyer Committee, 2001-present

ABA Section of Litigation Diversity Task Force, 2001-2005

ABA Death Penalty Representation Project Steering Committee, 2005-2007

NAACP: Legal Redress Committee, 1996-present

**TEACHING AND  
CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS**

“Persistent Strategic Pursuit”, ABA/LIT, January 2010

“Raising our Hands: Creating National Strategy for Children”, ABA/LIT 2009

“Litigation Fundamentals: Direct and Cross Exam”, ABA/LIT June 2009

“Challenges of Working with Child Witnesses”, ABA/LIT, August 2008

Educational Advocacy Clinic, FIU College of Law, Fall/Spring 2007-2008

“Strategies for Representing Child Sex Offenders”, ABA, March, 2006

“Keeping it Real, Your Authentic Minority Self”, ABA/GPSolo, May, 2005

“Forum for Relative Caregivers”, Children Services Council, April, 2005

“Children in Foster Care”, Florida’s Children First!, February, 2005

“Life After the JD”, ABA Mid-year Meeting, February, 2005

“How to Start & Build a Law Practice”, ABA/YLD, February, 2005

“We the Jury”, Florida Bar YLD Affiliate, November, 2004

“Hanging Out Your Shingle, ABA/YLD, October 2004

Representing the Whole Child, NITA Instructor, June, 2004

“Execution of Innocence: Children on Death Row”, ABA/YLD, Fall, 2003

“Independent Living for Foster Children”, ABA/YLD, Fall 2002

**COMMUNITY  
SERVICE**

Delta Days at Broward County, State's Capital and Nation's Capital  
Adolescent Health & Healing Workshops  
Read America Campaigns  
HIV/AIDS Prevention Workshops  
Women's Health Symposiums  
May Week Scholarship Programs  
ABA Law Days  
FOCUS Mentoring Programs  
Delta GEMS Mentoring Program  
American Cancer Society Advocacy Day  
American Cancer Society Relay for Life – Event Chair and Advocacy Chair  
Restoration of Rights Seminars  
Broward County Schools Volunteer  
Department of Juvenile Justice Volunteer  
Juvenile Justice Council – Board Member  
Girl Power – Board of Directors  
Children's Service Council  
Florida's Children First!  
HANDY (Helping Abused, Neglected, Dependent Youth) Volunteer

**AUTHOR/  
EDITOR**

*Interviewing a Child Witness*, ABA/Section of Litigation, CRLC, 2008  
*Florida Juvenile Law and Practice*, 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Editions, The Florida Bar, 07-10  
*Report on the Legal Needs of Harris County Children*, ABA/LIT, CRLC, 2004  
*Hanging Out Your Shingle Resource Guide*, ABA/YLD, 2004

**AWARDS/HONORS**

City of Lauderhill Women of Distinction Award, March 2016  
T.J. Reddick Bar, Exceptional Service to the Profession Award, June 2015  
25 Most Influential and Prominent Black Women in Business for 2014  
American Bar Association Child Advocate of the Year 2010  
National Bar Association Nation's Best Advocates Under 40 2010

**REFERENCES**

**Available Upon Request**