



701 NW 1st Court,
8th Floor, Miami, FL
33136

(305) 579-2594
Hotline: (786) 314-9560
ethics@miamidade.gov

COMMISSIONERS

Dr. Judith Bernier,
CHAIR
Wifredo “Willy” Gort
VICE-CHAIR
Nelson C. Bellido Esq.
Judge Lawrence A.
Schwartz
Tamara Lawson, Esq.

Executive Director

Jose J. Arrojo, Esq.

General Counsel

Martha D. Perez, Esq.

Advocate

Radia Turay, Esq.

For Press Inquiries:

Leonardo Mendoza
Public Information Officer
(305) 579-2594
Leonardo.Mendoza@
miamidade.gov

New Commissioner Appointed to the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

Dean Tamara Lawson will fill the law school appointment on the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, as University of Miami Professor Charlton Copeland completed his term as Commissioner earlier this month. The law school appointment rotates on a four-year basis between the University of Miami and St. Thomas University.

Commissioner Lawson is Dean and Professor of Law at St. Thomas University College of Law where she previously served as the law school’s Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 2017-2018, and Associate Dean for Faculty Development from 2013-2017.

Commissioner Lawson joined the St. Thomas Law faculty in 2004 and was awarded “Professor of the Year” in 2005 and 2006. In addition to her administrative duties, she teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, and a seminar on Race and the Law.

Prior to joining the law faculty, Commissioner Lawson served as a Deputy District Attorney for the Clark County District Attorney’s Office in Las Vegas, Nevada, from 1996-2002. As a criminal prosecutor, she worked in the Special Victims Unit for Domestic Violence, argued multiple cases before the Nevada Supreme Court, including death penalty cases, and also served in various other assignments in the prosecutor’s office.

Commissioner Lawson’s research is published in prestigious law journals such as the American Journal of Criminal Law, the Iowa Law Review, the Columbia Journal of Gender and Law, Loyola University Chicago Law Journal; University of Florida Journal of Law, and Public Policy; and the University of Maryland Journal of Race, Religion, Gender, and Class.

Commissioner Lawson also serves as the Chair of the Law Professors Division of the National Bar Association and as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Law School Admission Council.

Commissioner Lawson received her B.A. from Claremont McKenna College, her J.D. from the University of San Francisco, and her LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center.

The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. It is composed of five members, serving staggered terms of four years each. Through a program of training, outreach and enforcement, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.