

SAMANTHA S. EPSTEIN, ESQ.

610-457-4017

samantha.epstein@disputeintervention.com

BAR ADMISSIONS

State of Florida, 2009

United States District Court, Southern District of Florida, 2009

United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, 2020

CERTIFICATIONS

Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Court Mediator, 2021

Florida Supreme Court Certified County Court Mediator, 2021

Florida Supreme Court Qualified Arbitrator, 2022

EDUCATION

Pepperdine University, Caruso School of Law, Malibu, California

LL.M., Alternative Dispute Resolution, August 2023

G.P.A.: 4.027

- Designed conflict management systems for organizations, including mentorship programs, leadership coaching, and conflict coaching, reducing costly employee attrition and improving work product;
- Developed ombuds programs for organizations, including meetings with individuals and generation of reports re: organization-wide trends that could lead to conflict with recommendations to improve the same;
- Designed curricula including principles of psychology and cross-cultural communication to improve organization culture, employee satisfaction, and productivity;
- Engaged in practical training in various practice areas, including public policy mediation, family and divorce mediation/arbitration, entertainment mediation/arbitration, and employment mediation/arbitration.

University of Miami School of Law, Coral Gables, Florida

J.D., *cum laude*, May 2009

Law Review: University of Miami Business Law Review

Honors: Order of the Barristers, University of Miami Chapter; Charles C. Papy, Jr. Moot Court Board (Executive Vice President, 2008-2009; Most Outstanding 2L, 2007-2008)

Awards: Broadcast Music, Inc. and Cardozo Entertainment and Communications Law Moot Court Competition (National Appellate Competition) – Overall Competition Winner and Best Brief Award, 2008

New York University, New York, New York

B.A., Philosophy, August 2005

Minor: Pre-Business

Honors: Draper Academic Scholarship; Completed Degree in Three Years

EXPERIENCE

Dispute Intervention and Prevention Services, LLC, Miami, Florida

Owner/Mediator/Arbitrator/Conflict Consultant, January 2023 through current

- Mediate disputes between parties prior to and during litigation;
- Mediate workplace disputes;
- Arbitrate disputes between parties and render awards;
- Provide ombudsman services on a contractual basis for organizations;
- Provide conflict consultation and coaching services on a contractual basis for individuals and organizations;
- Provide professional development coaching for individuals and organizations;
- Provide leadership coaching for individuals and organizations;
- Develop and support mentorship programs for organizations;
- Develop and provide continuing legal education programming as requested.

Bressler, Amery & Ross, P.C., Fort Lauderdale and Miami, Florida

Practice Group Manager, April 2022 through January 2023

- Developed and implemented training programs for new and experienced attorneys re: substantive and procedural issues in first party property insurance claims;
- Onboarded attorneys, including provision of initial training on group practices and procedures, provision of training on systems and software used by practice, and assignment of caseload;
- Oversaw training of staff assigned to practice group;
- Developed and implemented processes and procedures for handling cases within practice group;
- Received and addressed complaints or questions from practice group members;
- Oversaw and worked with attorneys, assistants, case managers, and paralegals to ensure firm and practice group practices and procedures are being followed (and updated as needed);
- Developed strategies for individual cases with practice group attorneys, including strategies for additional discovery, strategies for depositions, strategies for motion practice, and strategies for trial;
- Edited and improved documents drafted by practice group attorneys, including responses to Civil Remedy Notices, Motions, Client Reports, etc.;
- Built and maintained “banks” of sample documents for use by practice group attorneys;
- Reviewed and analyzed new case law as released to assist practice group attorneys in using same to litigate cases;
- Built and maintain “banks” of case law on various topics re: property insurance;
- Review and analyzed rule and statute changes to assist practice group attorneys and staff in using and complying with the same;
- Oversaw and conducted various administrative tasks, including liaising between practice group and various departments within the firm, including billing, human resources, information technology, and executives;
- Attended weekly staff meetings, and prepare and distribute outline of topics discussed to memorialize same;
- Reviewed and appealed short-paid bills;
- Conducted interviews of potential attorney, law clerk, and staff candidates;
- Assisted in obtaining software and instituting use of same to increase efficiency of practice group;
- Assisted with implementation of and training for use of new software;
- Liaised with clients re: administrative issues.

Bressler, Amery & Ross, P.C., Fort Lauderdale and Miami, Florida

Associate, December 2016 through January 2020;

Principal, January 2020 through April 2022

- Conducted litigation and pre-litigation investigation and handling of first-party property insurance claims;
- Researched, drafted, and argued motions;
- Deposed witnesses and conducted discovery;
- Researched and drafted appellate motions and briefs;
- Drafted and edited articles regarding legal issues in the insurance industry; and
- Conducted live continuing education training for insurance carriers.

Broward County Office of the Public Defender, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Assistant Public Defender, June 2010 through December 2016

- Prepared and tried circuit-court cases (lead attorney in division, first-chair on life offenses, and first, second, and third degree felonies, trial team on capital cases from indictment through trial, and penalty phase if necessary);
- Researched and drafted appellate briefs;
- Researched, drafted and argued motions (for individual clients and on behalf of the entire office);
- Deposed witnesses;
- Handled daily calendars before circuit-court judge; and
- Average monthly case volume between 100-130.

Toyne & Mayo, P.A., Miami, Florida

Associate, August 2009 through March 2010

- Researched and drafted documents for filing, including Complaints, Answers, Motions, and Proposed Orders;
- Gathered and organized evidence and discovery;
- Edited and revised documents before filing; and
- Substantially researched and drafted in-house memoranda on state and federal issues.

Miami-Dade Office of the State Attorney, Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Miami, Florida

Certified Legal Intern, Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Unit, May 2008 through August 2008

- Prepared and investigated cases from bond hearings to final outcome (plea or trial);
- Researched statutes, rules and case law, and drafted memoranda for appeals;
- Interviewed and took statements from victims, witnesses, and police officers; and
- Drafted motions and researched statutes and case law for written responses to motions.

SPEAKING AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

Florida Insurance Fraud Education Committee, Orlando, Florida

Presenter, June 2019

- Uncovering Fraud Through a Thorough Investigation.

University of Miami School of Law, Charles C. Papy, Jr. Moot Court Board, Coral Gables, Florida

Coach, 2009 through current

- Coach students to prepare them to participate inter-school moot court competitions;
- Attend competitions with students; and
- Judge oral arguments during on-campus competitions.