

Micah C. Zeno, JD, MBA

Attorney and Mediator

attorneymicahzeno@gmail.com ▪ (504) 435-5745 ▪ linkedin.com/in/micahzeno

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

SMS Dispute Resolution (2025-Present)

Serve as one of 8 exclusive mediators settling Hurricane Ida and other claims between homeowners and Louisiana Insurance Guaranty Association. Craft and propose settlement agreements. 100% settlement rate (as of July 2025).

Civil Mediator (2024-Present)

Guide parties to resolve civil disputes (non-family law), negotiate settlement agreements, and avoid litigation. Appointed as a mediator under the Hurricane Ida Case Management Orders in eight parishes: Jefferson, Orleans, St. Tammany, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Charles, Washington, and St. Helena. Conducted over 54 hours of mediations; 100% settlement rate. Qualified for appointment under Louisiana Revised Statute 9:4106. Listed in the Louisiana State Bar Association approved register of qualified mediators. Featured in Who's Who in ADR. Completed 40 hours of civil mediation training with renowned mediator Prof. Bobby Harges, plus an additional 32 hours of observation.

Arbitrator

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) (2020-Present)

Serve as a neutral decision maker in non-judicial proceedings to resolve disputes in the securities industry between investors, brokerage firms, and registered agents in the continental United States and Puerto Rico. Completed over 11 hours of comprehensive arbitrator training including complex business disputes and expungements.

Louisiana State Bar Association Lawyer Dispute Resolution Program (2024-Present)

Act as an impartial decision maker and resolve fee disputes between attorneys and their clients and between attorneys. Conduct hearings, make rulings on discovery and the admissibility of evidence, and issue binding awards and other judgments.

Gordon, Arata, Montgomery, Barnett, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan, LLC, New Orleans, LA

Equity Member (2023-2025)

Associate Attorney (2017-2022)

Serve as legal counsel for commercial clients in complex litigation, fraud, and breach of contract claims in federal and state court, and mediation; including motion practice, discovery, drafting complaints and responsive pleadings. Manage fourteen concurrent actions pending in state and federal court before ten different judges on behalf of a major municipal agency, including oral argument on exceptions (district court and court of appeal) and a 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss before the Chief Judge of the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana. Act as local counsel for a national pharmaceutical manufacturer engaged in multi-district litigation with matters pending before a special master. Successfully litigate a quo warranto action against a multimillion-dollar quasi-state agency. Serve as Chair (2024-2025) of the firm's Diversity Committee (Member, 2017-2025) and a member of the Marketing Committee (2017-2019).

Summer Associate (2014)

Researched and drafted legal memoranda on civil issues including the effect of concursus proceedings on claims for mineral royalties, the application of force majeure clauses in mineral leases, the permissible scope of expert testimony in environmental remediation cases, and termination of alienated usufructs.

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Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court, State of Louisiana, Gretna, LA

Law Clerk to Chief Judge June Berry Darensburg and Division “C” Staff Attorney (2015-2017)

Evaluated motions filed by litigants in civil and criminal cases for substantive merit and procedural defects, conducted legal research, and drafted bench memoranda recommending action by the court. Conducted status conferences and pretrial conferences, drafted scheduling orders, and resolved discovery disputes. Drafted reasons for judgment and orders of the court. Prepared jury instructions for civil and criminal trials. Designed and organized an internship program; managed nine judicial interns including high school, undergraduate, law school, and LLM students.

Judicial Intern for Chief Judge June Berry Darensburg (2014)

Drafted bench memoranda on a motion for partial summary judgment and a peremptory exception of no cause of action. Consolidated *Boykin* colloquy form across sixteen divisions of court and created a uniform template for use in felony criminal sentencing.

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal, State of Louisiana, Gretna, LA

Judicial Intern for Deputy Chief Judge Fredericka Homberg Wicker (2013, 2014)

Drafted bench memoranda and conducted legal research on civil and criminal appeals. Evaluated grounds for judicial discretion to vary from minimum sentencing guidelines. Researched the application of federal personal jurisdiction laws in Louisiana. Provided updates on legislation affecting the use of evidence on summary judgment.

Entergy Corporation, New Orleans, LA

Legal Services Intern (2013)

Analyzed and drafted white paper interpreting amendment to workers’ compensation legislation. Examined the legal efficacy of revenue-based incentive programs for electric utilities. Researched and drafted memoranda on court sanctions and consolidation of actions. Summarized depositions of expert testimony in litigation and regulatory matters.

Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Orlando, FL

Volunteer Advocate for Children (2011)

Assisted attorney guardian ad litem in representing the best interests of abused, neglected, and abandoned children. Conducted home inspections, interviewed custodial parents and case managers, drafted written reports, and made recommendations on the custody and care of children under court dependency.

SUCCESS ON APPEAL

Emery v. Ben, 24-0018 (La. App. 4 Cir. 5/13/24) (granting plaintiff’s appeal under the continuing tort doctrine and reversing the district court’s judgment sustaining the defendant’s exception of prescription)

Emery v. Ben, 23-0063 (La. App. 4 Cir. 9/28/23); 373 So. 3d 112 (granting plaintiff’s application for supervisory writ and dismissing defendants’ appeal because the district court’s judgment was not a final appealable judgment)

Lucky v. Lucky, 22-0571 (La. App. 4 Cir. 3/15/23); 359 So. 3d 579 (finding that an “egregious fraud [was] made upon the court” and vacating the district court’s judgment)

Pitre v. La. Thoroughbred Breeders Ass’n, 22-467 (La. App. 5 Cir. 1/13/23) (holding that the court of appeal lacked jurisdiction because the district court’s judgment did not contain the requisite decretal language)

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PRESS MENTIONS

Plaintiff accuses ACA Realty LLC of Fraudulent Property Transaction

Louisiana Record, May 30, 2024

Louisiana racehorse breeders group ordered to elect new board over questions about vote

NOLA.com, March 27, 2021

ADMISSIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

United States District Court Eastern District of Louisiana

United States District Court Western District of Louisiana

United States District Court Middle District of Louisiana

Texas

Louisiana

Notary Public (Louisiana)

CORPORATE EXPERIENCE

Regions Bank (formerly, AmSouth), Birmingham, AL

Relationship Manager and Assistant Vice President, Healthcare Banking Group (2008-2010)

Managed lending relationships with healthcare real estate developers, physician groups, and institutional investors. Negotiated, structured, and monitored medical office building construction projects nationwide. Coordinated the sale of capital markets, treasury, insurance, and other financial products.

Senior Credit Analyst, Medical Office Building Division, Healthcare Banking Group (2006-2008)

Structured and performed risk assessment of a \$400MM healthcare real estate portfolio. Drafted terms for extension of credit for healthcare real estate developments and prepared loan approval packages. Performed credit servicing and stress tests to monitor loan performance, minimize audit deficiencies, and ensure data integrity.

Credit Analyst, Business Banking (2005-2006)

Assessed the credit worthiness of business relationships with financing needs up to \$1.5MM. Negotiated with senior lending officers, credit officers, and sales managers to structure credit facilities in compliance with bank and regulatory policies while meeting targets for profitability and risk tolerance.

Management Associate (2004)

Selected from over 2,800 undergraduate and graduate applicants to participate in a three-month rotational program that provided an immersive study of Regions' business and operating units, strategic planning, and executive management. Prepared management case studies, ad hoc marketing plans, presentations on commercial lending, and participated in bank management simulations. Completed Regions Bank Commercial Credit Training Program.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Tulane Law School, New Orleans, LA

Adjunct Associate Professor of Law

Deposition Practice and Procedure (Spring 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)

Trial Advocacy (Spring 2021)

West Jefferson High School, Havey, LA

Algebra II (Spring 2004)

Standardized Test/LEAP Remediation (Spring 2004)

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EDUCATION

Tulane Law School, New Orleans, LA

Juris Doctor, Civil Law Certificate (2015)

Honors: Order of the Barristers, Dean's Honor Scholarship, Louisiana Judicial Council/National Bar Association Scholarship, Tulane Moot Court 2015 Intraschool Champion (First Place, Trial), Tulane 34 Award, Tulane Student Crest Award

Activities: Civil Rights and Federal Practice Clinic (formerly, Civil Litigation Clinic), Moot Court (American Association for Justice Student Trial Advocacy Team, Louisiana State Bar Association Law School Mock Trial Team), Honor Board (Chief Justice), Student Bar Association, Moot Court Board, Tulane Law School American Inn of Court, Black Law Students Association (Parliamentarian), Faculty Interviewing & Appointment Committee, Tulane University Legal Assistance Program, Civil Law Society (Secretary), Tulane Law School Class of 2015 Development Committee

Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL

Master of Business Administration, Finance concentration (2003)

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, magna cum laude (2003)

Honors: President's Special Scholarship (full academic scholarship)

Activities: Legal Counsel to Student Government Association President and Vice President; Student Government Budget Committee; Facilities Management Corporation (Chief Executive Officer)

PUBLICATIONS

Court reinstates ban on federal lease sales, sort of, but it may not matter

Gordon, Arata, Montgomery, Barnett, August 23, 2022

Louisiana to join U.S. Climate Alliance, become carbon neutral by 2050

Gordon, Arata, Montgomery, Barnett, August 3, 2021

Supreme Court Rules Nearly Half of Oklahoma is Owned by Sovereign Tribes; Oil and gas producers express concern about regulatory changes

Gordon, Arata, Montgomery, Barnett, April 28, 2021

Bankruptcy Courts Differ on Application of Force Majeure to Coronavirus Restrictions

American Bar Association, Business Law Section, Business Bankruptcy Committee, Winter 2021

The Advocate, Federal Bar Association New Orleans Chapter, Summer 2021 Edition, Vol. 30, No. 4

Biden Administration "pauses" new oil and gas leases on federal lands

Gordon, Arata, Montgomery, Barnett, February 10, 2021

New Orleans Set to Elect First Black District Attorney in 12 years

National Bar Association, December 1, 2020

COVID-19 Restrictions and Implications for Debtors in the Northern District of Illinois: Bankruptcy court relieves debtor from post-petition rent, citing coronavirus restrictions.

American Bar Association, Bankruptcy & Insolvency Litigation Committee, November 23, 2020

Coronavirus, Contracts, and Force Majeure: What Every Lawyer Needs to Know

The Advocate, Federal Bar Association New Orleans Chapter, Summer 2020 Edition, Vol. 29, No. 4

Coronavirus, Contracts, and Force Majeure: What You Need to Know

Gordon, Arata, Montgomery, Barnett, April 28, 2020

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Federal Court Rules Demand from Owner Inadequate, Penalty Against Owner Too Harsh

Gordon, Arata, Montgomery, Barnett, February 14, 2020

1995 Law Allows Producers to Save \$18 Billion in Royalties

Professional Landmen's Association of New Orleans, December 2019;

Gordon, Arata, Montgomery, Barnett, November 13, 2019

Blame game continues under Texas indemnification law

Gordon, Arata, Montgomery, Barnett, March 15, 2019

Your non-compete agreement is probably not enforceable. Here's why.

Gordon, Arata, Montgomery, Barnett, October 4, 2018

Enforcement of Non-Compete Agreements in Louisiana Still an Uphill Battle

Gordon, Arata, Montgomery, Barnett, October 4, 2018

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

The Business of Mediation – Sustaining a Mediation Practice, Panelist

Co-Panelists: Bobby Harges (Moderator), Don Massey, Mark Myers

Louisiana State Bar Association, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, May 1, 2025

Civil Mediation Skills Workshop, Co-Instructor

Co-Instructor: Prof. Bobby Harges

Mediation Training Company, February 6-7, 2025

Increasing Diversity and Inclusion, Panelist

Primerus Young Lawyers Section Leadership Conference, March 7, 2024

Career Transition: How to Do It and Maintain Your Professionalism, Panelist

Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Greater New Orleans Chapter, December 14, 2023

Advanced Appellate Practice: Best Practices in Louisiana Courts of Appeal, Moderator

Panelists: Judge Fredericka H. Wicker, Judge Allison H. Penzato, Judge John J. Molaison, Jr.

Louisiana State Bar Association, November 8, 2023

A Primer on Depositions Under Federal Law

Primerus, October 16, 2023

A Primer on Default Judgments Under La. C.C.P. art. 1702(A), Co-Presenter

Jefferson Bar Association, September 3, 2022

Gordon, Arata, Montgomery, Barnett, June 13, 2022

A Primer on Depositions, Co-Presenter

Co-Presenter: Judge Shayna Beevers Morvant

Jefferson Bar Association CLE by the Sea, March 18, 2022

Law Clerk Insider, Moderator

Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Conference, January 17, 2020

Professionalism: From the Tulane Law Clinic to the Practice of Law, Panelist

Tulane Law Clinic 40th Anniversary, April 5, 2019

The Louisiana State Bar Association: Serving Our Members in Many Ways, Co-Presenter

St. Charles Parish Bar Association 2018 CLE, December 7, 2018

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E-Discovery Boot Camp: Spoliation and Sanctions, Co-Presenter

Louisiana State Bar Association, December 5, 2018

The Importance of Mentorship to Diversity in the Legal Field, Panelist

Moderator: Judge Terri F. Love

Tulane University Law School, November 9, 2018

Professionalism: Law Clerks, Panelist

Co-panelist: Judge Stephen D. Enright, Jr.

2017 Jefferson Bar Association CLE by the Sea, April 1, 2017

What I will Do Differently After Serving as Judge Pro Tempore, Co-presenter

Co-presenter: Judge Pro Tempore Lynn Luker

Tulane University Law School 27th Annual CLE by the Hour, December 26, 2017

Behind the Scenes with Law Clerks, Panelist

New Orleans Bar Association, December 14, 2016

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

American Bar Association

Center for Professional Responsibility (Liaison, 2025-Present)

Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board

Hearing Committee Member (2025-Present)

Federal Bar Association

Roadways to the Bench: Who Me? A Bankruptcy or Magistrate Judge (Attorney Co-Chair, 2023)

Justice Camp (Presenter, 2022-2023)

Federal Bar Association Younger Lawyers Division

Communications Committee (Chair, 2019-2022) (Member, 2017-2022)

Law School Committee (2019-2022)

Board of Directors (2017-2022)

Louisiana State Law Institute

Elected Council Member (2024-Present)

Property Committee (2020-Present)

Louisiana State Bar Association

Suit Up for the Future High School Summer Legal Institute and Internship Program (Presenter, Statutory Interpretation, 2016-2019, 2022-2023)

Diversity Committee (2016-2022)

Outreach Committee (Co-Chair, 2018-2020)

Louisiana Access to Justice Commission Strategic Planning Committee (2019)

Leadership LSBA (Co-Sponsor, 2017-2018)

Leadership LSBA (2016-2017)

Jefferson Bar Association

Vice President (2025)

Secretary (2024)

Treasurer (2023)

Representative-at-Large (2021-2022)

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Louis A. Martinet Legal Society

Law Student Outreach Committee (Co-Chair, 2021-2022)
Diversity Law Graduate Database Committee (Chair, 2020)
Pathways & Pipelines to Success Committee (2019-2020)
Young Lawyers Committee (Co-Chair, 2018-2019)
Board of Directors (2018-2019)

National Bar Association

The Bridge Builders, Esq. National Mentorship Program for Aspiring Black Lawyers (Mentor, 2021)

Tulane Law School Diversity Mentorship Program Mentor (2019-Present)

New Orleans Bar Association

Professional Landmen's Association of New Orleans

Citizens to Elect Rhonda Goode-Douglas, Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, Section "E"
Campaign Finance Chair (2020)

Committee to Re-Elect Judge Melvin C. Zeno, Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court, Division "P"
Assistant Campaign Manager (2002)

HONORS AND AWARDS

Jeanne P. Gray Diversity Scholarship, American Bar Association (2025)
Who's Who in ADR (2024, 2025)
President's Award, Louis A. Martinet Legal Society (2024)
Super Lawyers: Rising Star (2025, 2024, 2023)
New Orleans CityBusiness Leadership in Law (2023)
Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in Alternative Dispute Resolution (2026)
Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in Appellate Practice, Commercial Litigation, Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions-Defendants (2021-2026)
StepUp Pro Bono Challenge, Federal Bar Association (2020, 2021)
Top 40 Under 40-Nation's Best Advocates, National Bar Association (2020-2021)
Eagle Scout Mentor Award, Boy Scouts of America (2020)
Outstanding Young Lawyer of Louisiana, Louisiana State Bar Association (2019)
A.P. Tureaud Award, Louis A. Martinet Legal Society (2018-2019)
Legacy of Leadership Honoree, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Omicron Omega Chapter (2009)

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Jefferson Parish Parks and Recreation Department (Gretna Track and Field Coach, Spring 2025)
Young Leadership Council (Power Ties, 2024) (Youth Run NOLA, 2012)
NAACP (Life Member)
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (Gamma Rho Chapter Parliamentarian, 2025-2026)
Gamma Rho Foundation, Inc. (Legal Counsel, 2025-2026)
Florida A&M University National Alumni Association (Life Member)
St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church (Scholarship Commission, Male Chorus)