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WORK EXPERIENCE

LAW OFFICE OF J. BRAD SMITHERMAN, GEICO STAFF COUNSEL, Shreveport, Louisiana
Attorney, August 2020-Present

Represent GEICO as automobile insurer and its insureds in civil suits filed in the 1st, 26th, 39th, 3rd, 4th, 37th, 5th, and 6th Judicial Districts, evaluate suits filed, the merits of the claims presented, depose various parties, engage in settlement negotiations with opposing counsel when appropriate, represent GEICO through motion practice and trials.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS, YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION, OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE, Shreveport, Louisiana
Attorney 4, July 2017-Present

Advise the northern regional offices and facilities regarding juvenile matters in the Shreveport, Monroe, and Tallulah regions; draft motions, prepare for, and conduct hearings in juvenile court relating to juveniles being released and furloughed from the agency's custody; draft writs and appeals in juvenile matters; advise and assist all agency regional offices and facilities statewide on matters involving personnel/human resources issues (discrimination, disparate treatment, harassment, hostile work environment, etc.), employee discipline, disciplinary separations, and non-disciplinary separations; represent the agency in civil service appeal hearings stemming from employee discipline and separations.

CADDO PARISH PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE-JUVENILE DIVISION, Shreveport, Louisiana
Assistant Public Defender, May 2010-July 2017

Provide legal representation for juveniles charged in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, with felony, misdemeanor, and status charges; counsel for participants in Drug Court, Individualized Deferred Disposition Court, and Truancy Court; prepare and defend motions for modification of sentences; defend children charged with contempt of court due to probation violations; responsible for managing around fifty cases per week, including trials, motions, rules, and first appearances; advocate to reduce the number of children from Caddo Parish in state custody or in juvenile detention; advocate for children charged with felonies who are eligible for transfer to adult court; foster relationships with state and parish agencies in order to obtain the best possible outcomes and support for children and families who enter the juvenile justice system; investigate and prepare cases for trial, both felonies and misdemeanors; prepare and argue motions to suppress and exceptions.

EDUCATION

TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, New Orleans, Louisiana
Juris Doctor, 2008

Honors: Merit Scholarship Recipient

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, Athens, Georgia
Bachelor of Arts, Public Relations, Henry W. Grady School of Journalism and Mass Communication
Minor in History, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, 2005

Honors: Prentiss Courson Scholar; Joe E. Brown Scholar; Hope Scholarship Recipient; Bateman Team Member; Phi Kappa Phi honor society member; corporate communications intern with Sodexo USA in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Affiliations: Junior League of Shreveport-Bossier (Sustainer), North Caddo Medical Center Foundation Board Member, Rutherford House Boys Home Board Member, Volunteers for Youth Justice Advisory Committee

References:

Courtney Holderman
Former Assistant Secretary
Office of Juvenile Justice
337-804-2249

Dr. James Bueche, Ph.D, LCSW
Deputy Secretary (retired)
Office of Juvenile Justice
225-247-2267

Col. H. Ted Cox (ret.)
Judicial Administrator
Caddo Parish Juvenile Court
318-230-2931