

# Keith P. Merritt

Member in Good Standing

Eligible to Practice Law in Florida



Bar Number:

181961

Mail Address:

Fidelity National Law Group  
100 NW 62nd St Ste 889  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309-8103

Office: [954-414-2107](tel:954-414-2107)

Email:

[keith.merritt@fnf.com](mailto:keith.merritt@fnf.com)

Personal Bar URL:

<https://www.floridabar.org/mybarprofile/181961>

vCard:

County:

Broward

Circuit:

17

Admitted:

09/27/1999

10-Year Discipline History:

None

Law School:

University of Florida, Fredric G. Levin College of Law, 1998

Sections:

Real Property, Probate & Trust

Federal Courts:

Florida Middle District Bankruptcy Court

Florida Southern District Bankruptcy Court

U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

State Courts:

Florida

Firm:

Fidelity National Law Group

Firm Size:

6-10

Firm Position:

Corporate Counsel

Firm Website:

<https://www.fnf.com>

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## EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION



FLAGLER COUNTY  
1769 East Moody Blvd. Bldg # 2  
Bunnell, Florida 32110  
386-313-4033  
<http://www.flaglercounty.gov>

Merritt, Keith Poole  
00813 COUNTY ATTORNEY

Received: 6/26/25 3:41 PM

For Official Use Only:

QUAL: \_\_\_\_\_

DNQ: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Experience

☐ Training

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

POSITION TITLE: COUNTY ATTORNEY		EXAM ID# : 00813
NAME: (Last, First, Middle) Merritt, Keith Poole		SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: N/A
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) [REDACTED] Lighthouse Point, Florida 33064		EMAIL ADDRESS: merritkp@yahoo.com
HOME PHONE: 863-286-1923	ALTERNATE PHONE: 863-286-1923	NOTIFICATION PREFERENCE: Email
DRIVER'S LICENSE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	DRIVER'S LICENSE: State: FL	LEGAL RIGHT TO WORK IN THE UNITED STATES? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
What is your highest level of education? Doctorate		

## PREFERENCES

MINIMUM COMPENSATION: \$200,000.00 per year
WHAT TYPE OF JOB ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? Regular
TYPES OF WORK YOU WILL ACCEPT: Full Time
SHIFTS YOU WILL ACCEPT: Day, On Call (as needed)
OBJECTIVE: I have 25 years of experience in a wide-variety of practice areas, both public and private; experience as a City Commissioner and as Chairman of a mass transit organization.

## EDUCATION

DATES:	SCHOOL NAME: University of Florida - College of Law	
LOCATION: (City, State/Province) Gainesville, Florida	DID YOU GRADUATE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	DEGREE RECEIVED: Professional
MAJOR: Juris Doctor	UNITS COMPLETED: 6 - Semester	
DATES:	SCHOOL NAME: University of Florida	
LOCATION: (City, State/Province) Gainesville, Florida	DID YOU GRADUATE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	DEGREE RECEIVED: Master's
MAJOR: Master of Business Administration	UNITS COMPLETED: 4 - Semester	
DATES:	SCHOOL NAME: Florida State University	
LOCATION: (City, State/Province) Tallahassee, Florida	DID YOU GRADUATE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	DEGREE RECEIVED: Bachelor's
MAJOR: Biology & History/ Chemistry	UNITS COMPLETED: 8 - Semester	
DATES:	SCHOOL NAME: Polk State College	
LOCATION: (City, State/Province) Bartow, Florida	DID YOU GRADUATE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	DEGREE RECEIVED: Professional
MAJOR: EMT Certification	UNITS COMPLETED: 1 - Semester	

## WORK EXPERIENCE

DATES: From: 5/2021 To: Present	EMPLOYER: Fidelity National Law Group	POSITION TITLE: Attorney
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ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) Not available, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33309		
PHONE NUMBER: 8632861923	SUPERVISOR: Cynthia Baines - Supervisor	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 40	SALARY: \$13,000.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 2
DUTIES: In-house litigation counsel for Fortune 300 Fidelity National Financial family of companies representing property owners, lenders, and insurers. Providing representation, advice, and counsel to Company stakeholders. Clients include the Company's title and life insurance underwriters and insureds and its mortgage technology divisions in litigated matters.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: From my experience in the Navy and as a City Commissioner, I enjoy working in the public sector.		
DATES: From: 5/2007 To: 5/2021	EMPLOYER: Merritt Law Office, P.A.	POSITION TITLE: Consumer Attorney
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) 335 Doris Drive, Lakeland, Florida, 33803		
PHONE NUMBER: 8632861923	SUPERVISOR: Keith Merritt - Owner	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 40	SALARY: \$5,500.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 5
DUTIES: I started Merritt Law Office in 2007 amidst the foreclosure crisis. Recognizing that bankruptcy was a critical area for consumers, I emphasized consumer law practice in bankruptcy and consumer litigation.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: Job offer with appreciably more income and significant benefits.		
DATES: From: 1/2012 To: 1/2016	EMPLOYER: City of Lakeland	POSITION TITLE: City Commissioner
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) 228 South Massachusetts Avenue, Lakeland, Florida, 33813		
PHONE NUMBER: 863-834-6000	SUPERVISOR: Keith Merritt - City Commissioner	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 40	SALARY: \$2,500.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 2
DUTIES: Acted as Commissioner and Mayor Pro Tem in guiding the City of Lakeland through a police department "scandal". Acted as Representative for Lakeland Electric, Chairman of the Lakeland Area Mass Transit District and member of the newly formed Polk County Regional Water Cooperative.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: Stepped down after one term to emphasize my law firm.		
DATES: From: 5/2006 To: 12/2006	EMPLOYER: Carlton & Carlton, P.A.	POSITION TITLE: Litigation Attorney
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) 2310 Lakeland Hills Boulevard, Lakeland, Florida, 33805		
PHONE NUMBER: 863 688 5700	SUPERVISOR: Charles Carlton - Supervisor	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 40	SALARY: \$5,500.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 0
DUTIES: Civil Litigation and Social Security Disability claims preparation and litigation.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: The professional relationship was formed with the intent of my purchase of the firm. In time, the principals elected to continue the practice on own.		



DATES: From: 1/2005 To: 5/2006	EMPLOYER: Florida Guaridan ad Litem Program	POSITION TITLE: Litigation Attorney
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) 205 E Main Street, Bartow, Florida, 33830		COMPANY URL: http://www.becomeaguardian.com/
PHONE NUMBER: 863 534 4605	SUPERVISOR: Cookie Rousos - Administrator	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 40	SALARY: \$3,500.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 0
DUTIES: Managed a litigation caseload on behalf of guardians ad litem representing children in termination of parental rights and dependency matters.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: Opportunity to increase my income in private practice.		
DATES: From: 3/1981 To: 3/1987	EMPLOYER: US Navy - Pearl Harbor Naval Station	POSITION TITLE: Nuclear Electrician/Ship's Diver
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) USS Bremerton - Decommissioned, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 96818		COMPANY URL: https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/About-MyNavy-HR/Commands/Navy-Personnel-Command/Organization/
PHONE NUMBER: 901.874.6622	SUPERVISOR: Unknown - Electrical Division Chief	MAY WE CONTACT THIS EMPLOYER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HOURS PER WEEK: 40	SALARY: \$1,400.00/month	# OF EMPLOYEES SUPERVISED: 3
DUTIES: Trained as a nuclear electrician at Nuclear Power School (Orlando) 1981-1983. Assigned to and qualified in submarines, USS Aspro (SSN-648) USS Bremerton (SSN-698) 1983-1987. Duties included oversight of the nuclear reactor during shutdown and underway as operator of the elect plant, and throttleman. Also served as Ship's Photograph aboard both the Aspro and the Bremerton and Ship's Diver aboard the Bremerton.		
REASON FOR LEAVING: Honorable Discharge		

## CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES

TYPE: Member, Florida Bar	
LICENSE NUMBER: 0181961	ISSUING AGENCY: The Florida Bar
TYPE: Emergency Medical Technician	
LICENSE NUMBER:	ISSUING AGENCY: Florida Department of Health

## Skills

OFFICE SKILLS: Typing: 41 Data Entry: 13620
OTHER SKILLS:
LANGUAGE(S): English - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Speak <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Read <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Write

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nothing Entered For This Section

## REFERENCES

REFERENCE TYPE: Professional	NAME: Cristina Gonzalez	POSITION: Paralegal
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) 7525 NW 61st Terrace, Parkland, Florida 33067		
EMAIL ADDRESS: cristinagn100@hotmail.com		PHONE NUMBER: 9548818539
REFERENCE TYPE: Professional	NAME: Timothy McCausland	POSITION: City Attorney - Lakeland (Retired)
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) 5093 Ironwood Trail, Bartow, Florida 33830		

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EMAIL ADDRESS: Tmccausland@tampabay.rr.com		PHONE NUMBER: 8636602930
REFERENCE TYPE: Professional	NAME: Jeffrey Golant	POSITION: Attorney
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) 8204 N@ 122 Lane, Parkland, Florida 33076		
EMAIL ADDRESS: jgolant@outlook.com		PHONE NUMBER: 5612671756
REFERENCE TYPE: Professional	NAME: Tony Delgado	POSITION: City Manager - Lakeland (Retired)
ADDRESS: (Street, City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code) 111 South Pineapple Avenue, Unit 718, Sarasota, Florida 34236		
EMAIL ADDRESS: tjdelgado1961@gmail.com		PHONE NUMBER: 8636985550

Agency-Wide Questions

1. If applying for driver position, do you possess a valid Class C or higher Commercial Driver's License with Passenger Endorsement?  
No
2. Are you eligible to work in the United States?  
Yes
3. Will you now or in the future require sponsorship for work authorization?  
No
4. Employment Desired:  
Full Time
5. Have you ever worked for this organization?  
No
6. Do you have any relatives, either immediate or extended, or friends, that are currently employed by Flagler County?  
No
7. If you answered "Yes" to question # 5 please list the name of your relative(s)/friend(s). If you have relative(s) that work for Flagler County please list how you are related to them (i.e. mother, father, sister, brother, aunt, uncle, cousin, in-law, etc).  
NA
8. Hours of work (per week) desired:  
40
9. Date Available:  
August 1, 2025
10. Desired Salary:  
\$200, 000
11. Are you currently in the armed forces?  
No
12. Military Branch:  
Navy
13. Military Start Date:  
March 3, 1981
14. Military Discharge Date:  
March 4, 1987
15. Rank at Discharge:  
E-6
16. ALL APPLICANTS MUST ANSWER "YES" OR "NO" TO THIS QUESTION. If you are claiming Veteran's Preference, a copy of your DD-214 or comparable document which serves as a certification of release or discharge claim, MUST be furnished at the time of application. Effective April 8, 1992, Chapter 92-80, Laws of Florida amended the definition of wartime service to include the Persian Gulf War, beginning August 2, 1990, and ending on such a date as may be prescribed by presidential proclamation or by law. The County will give your application every special consideration required by the law (Florida Administrative Code, Chapter 55A-7). If you believe you were not afforded employment preference in accordance with the law, you have the right to file a complaint within twenty-one (21) days of notice of non-selection for the position with the Department of Veteran's Affairs, 11351 Ulmerton Road, Suite 311-K, Largo, Florida 32278-1630 Are you claiming Veteran's Preference?  
No
17. Check the appropriate category if you are claiming Veteran's Preference:
18. Have you uploaded supporting documentation verifying your veterans preference. Examples would include your DD214 or SF15 Form.  
Yes
19. Have you signed and attached Form DOS-119 if applicable? (the link to this form can be found on the Career page/job opportunities under "show more")  
No
20. Where did you hear of this opportunity?  
County Website
21. Did you complete the application in it's entirety, to include at a minimum the past 10 years work history in the provided fields of the application and any work history relevant to the position in which you are applying? If you do not complete the entire application your application will be rejected and you will be disqualified for the position you are applying for.  
Yes
22. If this position requires diplomas/degrees or certifications/licenses you must attach them at the time you submit your application. Have you attached all required documents?

No

Job Specific Supplemental Questions

1. Have you graduated from an accredited college or university school of law with a Juris Doctorate degree? If yes, please upload a copy of degree in order to move forward in the hiring process.  
Yes
  2. Do you possess 5 or more years of experience in the practice of law, with experience in federal, state or local government agency or within the private practice of law with emphasis on local government law, real estate, eminent domain or any other county related matters to include extensive trial practice/experience? If yes, please list in the work history section of application where the experience was gained.  
Yes
  3. Do you possess 2 years of supervising or managing other attorneys?  
Yes
  4. Are you a member of the Florida Bar? If yes, are you eligible for license in Federal Courts and U.S. Court of Appeals?  
Yes; Yes
  5. All required certifications, diplomas and licenses must be uploaded with application. Have you completed this step?  
No
- 

The following terms were accepted by the applicant upon submitting the online application:

By clicking the Accept & Submit button, I hereby certify that every statement I have made in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false or incomplete answer may be grounds for not employing me or for dismissing me after I begin work. I understand that not completing my work history in the fields of the application will disqualify me for the position I am applying for. I understand that I will have to produce documentation verifying my identity and employment eligibility in the U.S. I understand that I may be required to verify any and all information given on this application. I understand that if I have stated that I have a degree(s) that I have uploaded and submitted a copy of my degree(s) with my application. I understand that this completed application is the property of Flagler County and will not be returned. I understand Flagler County may contact prior employers and others.

This application was submitted by Keith Poole Merritt on 6/26/25 3:41 PM

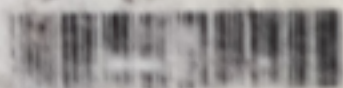


# The Florida Bar



Member Since  
09/27/1999

Keith P. Merritt



0131961

Keith Merritt  
Lighthouse Point, FL 33064  
merritkp@yahoo.com  
+1 863 286 1923  
June 26, 2025

Flagler County Board of County Commissioners  
c/o Human Resources Department  
1769 East Moody Boulevard  
Bunnell, FL 32110

Re: Application for County Attorney

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the County Attorney position for Flagler County. With 25 years of legal experience—including in-house counsel for a Fortune 300 company, ownership of a civil litigation firm, and four years as an elected City Commissioner—I possess the leadership, litigation expertise, and governmental insight necessary to manage the County Attorney's Office and deliver high-quality legal services to the Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, and county departments.

At Fidelity National Law Group, I serve as lead litigation counsel, advising company stakeholders on complex real estate, title, and insurance matters. I oversee case strategy from intake through trial, coordinate with outside counsel, draft pleadings, briefs, and ordinances, and counsel corporate and individual clients on contract, procurement, and regulatory issues. My role demands sound judgment in determining when to retain subject-matter experts and ensures compliance with state and federal procedures—skills directly applicable to supervising Flagler County's litigation and transactional portfolio.

As founder and principal of Merritt Law Office, P.A., I built and managed every facet of a small firm—hiring attorneys and support staff, preparing annual budgets, assigning and reviewing casework, and mentoring staff to refine their trial and negotiation skills. This experience mirrors the day-to-day operations of the County Attorney's Office and positions me to recruit, train, and lead a cohesive team committed to public service.

During my tenure as a Lakeland City Commissioner and Mayor Pro Tem, I guided the city through complex policy challenges, served as liaison to utility and transit boards, and helped negotiate interlocal agreements on regional water management. I regularly drafted and reviewed city ordinances, resolutions, and public records compliance protocols, and appeared before advisory committees and civic groups. This background equips me to advise Flagler County officials on land-use matters, procurement contracts, code

enforcement proceedings, public records requests, and emergency proclamations with poise and professionalism.

I am deeply invested in the vision of Flagler County—creating a vibrant, inclusive community that values work/life balance, continuous learning, and employee wellness. I welcome the opportunity to leverage my government-law experience, litigation acumen, and collaborative leadership style to safeguard the County's legal interests and advance its strategic goals.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to discussing how my skills and passion for public service can contribute to Flagler County's continued success.

Sincerely,  
Keith Merritt







# The University of Florida

has conferred on

**Keith Poole Merritt**

the degree

**Juris Doctor**  
With Honors

and all the rights and privileges thereunto appertaining.

In Witness Whereof, this diploma, duly signed, has been issued  
and the seal of the University affixed.

Issued by the Board of Regents upon recommendation of the Faculty of  
**The College of Law**  
at Gainesville, this sixteenth day of May, A.D. 1998.

*Lawton Chiles*  
Governor

*Lee W. Wilcox*  
Chairman, Board of Regents



*J. Hubert*  
President

*M. A. M.*  
Dean

# The University of Florida

has conferred on

Keith Poole Merritt

the degree

Master of Business Administration

and all the rights and privileges thereunto appertaining.

In Witness Whereof, this diploma, duly signed, has been issued  
and the seal of the University affixed.

Issued by the Board of Regents upon recommendation of the Faculty of

The Graduate School

at Gainesville, this second day of May, A.D. 1998.

*Lester Hills*  
Governor

*Steve Unfelder*  
Chairman, Board of Regents



*J. Hubbard*  
President

*Karen A. Holbrook*  
Dean

**The Florida State University**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**

*has conferred upon*

**Keith Poole Merritt**

*the degree of*

**Bachelor of Science**  
**in History and Biological Science**

*with all the rights, honors and privileges thereunto appertaining.*

*Witness the Seal of the University and the signatures  
of its duly authorized officers thereunto affixed.*

*Given at Tallahassee, Florida, this fourteenth day of December, in the year  
one thousand nine hundred and ninety-one.*

*Lawton Chiles*  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

*James F. McLaughlin*  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

*Charles B. Reed*  
CHANCELLOR, STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



*Galbot Dilaberto*  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

*Donald S. Foss*  
DEAN

PRICE \$2  
NO REFUNDS • NO  
EAST STA  
15 42  
GATE SEC.

GATORS VS.

# Supreme Court of the State of Florida



*Be It Known that*

**Keith P. Merritt**

*having fulfilled the requirements of this Court, is hereby licensed as an Attorney  
and Counselor at Law in all the Courts of this State.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed  
the seal of the Supreme Court, at Tallahassee, this 27th  
day of September, 1999*



*Dublin Cousseau*

Acting Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida



# University of Florida



## Journal of Law and Public Policy

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greetings:

Be it known that

*Keith P. Merritt*

*Senior Membership Liason*

Is hereby awarded this certificate in recognition of Academic Excellence,  
Literary Achievements, and Service rendered to the Journal of Law and Public Policy

*April 18, 1998*

DATE

Attest:

*M. J. Merritt*

DEAN, COLLEGE OF LAW

*Jeffrey L. Hanson*

FACULTY ADVISOR

*Richard P. Davis*

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF