

# KARLA WALKER



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## PROFILE

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An attorney practicing in the Southern Judicial Circuit for the past 20 years in a general practice that covers a variety of civil and criminal areas. Applicant has extensive experience in practicing in all Courts in the Southern Judicial Circuit and in courts in the surrounding counties. Applicant is one of very few attorneys in Lowndes and the surrounding counties that has a working knowledge of employment law including but not limited to Title VII, FMLA, ADA AND ADEA. Applicant has represented clients in each of these areas. Applicant has practiced in the United States District Courts in the Middle and Southern Districts, 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals and a variety of Administrative Courts in the State and Federal systems.

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## PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

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### *Legal*

*Partner*, Copeland, Haugabrook & Walker, Valdosta, Georgia, 1997 – Current  
*Civil and criminal practice in all state courts and federal courts*

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## LEGAL EDUCATION

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Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law, Macon, Georgia – May 1996

*Juris Doctor*

### *Activities & Honors*

Research Assistant Professor Anthony Baldwin-Labor and Employment Law  
Coach Frederick Douglass Moot Court Team  
Member Black Law Students Association

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## UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

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YALE UNIVERSITY

B.A. History, May 1993

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## SIGNIFICANT LITIGATION

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Myers vs. Grady County Sheriff's Office et al., Represented Plaintiff in a civil rights action alleging personal injury and excessive force. Suit was filed and the case was settled..

Ashley vs. Brooks County Sheriff's Office Plaintiff was terminated from his position as a jailer when his employer refused to accommodate his requests to be excused from working on Saturday due to his religious beliefs. Plaintiff's case survived efforts by the Defendants to dismiss his case and the case was ultimately settled in Plaintiff's favor.

Moore vs. Valdosta Treatment Centers et al. Counsel represented Defendants against Ms. Moore who alleged sexual harassment after she was terminated from her position. Defendants filed a Motion for Summary Judgment and the case was dismissed.

Green v Nationstar. Counsel represented Plaintiff in a breach of contract action against a nationwide lender for Plaintiff home. Suit was filed and the case was settled.

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## PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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- Habitat for Humanity - Family Support Committee 2011-2013
- State Bar of Georgia
- Valdosta Bar Association
- Association of Yale Alumni/Alumni Schools Committee- Interview potential students for admission
- Board Member Valdosta Lowndes County Land Bank Authority
- Board Member City of Valdosta Community Development Block Grant
- Chairperson of the Entrepreneur and Community Development Committee of the Valdosta Lowndes Metro Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women
- Chairperson of S.E.L.F.I.E CONFERENCE a conference designed to empower young women 16-25 in education, career development and financial literacy
- The Hands Up Marketplace, Inc. - Board Member, Speaker and coordinator of a program designed to provide youth the skills to succeed in their finances, careers and education
- 2016 Woman of the Year award from the Valdosta Junior Woman's Club
- 2016 recipient of the Community Service Award from the 100 Black Men of Valdosta Chapter
- Host of a weekly radio segment on local station V96.7 where legal questions from listeners are answered each week.

References available upon request

# KARLA WALKER



May 17, 2017

To the Search Committee:

I have practiced here in Valdosta for 20 years. I am a partner in the firm of Copeland, Haugabrook and Walker. We are a general practice and this has afforded me an opportunity to navigate several legal issues for a variety of individuals and entities. I am writing to express my interest in the position of Chief Legal Affairs Officer.

During my time as a general practitioner, I have obtained extensive experience in drafting documents, adhering to deadlines, developing client relationships with individuals and business clients, and litigating matters in State and Federal Courts including appellate courts. My practice in federal court matters has provided me with a wealth of knowledge and experience with investigation, research, preparing and responding to motions, responding to discovery, preparing witnesses, and taking the depositions of several key players. I have provided a brief summary of some key cases in my practice in my resume.

In addition to the foregoing, I have extensive experience in employment law. We are one of a very few firms in Valdosta that practice in this area. In employment law I have been effective in representing clients in the pre litigation and litigation phase. I have represented complainants, defendants and businesses in this area of the law

The position of general counsel is very similar to that of a general practitioner. In a general practice, the practitioner must be willing to maintain an abundance of knowledge in several areas, effectively and efficiently research and develop legal theories and present the information to resolve the issue immediately or in preparation for the arguments in litigation. This ability to "switch hats" is evident in a radio segment that I have done for a few years where callers ask legal questions and I provide legal advice on a variety of topics each week. The callers present the questions without an assigned topic and I advise or give them resources for their issue.

The variety of experience that I have obtained as a general practitioner has prepared me to provide the desirable skills for the Chief Legal Affairs Officer at Valdosta State University. The opportunity to serve and join the team at Valdosta State University would be a tremendous opportunity. I have enclosed my resume for your review. I look forward to speaking with you about this opportunity. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karla Walker