

DON L. HORN
Chief Assistant State Attorney for Administration
State Attorney's Office, Eleventh Judicial Circuit
Miami, Florida

Don L. Horn received his law degree from the University of Miami and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1982. Mr. Horn has been admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, is a former member of the Florida Bar Board of Governors, American Bar Association and National Bar Association.

In 2002 Mr. Horn started a second tour of duty at the State Attorneys Office where he now serves as Chief Assistant State Attorney for Administration to State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle. His present duties and responsibilities involve handling administrative matters affecting the more than 300 prosecutors in the office. Mr. Horn also handles recruitment and hiring of lawyers, Training, all matters involving the Miami-Dade County Grand Jury, and he directly supervises the Assistant State Attorneys who work in the County Courts, Legal Division, Mental Health, Human Trafficking and Misdemeanor and Felony Domestic Violence Units. In addition, he represents the office in various community, business and civic meetings. Mr. Horn returned to the State Attorney's Office in March 2002, after spending twelve years in private practice.

Prior to his involvement in civil practice, Mr. Horn served as the first African-American Major Crimes Prosecutor in the history of the State Attorney's Office of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida. He received several awards while working with the office. As a prosecutor for more than seven years, Mr. Horn tried approximately twenty-five homicide cases and prosecuted other crimes ranging from capital sexual batteries, robberies and burglaries to grand thefts and forgeries. Mr. Horn has also handled major investigations including an Executive Assignment from then Florida Governor, Bob Martinez to look into a 1968 prosecution in Arcadia, Florida of James Joseph Richardson, a Black male migrant farm worker who was wrongfully charged with the murder of seven of his children. As a result of Mr. Horn's investigation on the Executive Assignment Mr. Richardson was released in 1989 after serving more than 20 years in prison.

Later in 1989 Mr. Horn was one of the prosecutors who successfully prosecuted Officer William Lozano in a trial charging the officer with two (2) counts of Manslaughter for causing the deaths of two African-American males who were fleeing from police on a motorcycle in Overtown. As a result of the publicity from that trial Mr. Horn received a job offer and left the Office in June of 1990.

After leaving the State Attorney's Office, Mr. Horn practiced law with the firm of Shutts & Bowen. He was selected as the first African-American to ever hold the position of equity partner at the then-100 -person, 75 year old law firm. While at Shutts & Bowen, Mr. Horn obtained additional trial experience in franchise litigation, insurance defense, employment discrimination, lender liability suits and general commercial litigation.

In January, 1995, Mr. Horn, along with four other former equity partners of Shutts & Bowen founded the law firm of Gallwey Gillman Curtis Vento & Horn, P.A. At GGCVH Mr. Horn was involved in all phases of litigation in various areas of commercial law and for most of those years specialized in franchise litigation. While working at the firm, Mr. Horn was recognized in South Florida's Legal Guide as one of South Florida's Top Lawyers in the area of Franchise Law. (January, 2001 and 2002 edition)

Mr. Horn was also involved in major litigation while at GGCVH. Starting in February, 1995, Mr. Horn and his firm represented the Black Business Association and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Dade County Chapter, as intervenors in the lawsuit styled Engineering Contractors Association of South Florida, et. al. v. Metropolitan Dade County, et. al., Case No. 94-1848-CIV-RYSKAMP. This lawsuit targeted Dade

County's Minority Business Enterprise program, which was created to provide work for minority general contractors and subcontractors who performed construction work in Dade County. Mr. Horn and his office worked along with the Assistant County Attorneys for Dade County in the trial and appeal of Judge Ryskamp's decision. In the aftermath of the ruling finding Dade County's Minority Business Enterprise Program (BBE, HBE, and WBE) unconstitutional, Mr. Horn continued to work with the Assistant County Attorneys, Dade County's Department of Business Development and others in the development of what is now, Dade County's Small Business Enterprise Program.

Although Don Horn is best known for his involvement in the celebrated State vs. William Lozano trial, Don spends much of his time giving back to the community. In this connection, Don's commitment to our community includes numerous speaking engagements aimed at leading elementary, high school and college students to more meaningful careers. He has also conducted lectures and workshops on various trial techniques both in the workplace and nationally.

Don is a former member of the Board of Governors for The Florida Bar, is Chair of the Housing Finance Authority of Miami-Dade County, and a member of the Miami-Dade Affordable Housing Foundation. Don has served as past President of the Board of Directors for Legal Services of Greater Miami, past Chair of the Dade-Miami Criminal Justice Council, and member of the Guardian Ad Litem Executive Council. In 1992, he was appointed by Governor Lawton Chiles to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission. Mr. Horn was the first African-American lawyer to receive a gubernatorial appointment to serve in such a capacity in the 11th Judicial Circuit and the first African-American attorney to serve as Chairman of a Judicial Nominating Commission in the State of Florida and for the 11th Circuit. In each of these positions he played, or has taken, a leadership role. Mr. Horn has also served as a faculty member for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), which trains attorneys to improve their trial skills.

Don was also at the forefront of this community's success in the 1990 reapportionment and redistricting process. As a result of his efforts and those of the Dade County Fair Reapportionment Task Force which he Chaired, Congressional Districts for Dade County were drawn which resulted in an African-American from South Florida being placed in Congress for the first time in nearly 100 years.

Perhaps Don's greatest commitment to the community is demonstrated through his commitment to his church. At his present Church (Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Miami Gardens) he sings with the Male Chorus, continues to teach Adult Sunday School Classes and has served as a member of the Diaconate Ministry, Legal Ministry and Couple's Ministry.

At his former church, for more than 20 years he served as the church musician (plays the organ and piano), was the director for three of the church's choir groups, and teacher of an adult Sunday school class. He also served as a member of the Deacon Board, Board of Trustees (Co-Chairman), and was Legal Advisor for the church.

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EXPERIENCE:

3/02 – to Present STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, 11th Judicial Circuit
Chief Assistant State Attorney for Administration

I handle administrative matters affecting the approximately 300 prosecutors in the office. I also am responsible for the recruitment and hiring of lawyers, Training, all matters involving the Miami-Dade County Grand Jury, and direct supervision of the attorneys in the SAO's Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, Legal, Mental Health and County Court Divisions.

1/95 – 3/02 GALLWEY GILLMAN CURTIS VENTO & HORN, P.A.
Founding Partner

I developed a specialty in the area of franchise litigation and litigated franchise cases involving claims of breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing, breach of contract, tortious interference with business relationships, terminations of franchise agreements, fraud, and claims under the anti-trust laws and transfers of ownership. My practice also involved general commercial litigation as well as insurance defense and employment discrimination matters.

6/90 - 1/95 SHUTTS & BOWEN, Attorneys At Law
Partner

Litigation Department - My practice consisted of all phases of litigation in a diverse range of matters including insurance defense, franchise litigation, lender liability, employment discrimination and general commercial litigation.

8/82 - 5/90 STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, 11th Judicial Circuit
Assistant State Attorney

Meritorious Service Award, December 1989
Florida Prosecuting Attorney's Association
Gene Berry Memorial Award, September 1983
Various Written Commendations

5/89 - 5/90 Major Crimes Division - I was promoted to this specialized unit that handles the investigation, preparation, negotiations and/or trial of high profile cases. I assisted in the prosecution of the celebrated, State v. William Lozano trial.

1/89 - 5/89 Pursuant to an Executive Assignment from Governor Bob Martinez to State Attorney Janet Reno, I spearheaded the investigation of the 1968 prosecution of James Joseph Richardson, which occurred in Arcadia, Florida. As a result of our investigation Mr. Richardson, who had served more than 22 years in prison (including a number of years on death row), was released.

10/84 - 7/89 Division Chief - My duties were to supervise, train and evaluate felony prosecutors within my trial divisions. Over a five-year period, I supervised more than 25 attorneys and was

responsible for the overall management of cases assigned to the Felony Division of 10 Circuit Court Judges. I was also responsible for the investigation, preparation, and prosecution of several capital sexual battery cases and approximately 25 homicide cases. I provided legal advice to police agencies, which also entailed the preparation of numerous arrest and search warrants.

8/82 - 9/84 Felony Trial Prosecutor - Responsible for the investigation, preparation, negotiations and trial of a wide range of felony cases.

6/80 - 5/82 DADE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE
Certified Legal Intern
Prepared numerous appellate briefs for defendants convicted of felony offenses.

EDUCATION:

1979 - 1982 UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW
Juris Doctorate - 1982

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Member of the Florida Bar Association
American Bar Association
National Bar Association
United States District Court, Southern District of Florida
United States Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
Black Lawyers Association
Dade County Bar Association
National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Faculty Member

APPOINTED PUBLIC OFFICES:

The Florida Bar Board of Governors (1997 - 2004)
Executive Committee (1st African-American to ever serve)
Legislation Committee
Communications Committee
Access to the Legal System Committee (Chair)
Citizens Forum (Chair)
Special Committee on Merit Selection
Disciplinary Procedures Committee
Disciplinary Review Committee
Multi-jurisdictional Practice Commission
Board Liaison to Judicial Nominating Procedures Committee
Chief Justice's Advisory Committee for 2003 Tobias Simon Pro Bono Awards
Screening Committee, Trial Level Judicial Nominating Commissions (Chair, 2000)
Screening Committee, Florida Bar Board of Bar Examiners
Screening Committee, Board of Governor's Public Member Vacancy
Screening Committee, Judicial Qualifications Commission

Judicial Nominating Commission for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit (Chair, July, 1995 to June, 1996; Member, July, 1992 to June, 1996)

Housing Finance Authority of Dade County
(Chair, 1998-Present, Member, March, 1992 to Present)

Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.
(President, Board of Directors, Jan., 1994 to Dec., 1996; Member, Jan., 1990 to Dec., 1996)

Dade County Bar Association's Special Commission on Judicial Elections (March, 1997-1998)

Dade-Miami Criminal Justice Council (Chairman, 1996-1998, Member 1992-1999)

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT:

Member, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, Black Economic Development Group (1992-1994);
Graduate, Leadership Miami Program, 1992-93
Member, Dade Partners for Safe Neighborhoods, Juvenile Task Force;
Co-Chair, Teams Committee for the South Florida Super Bowl XXIX Host Committee;
Chairman, Dade County Fair Reapportionment Task Force (1991-1992);
Co-Chair, Guardian Ad Litem Executive Council (1992-1993);
Member, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Miami Gardens (Deacon, Adult Sunday School Teacher; Lead
Servant Couple's Ministry; Member, Legal Ministry, Member, Male Chorus)
Speaking engagements at various schools, colleges and universities.

AWARDS:

1983 Florida Prosecuting Attorney's Association Gene Berry Memorial Award (During the riots which ensued after the shooting of Nevell Johnson by a City of Miami Police Officer, a Hispanic woman became entrapped in her car by an unruly mob as she was heading home through Overtown. I armed myself and went out and rescued her from the crowd which was brutalizing her)

Meritorious Service Award, State Attorney's Office, December, 1989

National Black Prosecutors Association President's Award, 1989

Price Waterhouse Up and Comers Award Winner, Law, 1993

Recognized as a Distinguished Alumni of Miami-Dade Community College, 1999

South Florida Legal Guide, South Florida's Top Lawyers, Franchise Law, January 2001

Florida Bar Board of Governors, President's Award of Merit, June, 2001

South Florida Legal Guide, South Florida's Top Lawyers, Commercial Litigation, September 2001

Millennium Movers, August 2002 Shaker Award Recipient

Legacy Award, Recognized as one of South Florida's 50 Most Powerful Professionals, 2011

Daily Business Review, Distinguished Leader Award, 2017