

Israel Reyes' outstanding career focuses on justice

Israel Reyes has an astounding career path that has included everything from police detective, professor, sought after speaker and freelance television reporter, to judge and now managing partner of the Reyes Law Firm PA. Not only has he done it all, he has excelled in all these areas like few others receiving numerous commendations and awards.

Born in New York City (Manhattan), Israel Reyes spent his early years in New York and New Jersey before moving to South Florida.

Following graduation from Hialeah Miami Lakes High, he attended Miami-Dade earning an AA in Criminal Justice in 1981. In 1992 he graduated magna cum laude from Florida International University with a BS in Criminal Justice and then earned a JD in 1994 graduating in the top 20 percent of his class at Nova Southeastern University's Shepard Broad Law Center.

While in college, Reyes worked first for the county as a uniformed patrol officer at Miami International Airport, then two years with South Miami Police Department before joining the Metro-Dade Police Department from 1980 to 1995. During that time he worked in almost every division — from homicide to organized crime and media relations.

From 1995 to 1998, Reyes joined the personal injury law firm of Needle Gallagher & Arces PA as an associate. In 1996, Reyes was also president of Police &

Media Consulting Group that focused on training in the areas of law enforcement procedure, media relations, and public records issues while also working with WSVN TV (Channel 7 News) as a free lance television reporter/consultant.



Israel Reyes,
The Reyes Law Firm, P.A.

Moving on to another challenge from 1998-2002, Reyes served as assistant state attorney assigned to the Racketeering/ Organized Crime Prosecution Unit in the Office of the State Attorney (11th Judicial Circuit of Florida).

That assignment was followed by nine years with the 11th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida as a county court judge appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush on Mar. 26, 2002, and assigned to the Criminal Division as of May 1, 2002. He was appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush in 2003 with numerous assignments over the years in the Civil, Criminal and Juvenile Divisions.

Before opening his own law firm this year, Reyes was a partner at Diaz, Reus & Targ LLP, where his focus revolved around such areas as anti-money-laundering, financial fraud and white-collar criminal defense representing international corporations, multinational financial institutions, foreign governments and high-profile individuals.

Given his interesting work experience and background, it is no wonder Reyes is called on to lecture and for over four years has been an adjunct professor at various universities including the University of Miami; Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center, and Florida International University.

Reyes' judicial honors and awards as well as his police commendations could fill a book. While Reyes was most recently awarded the FIU College of Law Alumni Network Award for Public Legal Education, his non-profit work and volunteerism in one form or another dates back to high school years and became part of his life as a police officer, assistant state attorney and judge.

Reyes resides in Coral Gables with his wife of 31 years, Maria, and is the proud father of three children and one grandchild whom he adores and likes to baby sit whenever possible. Reyes used to play golf, but adds, "I could no longer stand the ridicule."