

## Josephine W. (“Josie”) Thomas

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### Experience

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**U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division (Detailee)  
Office of Overseas Professional Development, Assistance & Training  
U.S. Embassy, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

**Resident Legal Advisor**, January 2022 – present

Member of key U.S. Embassy working groups and advisor to the U.S. Ambassador to Argentina. Develop and maintain contact with, and regularly meet with high-level Argentine government officials, including judicial sector counterparts, and seek to strengthen the capacity of Argentine federal judges, prosecutors, and ministers of security to identify, investigate, prosecute, and disrupt complex transnational organized crime, including terrorism, terrorist financing, money laundering, and the predicate crimes that produce illicit funds. Recommend revisions to Argentina’s legal and regulatory framework with regard to money laundering and complex crimes; provide case-based mentoring and skills-based training to judges, prosecutors and police; work with relevant authorities to better cooperate and share information with counterparts in neighboring countries and with the United States in complex investigations; and assist other agencies at Post and Department of State counterparts to advance their justice sector reform programs and overall mission.

**United States Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa, FL  
Assistant United States Attorney**, October 2009 to present

- **Chief, Criminal Division**, May 2018 to December 2021  
Acted as United States Attorney when designated by U.S. Attorney in her absence or recusal. Lead, managed, and set policy for the Criminal Division of one of the largest and most diverse United States Attorney’s Offices, serving half of Florida’s population and 35 of Florida’s 67 counties. Responsible for nearly 90 Criminal AUSAs and 60 support staff across five offices including Jacksonville, Orlando, Ocala, Tampa, and Fort Myers, in a fast-paced, high-volume work environment. Advised the U.S. Attorney both orally and in writing on Department policies and procedures and made recommendations to the U.S. Attorney on all Criminal Division complex legal, ethical, and policy matters, including charging decisions. Drafted, oversaw, and implemented Criminal Division policies & procedures for the District. Reviewed all Title III affidavits, complex indictments and search warrants, and other process requiring high-level approval. Supervised multiple branch chiefs,

section chiefs, senior litigation counsel, and staff, and counseled AUSAs and staff on substantive, administrative, and ethical matters. Oversaw, managed, and made recommendations in Criminal Division hiring process. Developed and instituted training and mentoring programs for criminal AUSAs and staff. Oversaw all substantive criminal practice areas and maintained programmatic oversight, including but not limited to national security, transnational organized crime, OCDETF, economic crimes, frauds, money laundering, violent crimes, Project Safe Neighborhood, narcotics, human trafficking, civil rights, and Project Safe Childhood. Liaised with, worked with, assisted, and advised law-enforcement agency partners to achieve goals through coordination and cooperation. Maintained excellent relationships with the MDFL federal judiciary. Served as a *Giglio* officer for the District, WitSec Coordinator, and exercised managerial and supervisory authority as delegated by the United States Attorney. Maintained TS/SCI clearance.

- **Criminal Chiefs' Working Group**, April 2019 to January 2022  
One of 16 Criminal Chiefs selected to advise DOJ and the Attorney General's Advisory Committee on various legal, ethical, and policy issues of national importance to the Department. Regularly met and collaborated with other Criminal Chiefs and the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys.
- **DOJ e-Litigation Working Group**, September 2020 to January 2022  
Served as the Criminal Chiefs' Working Group's liaison to the e-LWG, which works with EOUSA and the Department's Steering Committee to improve e-Litigation proficiency and efficiency across the Department, to include normalizing e-Litigation practices, directing resources, developing hiring plans, acquiring and implementing software systems, developing training, and instituting policies and procedures to eliminate component and inter-agency friction points. Made recommendations to DOJ's Investment Review Board.
- **International Coordinator**, May 2018 to December 2021  
Liaison to DOJ's Office of International Affairs for all MDFL international matters. Managed intake, assignment, and tracking of all incoming and outgoing mutual legal assistance requests. Worked with and advised law enforcement agencies and AUSAs on extradition and questions of international law enforcement matters.
- **National Security/Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council Coordinator**, September 2016 to May 2018  
Oversaw the MDFL's national security mission to prevent and disrupt international and domestic terrorism, export violations, and counter-espionage activity within the district and the State of Florida. Responsible for ensuring the District was meeting and exceeding the core requirements of a national security program as mandated by the National Security Division (NSD) of the Department of Justice. Liaison between the U.S. Attorney/executive management team and NSD as to all national security

matters in the District. Worked with supervisors to assign Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) investigations and oversaw the day-to-day progress of investigations; conducted regular file reviews; met regularly with FBI Field Offices to proactively coordinate, review, and monitor active investigations. Represented the USAO at FBI JTTF Executive Board meetings throughout the district. Served on DOJ National Security Division's Working Group to plan all Department national security trainings for 2018.

- **Reviewer, Economic Crimes Section, July 2017 to May 2018**  
De facto Deputy Chief of Tampa Economic Crimes Section. Shared supervisory and management responsibilities with the Section Chief and another Reviewer. Oversaw day-to-day operations of the Economic Crimes Section; managed approximately 12 AUSAs investigating and prosecuting complex fraud cases; reviewed and approved indictments, complaints, search warrants, plea agreements, and other legal process; served as a liaison to executive management about Section operations.
- **Assistant United States Attorney, October 2009 to present**  
Initially hired through the *Attorney General's Honors Program*. Investigated and prosecuted complex federal crimes, to include terrorism, financial crimes and frauds, government contract fraud, export violations, identity theft/tax fraud, violent crime, child exploitation, human trafficking, and civil rights violations. Tried approximately 20 federal cases (19 to verdict; 1 hung jury & subsequent retrial), 13 as lead or sole counsel. Served as a mentor for four new AUSAs. Served as Tampa Division's SAR Review Team Coordinator and the District's Identity Theft Coordinator and Hate Crimes Coordinator. Presenter or panelist at numerous local, national, and international trainings on behalf of the Department.

**Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, FL**

*Co-Faculty Advisor for the Stetson Law Review, September 2010 to December 2021*

Advised and assisted Editorial Board members with institutional knowledge, advice, and editorial assistance in the publication process. Served as a mentor to law students seeking judicial clerkships and job opportunities or careers in public service.

**The Honorable Charles R. Wilson, Tampa, FL**

**United States Circuit Judge, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals**

*Judicial Law Clerk, September 2008 to September 2009*

Elbow law clerk to United States Circuit Judge. Reviewed and recommended the disposition of criminal and civil appeals from United States district courts in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. Assisted in researching, drafting, and preparing advisory opinions for the Judicial Conference of the United States' Committee on Codes of Conduct.

**The Honorable Elizabeth A. Jenkins**, Tampa, FL

**United States Magistrate Judge, Middle District of Florida**

*Judicial Law Clerk*, full-time August 2006 to August 2008; part-time March 2006 to April 2006  
Elbow law clerk to United States Magistrate Judge. Reviewed and recommended disposition of motions and other papers filed in the court's civil and criminal docket; researched and drafted proposed orders on procedural and substantive issues arising in civil and criminal federal litigation.

**The Honorable Elizabeth A. Kovachevich**, Tampa, FL

**United States District Judge, Middle District of Florida**

*Judicial Intern*, August 2005 to December 2005

Researched and drafted memoranda and proposed orders for pending civil cases; attended numerous civil and criminal hearings and trials.

**Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns, LLP**, Clearwater, FL

*Summer Associate*, Summer 2005

Worked with the firm's commercial litigation, bankruptcy, real estate, and tax groups.

**Darby Dickerson**, Gulfport, FL

**Former Dean, Stetson University College of Law**

*Research Assistant*, March 2005 to July 2005

Provided editing and research assistance, revisions, and updates to the Third Edition of the *Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) Citation Manual: A Professional System of Citation* (Aspen Publishers 2006).

**Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida**, Clearwater, FL

*Law Clerk*, March 2004 to April 2005

Researched and drafted proposed orders analyzing statutory and case law on *pro se* prisoner post-conviction relief motions.

**Principal Financial Group**, Raleigh, NC

*Service & Communication Specialist*, August 2002 to August 2003

Provided account management services for 401K retirement plans.

## Education

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**Stetson University College of Law**, St. Petersburg, FL

May 2006

Juris Doctor, *Cum Laude*

- **Editor-in-Chief**, *Stetson Law Review*, 2005-2006

- Book Awards: Constitutional Law, Criminal Procedure, Family Law, Florida Practice, Advanced Legal Research
- Elizabeth M. Leeman Award for Best Published Student Work
- Howard Ross Award for Excellence in Commercial Litigation & Business Law
- *Stetson Law Review* Leadership Award

**North Carolina State University**, Raleigh, NC

May 2002

B.S. Textile Chemistry, B.A. Spanish, *Magna Cum Laude*

- North Carolina State University Outstanding Woman Award
- AATCC Outstanding Graduate Award
- Henry Rutherford Award for Excellence
- College of Textiles Student Council President

## **Publications**

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*A Tribute to Retiring U.S. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth A. Jenkins*, Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association Newsletter, Vol. 2, Issue I (Apr. 2016). Reprinted with permission by The Historical Society of the U.S. Courts in the Eleventh Circuit, 11th Circuit Historical News, Vol. XIII, No. 3 (Winter 2016), available at <https://sites.google.com/site/circuit11history>.

*The Brewing Battle over Alcohol: Making the Case for State Regulation*, Nov. 2009, available at [http://www.centerforalcoholpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/thomasessay1\\_20100114154703.pdf](http://www.centerforalcoholpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/thomasessay1_20100114154703.pdf) (last accessed June 13, 2010).

*Raising the Homestead Tax Exemption: “Tax Relief” or Burden on Florida Homeowners and Local Governments?* 35 *Stetson L. Rev.* 519 (2006)

*Recent Developments*, 34 *Stetson L. Rev.* 916, 921, 941 (2005) (discussing *Bal Harbor Village v. Welsh*, 879 So. 2d 1265 (Fla. 3d DCA 2004); *Wilson v. County of Orange*, 881 So. 2d 625 (Fla. 5th DCA 2004); and *Rossbach v. City of Miami*, 371 F.3d 1354 (11th Cir. 2004))

## **Honors/Awards**

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Member of DOJ’s Criminal Chiefs’ Working Group (April 2019 – January 2022)

Selection Panel Member for Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys (EOUSA) Director’s Awards (2021)

Selection Panel Chairperson for DOJ Attorney General's Awards (2020)

Tampa Financial Crimes and Inspector General's Council Award for 2019 Contract/Grant Fraud Case of the Year

DOJ National Security Division Working Group member (November 2017)

Finalist for United States Magistrate Judge, Tampa, FL (November 2017 & March 2016)

Tampa Financial Crimes and Inspector General's Council Award for 2016 Contract/Grant Fraud Case of the Year

Florida Department of Law Enforcement Certificate of Excellence – two-time nominee for Florida Missing Children's Day Task Force/Team of the Year (2015)

Work Ethic Award – General Crimes Section of the United States Attorney's Office (2014)

Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Case of the Year Award for *Operation No Quarters* in the Eastern District of North Carolina (2012)

Hired by the Department of Justice in 2009 through the *Attorney General's Honors Program*

Critical reader for Bryan Garner's *Modern American Usage* (3d ed., Oxford 2009)

Elizabeth M. Leeman Award for Best Published Student Work (2006)

Howard Ross Award for Excellence in Commercial Litigation & Business Law (2006)

*Stetson Law Review* Leadership Award (2006)

Book Awards: Constitutional Law, Advanced Legal Research, Family Law, Criminal Procedure, and Florida Practice (2004-2006)

American Association of Textile Colorists and Chemists Outstanding Graduate Award (2002)

North Carolina State University Outstanding Woman Award (2001)

North Carolina State University College of Textiles Henry Rutherford Award for Excellence (2001)

## **Speaking Engagements**

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**American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section Fourth Global Institute on White Collar Crime**, Panel on Comparative Legal Systems, Buenos Aires, Argentina (March 31, 2023), conference details available at <https://web.cvent.com/event/7a74e0d1-8086-46ca-9e97-220e3facabc8/summary>.

**Stetson University College of Law Human Rights Seminar** (Professor Luz Nagle), Presentation on International Issues in Human Rights Investigations (with Argentine federal prosecutor), Buenos Aires, AR/Gulfport, FL (virtual) (March 23, 2023).

**Welcome, Opening, & Closing Remarks**, OPDAT/Department of State Anti-terrorism Assistance Program, Buenos Aires, Argentina (March 13-24, 2023).

**Welcome, Opening, & Closing Remarks**, OPDAT and Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigations Financial Investigative Techniques Courses, Buenos Aires, Argentina (November 2022).

**Opening Remarks & Panel Discussion**, OPDAT Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil Tri-Border Conference on Trade Based Money Laundering, Cryptocurrency, and Other Mechanisms of Terrorist Financing, Iguazú Falls, Argentina (September 2022).

**Welcome, Opening, & Closing Remarks**, OPDAT and IRS-CI Training on International Cooperation in Cyber-Based Illicit Finance and Money Laundering Investigations, Buenos Aires, Argentina (August 2022).

**Welcome, Opening, & Closing Remarks**, Cooperación Internacional en las Investigaciones de Financiamiento Ilícito en Línea y Lavado de Dinero, sponsored by Asociación de Magistrados y Funcionarios de la Justicia Nacional (AMFJN), U.S. Embassy Chief of Mission Residence, Buenos Aires, Argentina (August 2022).

**Reacting to a Mass Casualty Event: A Prosecutor's Perspective**, FBI Executive Leadership South America Training on Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime, Buenos Aires, Argentina (June 2022).

**Mujer y Crimen Organizado** (Women in Organized Crime), presentation and panel discussion, sponsored by Asociación de Magistrados y Funcionarios de la Justicia Nacional (AMFJN), Buenos Aires, Argentina (June 2022).

**La Experiencia de los Fiscales en el Proceso Penal de los EE. UU.** (Prosecutors' Experience in the Criminal Justice System in the United States), INL/CEJA Training for Argentine Federal Prosecutors. Served as a panelist with the Argentine Attorney General's Chief of Staff/Head of Anti-Terrorism Secretariat and an Argentine Federal Cassation Court judge. Mendoza, Argentina (June 2022).

**Opening & Closing Remarks**, Conferencia sobre Cibercrimen: Identificación y Desmantelamiento de Organizaciones Criminales Transnacionales involucradas en el Tráfico y Financiamiento Ilícito que Operan en la Dark Web (Cybercrime Conference on Identifying and Dismantling Transnational Criminal Organizations involved in Trafficking and Illicit Finance on the Dark Web). Cordoba, Argentina (June 2022).

**Rule of Law Roundtable**, U.S. Ambassador, OPDAT, INL, and Argentine Federal Judges, Chief of Mission Residence, Buenos Aires, Argentina (June 2022).

**U.S.-Argentina Roundtable**, Unidad de Información Financiera (UIF Investigators), INL, and OPDAT, Buenos Aires, Argentina (May 2022).

**U.S.-Argentina Investigative Roundtable**, Policía de Seguridad Aeroportuaria (Federal Airport Police), Ezeiza International Airport, Buenos Aires, Argentina (May 2022).

**U.S.-Argentina Prosecutors Roundtable**, Procuración General de la Nación, Procuraduría de Trata y Explotación de Personas (Prosecutor General's Office, Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons Unit), Buenos Aires, Argentina (May 2022).

**Roundtable with U.S. Ambassador & Argentine Attorney General**, Chief of Mission Residence, Buenos Aires, Argentina (April 2022).

**Accusatory System Roundtable**, Argentine Federal Judges, Rosario, Argentina (April 2022).

**Welcome Remarks & U.S.-Argentina Roundtable**, Argentine Federal Investigative Judges, Buenos Aires, Argentina (April 2022).



**OPDAT a Nivel Mundial** (Overview of OPDAT), Argentine Chapter of the William J. Perry Center for Western Hemisphere Defense Studies, International Workshop on Organized Crime and Cybersecurity, Buenos Aires, Argentina (March 2022).

**Framework for Success: Standardized Practices for Electronic Evidence Management**, E-Litigation Coordinators Conference, Moderator and Panelist, Tampa, FL (national internal DOJ broadcast) (November 2020).

**Trial Issues**, New AUSA Training, Orlando, FL (January 2020).

**Case Study: *U.S. v. Assaf Assaf***, Export Control and Border Security Counterproliferation Conference, Kuala Lumpur and Melaka, Malaysia (November 10-17, 2017).

**Obstruction of Justice**, Financial Crimes Training Conference, Tampa Financial Crimes and IG Council/HHS-OIG (August 23, 2017).

**Human Trafficking Presentation**, Cooley Law School Human Trafficking Course, Riverview, FL (July 13, 2017).

**United States Secret Service Anti-terrorism Training**, Tampa, FL (May 11, 2017).

**United States Secret Service Anti-terrorism Training**, Orlando, FL (May 9, 2017).

**Human Trafficking Presentation**, Cooley Law School Human Trafficking Course, Riverview, FL (March 1, 2017).

**Clearwater/Tampa Bay Task Force on Human Trafficking and the Anatomy of a Case: *United States v. Andrew Blane Fields***, Cooley Law School Human Trafficking Course, Riverview, FL (November 2016).

**Electronic Evidence**, New AUSA Training, Tampa, FL (September 2016).

**Law Clerks and Clerkships**, Stetson University College of Law, St. Petersburg, FL (September 15, 2016).

**Anatomy of a Case: *United States v. Andrew Blane Fields***, International Institute of Buffalo Training on Sex Trafficking, Western District of New York, Buffalo, NY (August 9, 2016).

**Human Trafficking Presentation**, University of Florida exchange with Visiting Brazilian Judges, Tampa, FL (July 1, 2016).

**Cultivating Agent Relationships**, U.S. Attorney's Office, Tampa, FL (June 28, 2016).

**Panel Presentation on Judicial Clerkships**, Federal Bar Association, Tampa, FL (June 22, 2016).

**Panel Presentation**, Federal Bar Association Sentencing Guidelines Seminar, Orlando, FL (June 3, 2016).

**Overview of Federal Hate Crime Statutes, Investigations, and Prosecutions**, Shepherd-Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act, Training, St. Petersburg College, St. Petersburg, FL (May 11, 2016).

**Remarks in Honor of United States Magistrate Judge Elizabeth A. Jenkins**, Retirement Reception hosted by the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, Le Meridien Hotel, Tampa, FL (April 28, 2016).

**Strengthening the Drug Case Using Financial Evidence and Charges**, Criminal Division Training, U.S. Attorney's Office, Tampa, FL (April 9, 2015).

**Panel Presentation on Human Trafficking and Case Study: *United States v. Andrew Fields***, International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators Seminar, Sheraton Sand Key, Clearwater, FL (May 2014).

**Anatomy of a Case: *United States v. Andrew Blane Fields***, Human Trafficking Seminar, panel presentation at the National Advocacy Center, Columbia, SC (March 2014).

**Panel Presentation on Human Trafficking**, American Bar Association Student Division Human Trafficking event at Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, FL (November 2013).

**Stolen Identity Refund Fraud Seminar**, panel presentation at the National Advocacy Center, Columbia, SC (November 2012).

**Identity Theft**, presented to the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa, FL (October 2012).

**Collection of Money Judgments**, presented to the United States Marshals Service Asset Forfeiture Investigator Training via Video Teleconference, Seattle, WA (September 2012).

**Briefing from the Field: Identity Theft/Tax Fraud**, presented to Identity Theft Working Group Meeting nationally via Video Teleconference, Tampa, FL (July 2012).

**Suspicious Activity Reports**, presented at the Pasco County Financial Crimes Enforcement Network training, New Port Richey, FL (September 2011).

**Asset Forfeiture & Money Laundering**, panel presentation at Drug Enforcement Administration agent training, DEA Tampa Office, Tampa, FL (April 2011).

**Bank Secrecy Act**, panel presentation at Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation agent training, Hilton Garden Inn, Orlando, FL (August 2010).

**Search, Seizure, and Forfeiture**, presented to Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and Florida Highway Patrol officers at the Florida Highway Patrol Headquarters, Tampa, FL (June 2010).

### **Bar Memberships & Professional Activities**

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The Florida Bar  
United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit  
U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida

Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

- Board Liaison to the United States Attorney's Office (April 2016-December 2018)
- Staying in the Game Program Committee and Sustainability Group Leader (Fall 2016 to 2018)
- Bryan Garner Legal Writing Seminar Event Committee (August – November 2016)
- Mentoring Program (2016)

Goldburg-Cacciatore Criminal Law Inn of Court (2007-2012; 2016 to 2021)

Women in Federal Law Enforcement Foundation (WIFLE) (2021-present)

Scribes – The American Society of Legal Writers (2008-2011)

Florida/Hillsborough Association of Women Lawyers (2007-2008; 2018-2019)

Ferguson-White Inn of Court (2005-2006)

Judge/Panelist for Stetson National Pretrial Competition (2011, 2012, 2014)

Judge/Panelist for Stetson Caribbean Law Clinic (November 2011, 2014)