



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item 15(C)1

TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro, and
Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 2, 2008

FROM: Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk
Circuit and County Courts

SUBJECT: Appointment of David L. Benjamin
to the Dial-A-Life Program
Advisory and Oversight Board

Kay Sullivan, Director
Clerk of the Board Division

It is recommended that the Board consider the appointment of David L. Benjamin to serve as a member of the Dial-A-Life Program Advisory and Oversight Board.

Section 2-1311 of the Miami-Dade County Code established the Dial-A-Life Program to oversee the collection and distribution of donated cellular and/or mobile telephones to eligible members of the community. The section further provides for the Board of County Commissioners to appoint one member from a Domestic Violence Awareness Services and/or Prevention Organization to the Dial-A-Life Advisory Board.

Ms. Carmen Williams, the Dial-A-Life Program Coordinator, has presented Mr. Benjamin as a qualified candidate to serve as a member of the Dial-A-Life Program Advisory and Oversight Board. He will fill the seat vacated by Richard C. Jacobs, who resigned his position on October 31, 2008.

Mr. Benjamin's letter of interest and resume are attached for your review.

KMS:sm
Attachments



STATE ATTORNEY
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
COUNTY COURT DIVISION
LAWSON E. THOMAS COURTHOUSE CENTER BUILDING
175 NORTHWEST 1ST AVENUE
SUITE 2500
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128

SLEK OF THE BOARD
2008 NOV 13 PM 2:40
CLERK CIRCUIT & COUNTY COURT
DADE COUNTY, FLA.
#1
TELEPHONE (305) 349-5830

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
STATE ATTORNEY

November 3, 2008

Carmen J. Williams
Dial-A-Life Program Coordinator
Miami-Dade Communications Dept.
111 NW 1st Ave, 25th Floor, Maimi FL 33128

Dear Ms. Williams:

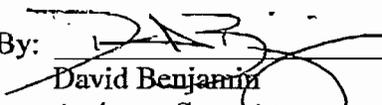
I am writing to inform you of my interest in working with the Dial-A-Life Program. I hope to take over the soon-to-be-vacated position of Assistant State Attorney Richard Jacobs on the Dial-A-Life Advisory and Oversight Board. After working for over a year in the State Attorney's Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Unit, I truly understand the importance of giving victims of domestic violencce the means to extricate themselves from destructive situations. After speaking with Assistant State Attorney Richard Jacobs, I believe the work of your program is vital in this process. In addition, I believe the Dial-A-Life Program greatly contributes to the safety and security of our community.

As requested, I have attached a copy of my rcsume. I appreciate having been asked to submit this letter of interest and look forward to working with the program

If there is any further information you may require please feel free to contact me at (305) 349-5793.

Sincceuly,

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
State Attorney

By: 
David Benjamin
Assistant State Attorney

DAVID L. BENJAMIN

2475 Brickell Ave. # 2004 - Miami, FL 33129 - (305) 332-3812 - davidbenjamin7@yahoo.com

EXPERIENCE:

11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MIAMI-DADE STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, Miami, FL
Assistant State Attorney, Assistant Chief of Litigation, Domestic Violence Misdemeanor Unit 8/2005-Present

- Prosecuted high-ranking law enforcement officers and media sensitive misdemeanor cases. Supervised over 20 Assistant State Attorney's. In charge of all litigation aspects of the misdemeanor division along with the training of all new Assistant State Attorney's assigned to the Domestic Violence Unit
- Promoted to "A" level prosecutor (prosecuting mainly First Degree Felonies) within 19 months; promoted 3rd in my starting class of 55 Assistant State Attorneys to the felony division
- Prosecuted numerous felony and misdemeanor jury and bench trials to verdict
- Individually managed caseloads in excess of 300 cases, including charges of attempted murder, lewd and lascivious and sexual battery, and drug trafficking. Management included taking and defending depositions, writing and arguing motions, drafting and responding to discovery requests, and interacting daily with victims of violent crimes
- Worked in close relationship with law enforcement entities, including multiple Miami-Dade Police departments, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Department of Children and Families and the DEA
- Successfully prosecuted media-sensitive probation violation case of a burglary convict leading to a 4-year prison sentence
- Drafted and argued Appellate Brief in front of the Florida Eleventh Circuit Trial Court, in its appellate capacity, successfully leading to the upholding of a DUI trial court conviction

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW Gainesville, FL
Research Assistant, Dean Jon Mills, 9/2004-6/2005

Researched globalization's effects on hemispheric legal education for "Legal Education in the Americas: The Anchor for Hemispheric Justice," an article appearing in the Florida Journal of Int'l Law; edited the article for grammar, bluebook rules, and style changes; researched precedent behind Florida's electronic ballot machines and election recount statute for an editorial entitled "Touch-Screen Machines: Riskier than Hanging Chads?" published on 9/27/2004 in the Tallahassee Democrat; researched and edited "Privacy: The Lost Right," a book discussing the history and future of the right to privacy.

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Tallahassee, FL
Legal Extern, 5/2004-8/2004

Researched and compiled summaries of votes taken in the 2004 legislative session, outlining general legislative decision-making; researched and crafted portions of 2004 briefing books, summarizing issues facing voters; researched and wrote memoranda on Florida's voucher and class size initiatives, constitutional amendment process, the constitutional sufficiency of partial birth abortion and 2002 legislative redistricting.

PODHURST, ORSECK, JOSEFSBERG, EATON, MEADOW, OLIN & PERWIN Miami, FL
Law Clerk, 5/2003-8/2003

Researched and wrote memoranda on multi-jurisdictional subpoena powers, hotel's duty to swimmers, and the duty of airline companies to victims of a multi-state crash; researched and drafted two Summary Judgment motions on a negligent death case, 1 motion to produce evidence, and 1 reply to a motion to quell a motion to produce; drafted several interrogatories and affidavits regarding negligent operation of helicopters in a wrongful death case.

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR BOB GRAHAM Washington D.C.
Intern, 7/2001-8/2001

Created and gave power-point presentation on the issue of stem cell research and its implications to Senator Graham; researched the social effects of ecstasy, leading to a bill to combat trafficking, distribution, and abuse of ecstasy, S.1208; researched and informed other Senators on the fiscal importance of educating Medicare beneficiaries about preventative healthcare, focusing on the impact to tort litigation.

EDUCATION:

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW, Gainesville, FL
JD, cum laude, 5/2005

- *Honors:* Florida Journal of Law and Public Policy: Assistant Managing Editor (Fall 2004), Managing Editor (Spring 2005); Honors in Legal Research & Writing (Fall 2002), Advanced Techniques in Appellate Advocacy (Fall 2004)

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, Gainesville, FL
B.A., suma cum laude, History, 12/2001

- *Honors:* Four Year Scholar Award, (12/2001), Florida Cicerone (Ambassadors to UF alumni and prospective UF students)

LICENSE/ASSOCIATIONS:

Florida Bar Membership since 2005; Dade County Bar Association Member since 2005