

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT – Martin County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee – **Please Print**

Type of Member (explain HOW you qualify for the category under Other Experience below):

- ☐ Citizen who is actively engaged as a not-for-profit provider of affordable housing
- ☐ Citizen actively engaged as an advocate for low-income persons in connection w/affordable housing
- ☐ Citizen who is actively engaged in the banking/mortgage industry in connection w/affordable housing
- ☐ Citizen actively engaged as a for-profit provider of affordable housing
- ☐ Citizen actively engaged as a real estate professional in connection w/affordable housing
- ☒ Citizen actively engaged in residential homebuilding industry in connection w/affordable housing
- ☐ Citizen representative of areas of labor actively engaged in homebuilding in connection w/affordable housing
- ☐ Citizen who represents employers within Martin County
- ☐ Citizen who represents essential service personnel
- ☒ Citizen who resides within Martin County
- ☐ Local Planning Agency Member

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By Donna Gordon at 12:35 pm, Aug 18, 2025

Check One: ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Miss ☐ Dr.

Name: Michele B. Occhino

Residence Address: 9127 SE Star Island Way Hobe Sound FL 33455
Street - City - Zip Code

Mailing Address: _____
(if different) Street - City - Zip Code

Commission District in which you reside: 3^{dg} Staff will complete.

Are you available year-round to attend meetings? ☒ yes ☐ no If **no**, what months **are** you available?

Telephone numbers: daytime: (404) 273-2663 alternate: _____ alternate: _____
Area Codes are considered 772 unless you note otherwise.

EMAIL: Attymbarnett@gmail.com

Have you ever pled guilty or “no contest” to a crime, been convicted of a crime, had adjudication withheld, prosecution deferred, been placed on probation, received a suspended sentence or forfeited bail in connection with any offense (except minor traffic violations)? Please show all convictions, including driving while intoxicated (DUI) convictions. ☐ yes ☒ no If yes, please provide the following information:

TYPE OF OFFENCES: _____

DATES: _____

PLACES (city/state): _____

SENTENCES OR FINES: _____

→ CONTINUED →

A conviction record does not necessarily disqualify you for consideration. Factors such as age at time of offense, nature of violation, and rehabilitation will be considered.

The Martin County Board of County Commissioners retains the right to remove, at will, any appointee to a Board or Committee with or without cause.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE: A resume is recommended to be attached containing this and any other information that would be helpful to the Board in evaluating your application. Resume or letter of qualifications attached? ☒ yes ☐ no

Education: Law Degree highest level of education

Employment Experience: Licensed insurance broker with experience working with home insurance etc

Other Experience – **How** do you qualify for the Type of Member selected? _____

I have worked with several organizations and served on Boards including United Way of Western Connecticut, Executive

Served as the Executive Director for Hord Foundation and currently serve on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee.

Additionally I am working with a church in Jupiter that is developing affordable housing- as legal advisor.

Community Experience and Affiliations: I would with various faith based organizations in Martin & Palm Beach

Counties as well as being an activity member of Junior League and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Other County Boards/Committees/Task Forces on which you have served: Pedestrian and Bicycle Commit

Do you or any member of your immediate family work for Martin County or do you or a company that you are an officer or employee of have an existing contract with Martin County? If yes, please explain:

No

REFERENCES: Please list two references:

Raelyn Holmes Amy Pope

- Applicant may be required by State Law and County Ordinance to file a Financial Disclosure Statement as part of the appointment process.
- Florida law prohibits an advisory board member from doing business with its agency (the County). Sections 112.313(3) and (7), Florida Statutes. However, upon full disclosure by the Applicant, the conflict may be waived at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners by a supermajority vote. Section 112.313(12), Florida Statutes.



→ Signature: _____

Date: 8/18/2025

Applications must be filed with Martin County Administration, 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996 **by Friday, August 15**, 2025. All information submitted becomes public record. If you have any questions, please call (772) 221-1352 or send email to dgordon@martin.fl.us.

Profile Summary

Results-oriented legal professional with over 25 years in the legal industry. Experienced as a legal consultant specializing in commercial insurance, offering expertise in contract review, regulatory compliance, risk assessment, and dispute and claims resolution. Proven ability to analyze complex legal issues, provide strategic advice, and deliver effective solutions to mitigate risk and protect client interests.

Skills

- **Legal Expertise:** In-depth knowledge of insurance laws and regulations (state and federal) including policy interpretation, coverage disputes, bad faith claims, and regulatory compliance.
- **Risk Management:** Proficient in identifying and assessing legal risks associated with insurance products and operations and developing strategies to mitigate those risks.
- **Contract Review:** Experienced in drafting, reviewing, and negotiating insurance contracts, ensuring compliance with legal requirements and client objectives.
- **Dispute Resolution:** Skilled in resolving insurance claims and business-related disputes through negotiation, mediation, and arbitration, as appropriate.
- **Communications and Collaboration:** Excellent communication and people skills, able to build rapport with clients, colleagues, and opposing parties and explain complex legal concepts in clear and concise terms.
- **Problem-Solving:** Strong analytical and critical thinking skills, able to identify key issues, develop creative solutions, and make sound decisions under pressure.
- **Research and Writing:** Proven ability to conduct thorough legal research and prepare clear, concise, and persuasive legal documents, including memoranda, briefs, and other legal documents.

Experience

Risk/Legal Consultant

01/2014 – Present

Bradley & Barnett Agency, Inc.

- Provided legal counsel to insurance brokers and policyholders on a wide range of commercial and personal insurance matters, including risk mitigation, coverage selection, claims disputes and regulatory compliance.
- Conducted legal research and analysis, draft legal memoranda, and opinions, prepared and presented in arbitration proceedings.
- Assisted clients with developing risk management strategies and implemented best practices to minimize legal exposure.
- Conducted in-depth analysis of insurance policies to identify potential coverage gaps, ambiguities, or exclusions that could pose risks for clients.
- Prepared presentations on insurance law topics establishing credibility with a focus on cyber and IP protection.
- Developed and delivered operational processes to grow client book of business from \$0 to \$2.3M in 3 years.

Senior Consultant

09/2024 – 3/2025

Resilience Insurance Analytics

- Manage pre-closing risk review of commercial real estate transactions, liaising with lenders, borrowers, and brokers on new loan originations on behalf of institutional, investment and government sponsored lenders. Analyze proposed insurance coverage and related risk mitigation including financial reserves and borrower guarantees and identifying and communicating insurance coverage gaps to borrower and broker for resolution. Provide financial risk management and insurance requirements based on deal type, geography and lender requirements.
- Collaborate with clients and existing team to review newly originated loan information for commercial real estate properties to determine construction liability exists. Identify and remediate coverage issues and discrepancies thus alleviating loan closing barriers. Function as team and client subject matter expert, staying current on existing and future risk issues, coverage, and market changes.

- Liaise with underwriting and credit review teams to explain and mitigate potential risk exposures by proposing customized solutions. Work with borrower representatives to ensure the appropriate coverages are in place at time of closing and that evidence is provided.

Senior Program Director

06/2012 – 1/2014

Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education

- Provided strategic direction and ensured program alignment with the university's goals for the US Department of Labor grant.
- Collaborated with faculty, staff, and deans to identify program needs and opportunities.
- Negotiated win-win partnerships that benefit both the university and external entities; and served as a liaison between internal and external partners, bridging communication gaps.
- Worked collaboratively with budget teams to optimize resource allocation across the \$12.4M grant program.
- Facilitated workshops and brainstorming sessions to generate innovative program ideas.
- Completed 70% of program deliverables 15-months into the 3-year grant and exceeded target program enrollment by 20% through strategic partnerships.

Strategic Program Director

05/2005 – 6/2012

Georgia Department of Human Resources

- Assembled project teams and resources to develop program and public policy solutions to presented health and human service problems. Provided an innovative approach to resolve problems by evaluating program outcomes and proposing changes that could result in amendments to existing legislation and policy. Led team that focused on implementation of broad organizational policy and state-wide strategies with substantial policy and financial implications.
- Led the development and implementation of the statewide \$82M Childcare Program; ensured compliance with federal and state laws, regulations, and policies; and provided guidance and advice to senior leadership and shares compliance strategies and executed corrective actions, where necessary.
- Managed a 70-person team with 6 direct reports and maintained a 9% attrition rate and served 35,000 families, 15% more than projected through innovative alignment on processes and resources.
- Facilitated Strategic Planning sessions for the Agency Commissioner and the senior leadership team and led the rollout of statewide programs including the Savannah Children and Adolescents Mobile Crisis Center reducing the need for non-emergency short-term care in State Hospitals by 44%; and the TeenWork Program resulting in the creation of 1500 summer jobs for teens in the custody, care, and oversight of the State, with an annual program participation growth of 15%.
- Represented the Department on the Governor's Cord Blood Commission, Human Services Restructure Task Force, and Mental Health Commission (assisting in the compilation of the Mental Health Commission Report).

General Counsel

02/2003 – 05/2005

The King Center

- Oversaw the comprehensive management, protection and business and risk strategy of the family's valuable intellectual property portfolio and fostered a culture of innovation with oversight for the Communications, Executive Offices, Facilities, and Legal Departments.
- Led all aspects of the company's legal and business affairs, including corporate transactions, commercial contracts, copyright, licensing agreements, cease and desist letters, marketing and advertising compliance, board governance, employee relations, professional services agreements.
- Negotiated and structured favorable agreements that protected the family's intellectual property rights and ensured ongoing revenue streams that resulted in a 34% increase in annual licensing revenue.
- Developed and implemented a long-term IP strategy aligned with the family's business objectives and legacy goals; and guided the exploration of strategic partnerships and licensing agreements to maximize the value of the IP assets.
- Introduced contract management technology tools and solutions to increase efficiencies and improve the licensing workflow which resulted in a 55% decline in the time required to evaluate licensing requests and issue contracts.
- Collaborated with outside counsel on international licensing matters, defense against infringement claims, enforcement actions and development of settlement terms.

Education

Juris Doctor JD

Negotiating & Counseling Moot Court Competition, Northeast Regional Finalist
Admitted to the New York State Bar

New York Law School
New York, NY

Bachelor of Science BS

Outstanding Student Award, for leadership & community service

University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Certification & Licensure

Property & Casualty, Life Health and Accident Insurance License

Issued August 2014

Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Oklahoma, New Jersey,
New York, North Carolina, and Texas

Financial Management Certification – GAAP

Issued December 2007

University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute

Technology Proficiency

Legal	Operations	Insurance
Westlaw	MS Word/Excel	Applied Epic
LexisNexis	MS PowerPoint	Ezlynx
Perplexity AI Research	MS Outlook	Applied TAM
DocuSign	MS Teams	iNavigator

References

Available Upon Request