

H. Scott Fingerhut

Now in his 33rd year as a trial lawyer and 22nd year of full-time law teaching, H. SCOTT FINGERHUT is a three-time Professor of the Year and two-time Pioneer Award winner at FIU College of Law in Miami, where he teaches Trial Advocacy, Criminal and Civil Pretrial Practice, Criminal Procedure, and coaches the Trial Team. By Dean's appointment, Professor Fingerhut is also a Fellow of The Honors College at FIU and Pre-Law Faculty Advisor, teaching the two-part upper-level seminar Observing Ourselves: in fall, YOUiversity: A Legal Primer for Life After Honors, and in spring, The Gathering: Great Discussions About Contemporary Law in My America.

In court, Professor Fingerhut devotes himself to criminal defense and the defense of applicants seeking admission before the Florida Board of Bar Examiners and lawyers facing Florida Bar discipline. Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, Professor Fingerhut is consistently ranked among the region's top criminal defense lawyers, including The Best Lawyers in America.

Beyond campus and the courthouse, Professor Fingerhut is a Florida Bar leader, earning the unique distinction to twice serve as chair of The Florida Bar Criminal Procedure Rules Committee, and also serving as chair of the Criminal Law Section of the Bar.

Currently, Professor Fingerhut is a member of The Bar's Professional Ethics Committee, the Code & Rules of Evidence Committee, the Criminal Law Section Executive Council, and serves as the Criminal Law Section CLE chair. Professor Fingerhut is also appointed to a State of Florida Eleventh Judicial Circuit Professionalism Panel. And most recently he has been selected to serve as a subject matter expert on the revision of the Florida Bar examination for the Florida Board of Bar Examiners' Practice Analysis Panel.

Professor Fingerhut has chaired the Dade County Bar Association Criminal Law Committee, served as president of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers-Miami Chapter (FACDL-Miami), and was the Dade County Bar Designee to the Miami-Dade County Mayor's Mental Health Task Force.

He has also served as a member of The Florida Bar Committee to Study the Decline in Jury Trials, The Bar's Committee on Student Education and Admission to the Bar, The Florida Supreme Court Criminal Court Steering Committee Workgroup on Post-Conviction Relief, the Editorial Board of The Florida Bar Journal and Florida Bar News, and, by appointment of the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, the Florida Innocence Commission.

A frequent writer, lecturer, and legal commentator on ethics, liberty, and justice matters, Professor Fingerhut's co-authored chapter, "Conflicts of Interest and Other Pitfalls for the Expert Witness," has been twice published in Springer Publishing's Handbook of Forensic Neuropsychology. Released in 2016 from LexisNexis is Professor Fingerhut's Practice Guide, Florida DUI Law, which he co-authors with the extraordinary Robert S. Reiff. And most recently, Professor Fingerhut is being invited to speak with lawyers across Florida – including

the federal judiciary of the Eleventh Circuit -- on the need for our profession to “Take Back Truth in an Age of ‘Literal Truthiness.’”

Professor Fingerhut received his undergraduate degree in American Government and Music from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, and his law degree from Emory University in Atlanta, where he was a Moot Court Team member, softball captain, and proudly hosted the Law Follies.

Before entering private practice, Professor Fingerhut served as a prosecutor in Janet Reno’s Miami-Dade County State Attorney’s Office.

He is the recipient of the “Put Something Back” Pro Bono Award from the Dade County Bar, the Daniel S. Pearson-Harry W. Prebish Founders Award from FACDL-Miami, and the Steven M. Goldstein Criminal Justice Award from FACDL Statewide.

Six times Professor Fingerhut has been selected by the FIU College of Law graduating class to hood them at Commencement. And in 2019, the graduates chose him to deliver the inaugural “Last Lecture.”