

Stacy A. Scott, Public Defender, Eighth Judicial Circuit



Stacy A. Scott has been the Public Defender for the Eighth Judicial Circuit since 2010. She passionately defends the rights of indigent people accused of crimes and has dedicated her entire professional career to ensuring fairness and integrity in our criminal justice system. Prior to becoming the elected Public Defender, Ms. Scott served as an Assistant Public Defender in the Eighth Judicial Circuit for over 10 years. She has also served as an Assistant State Attorney, and worked in the private sector as a criminal defense attorney. For over 20 years, she has litigated criminal cases ranging from misdemeanors to serious felony cases.

Since taking office in 2010, Ms. Scott has become a strong policy advocate in Tallahassee on issues related to criminal justice and on funding for Public Defenders statewide. She is a key member of the legislative team working on behalf of the Florida Public Defenders Association (FPDA). Currently, she is the Vice President of the FPDA and Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee for the FPDA. Ms. Scott was the recipient of the 2017 Craig Stewart Barnard Outstanding Service Award for her relentless pursuit of justice and outstanding service to the FPDA and its members. She also received both the 2017 and 2018 President's Award for exemplary legislative advocacy on behalf of the Public Defenders.

Additionally, Ms. Scott has dedicated herself to teaching aspiring lawyers. She is an Adjunct Faculty member at the University of Florida Levin College of Law and has also served as Intern Director for the Levin College of Law's Public Defender Clinic, training and supervising of a class of interns each semester. Ms. Scott is an instructor in the Trial Practice program at UF's law school and at the Gerald T. Bennett Prosecutor and Public Defender Trial Training Program. She has also been a coach of UF law school's Trial Team, leading the team to two national civil rights championships in 2005 and 2007.

Ms. Scott is committed to the highest degree of ethics and professionalism in the practice of law and has participated in regulating lawyer conduct by serving two terms on the Florida Bar Grievance Committee, 8B. Additionally, Ms. Scott served on the Florida Bar's Commission on Review of the Discipline System (the Hawkins Commission). She is a longtime member of the James C. Adkins Chapter of the American Inns of Court, the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association and the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys.

Ms. Scott earned her J.D. with Honors from the University of Florida College of Law in 1995 and holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Florida.