

MERCEDES G. BALL, ESQ.

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PROFILE

Solutions-focused, diligent professional with a comprehensive background in all phases of litigation, case management, trial work, and staff supervision. Successfully defines, develops, and implements targeted policies and procedures to maximize office productivity and efficiency. Highly adept at quickly mastering new roles and responsibilities. Reputation for integrity, perseverance, and work ethic. Continuously pursues opportunities to learn and takes on challenges for further professional development. Effective communicator and liaison, known for building strategic partnerships.

- Admitted to the State Bar of Georgia, Georgia Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court of Georgia.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - Consumer Assistance Program, State Bar of Georgia Atlanta, GA (January 2018 - Present) Ensures the timely resolution of concerns of members of the public, throughout the state of Georgia, that arise out of legal issues. Confirms that attorneys maintain compliance with the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct. Facilitates communication between members of the public and their attorneys. Supervises and manages program staff; monitors and evaluates individual job performance. Configures monthly statistical reports to track program efforts. Coordinates the suspension of attorneys from the practice of law that are delinquent in their court ordered child support obligations.

ATTORNEY III - DeKalb County Child Advocacy Center Decatur, GA (July 2014 - January 2018)

Conducted diligent legal research and prepared thorough petitions, motions, and pleadings. Presented client-specific motions and oral arguments before courts, tribunals, administrative bodies, and panels. Ensured that client rights were protected, and proper services were rendered under IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Formulated requests for discovery and determined the appropriate response to discovery requests. Interviewed, investigated, and examined clients and witnesses. Provided fervent representation in all phases of trial. Supervised and trained junior attorneys, legal fellows, and interns in office and courtroom procedures. Oversaw the work product of paralegal and investigative staff. Delivered thorough and concise management to a caseload of 85-130 highly sensitive cases.

- Lectured as a Visiting Scholar in Practice/Subject Matter Expert at Emory University School of Law Barton Child Law and Policy Center on novel civil practice techniques.

SOLO PRACTITIONER - The Ball Firm, LLC Atlanta, GA (March 2014 - July 2014)

Developed client base for diversified legal practice; managed multiple projects while working under pressure in fast-paced environments. Provided comprehensive representation to clients in all phases of criminal and civil legal proceedings.

- Contracted with law firms to assist in the construction of versatile legal strategies in criminal cases.
- Contracted with the DeKalb County Child Advocacy Center to deliver wide-ranging holistic representation in civil cases to child clients in courtroom proceedings and stakeholder meetings.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Sister2Sister Mentoring Program®, Atlanta, GA (January 2013 - Present)

Determines strategic goals and objectives for juvenile court diversion program committed to shaping teen girls in need of services into productive members of their communities. Directs the execution of program services, which include bimonthly workshops and one-on-one mentoring, and ensures that program services operate in accordance with established program goals and objectives. Independently, prepares and manages program budgets. Provides status reports on program services and participant development to program staff, the GABWA Foundation Board of Directors, Inc., and the DeKalb and Fulton County Juvenile Court probation staff and judges.

- Expanded Sister2Sister® to include a chapter that caters to youth that reside in DeKalb County, Georgia.

LEAD TRIAL ATTORNEY - Lister & Holt, LLC Jonesboro, GA (March 2010 - March 2014)

Demonstrated exceptional legal acumen in actively overseeing a diverse caseload of 40-55 cases per month, represented clients in all phases of criminal jury and bench trials for misdemeanor cases. Applied strong case management and negotiation skills in evaluating cases, designing litigation strategies, preparing witnesses for trial and cross-examination,

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and resolving cases through early settlement, plea negotiations, and trials. Trained, mentored, and supervised associates and paralegals in all aspects of case preparation and execution; tracked individual staff member progress to ensure compliance with office and court policies and procedures.

- Represented client in an interlocutory appeal regarding complex issues stemming from a motion to suppress evidence obtained when law enforcement entered a residence to execute an arrest warrant for civil contempt.
- Researched, drafted, and appealed a ruling involving the appropriateness of a jury charge, which outlined the custody rights of a father in a disputed criminal trespass matter.

EDUCATION

The University of Georgia School of Law Athens, GA (2009)

- J.D., GPA: 3.098 (4.3 Scale)
- Executive Conference Editor (2008-2009), Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law
- Recipient, Hughes Spalding Scholarship
- Recipient, The Larry E. Blount Award for Scholarship and Service

Spelman College Atlanta, GA (2006)

- B.A., Cum Laude, Political Science, GPA: 3.53 (4.0 Scale)

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-authored *Descriptive Representation and Policy-Making Authority: Evidence from Women in Cabinets and Bureaucracies*, 20 GOVERNANCE 559, 559-580 (2007).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2018-2019 Vice President of Community Council, Junior League of DeKalb County
- 2018 Graduate, New Leaders Council Atlanta Fellowship Institute
- 2017 Graduate, Emerging Leaders of DeKalb
- 2014 Graduate, The Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys Judicial and Public Office Academy
- Board Member, Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys Foundation, Inc.
- Panelist, Children's Rights Committee of the American Bar Association's Roundtable-Assuring a successful transition: What legal issues do transitioning youth face?