

# APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT – Martin County Library Board of Trustees – Please Print

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

**RECEIVED**

By Donna Gordon at 10:41 am, Feb 25, 2026

Name: Paul Copeland

Residence Address: 2952 SW Sunset Trace Circle Palm City, FL 34990  
Street - City - Zip Code

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

Commission District in which you reside: 5<sup>dg</sup> Staff will complete.

Are you available year round to attend meetings?  yes  no If no, what months are you available?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone numbers: daytime: 561-460-7444 alternate: \_\_\_\_\_ alternate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Codes are considered 772 unless you note otherwise.

EMAIL: Paulrcopeland1972@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: \_\_\_\_\_

*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.*

Length of time lived in Florida? 18 years

Involvement with the Martin County Library System to date: Patron

→ CONTINUED →

What, in your opinion, is the real purpose for having a public library system in the community? \_\_\_\_\_

To foster continual learning and knowledge by promoting literary skills and supporting an informed public

**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: B.S. Social Science, M.B.A., M.S. Juris, Ph.D.

Employment Experience: Palm Beach Schools - 13 years  
St. Lucie Co. Schools - 2 years

**Other experience** you feel would be helpful to the Board in making this appointment: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous City Council member in Arkansas 1999-2005

Community Experience and Affiliations: Christ Fellowship

Other County Boards/Committees/Task Forces on which you have served: N/A

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?  no  yes If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**REFERENCES:** Please list two references:

James David Hart 772-528-3463

Lance Morris 870-926-3288

- \* 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: Paul Copeland

Date: 2/25/26

Applications must be filed with Martin County Administration, 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996 by Friday, March 13, 2026. All information submitted becomes public record. If you have any questions, please call (772) 221.1352 or send email to [dgordon@martin.fl.us](mailto:dgordon@martin.fl.us).

# Vita

## Dr. Paul R. Copeland

2952 SW Sunset Trace Circle  
Palm City, FL 34990  
561-460-7444

### EDUCATION

**Grand Canyon University**, Phoenix, Arizona  
**Master of Arts-History** 2025-26

**Florida State University College of Law**, Tallahassee, FL 2019-2021  
**Juris Master** awarded 4/21

**Arkansas State University**, Jonesboro, AR 2004  
**Program of Study: Building-Level Administrator**

**Capella University**, Minneapolis, MN 2001-2002

**Ph.D.** awarded 12/02

**Educational Leadership**-Higher Education Administration

Dissertation: "Alternative Learning Environments (ALE): Crowley's Ridge Educational Cooperative's Approach to Education for At-risk Secondary Students." Completion date: November 2002.

**Bellevue University**, Bellevue, NE 2000-2001

**M.B.A.** awarded 6/2001

Capstone: Strategic Business Portfolio

**Kansas State University**, Manhattan, KS 1997-1999

**B.S.-** Social Science awarded 12/99

**Orange Avenue Baptist School**, Fort Pierce, FL 1987-90

**High School Diploma** 1990

### AWARDS

Chancellor's List, Troy State University, 1995

Dean's List, Florida Baptist College, 1995

Dean's List, Arkansas State University, 1996

Dean's List, Kansas State University, 1999

## EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

*At School District of Palm Beach County:*

**ESE Coordinator-2021-Present**

Determine eligibility and manage IEP/EP process; conduct screenings and eligibility meetings; oversee implementation of accommodations; helped to improve 5th grade ELA by 11 points; worked with individual students using S.P.I.R.E.; oversaw Migrant tutoring program.

*At Ponce de Leon Elementary, Largo, FL:*

**Elementary Gifted Coordinator-2020-2021**

Teach K-5 Gifted Students; conduct screenings and eligibility meetings. Wrote EP's for Gifted students.

*At Palm Beach Maritime Academy, Lantana, FL:*

**Elementary School Principal-2018-2019**

Oversaw the daily operations of the K-5 school; curriculum management; teacher evaluations; professional development; reversed a three year slide in third grade ELA scores, recovering the loss on the ELA FSA in one year.

*At Eagle Arts Academy, Wellington, FL:*

**Principal/Dean of Academics-2017-2018**

Raised the school grade from D (1 point from an F) to a C (6 points from a B); growth was recognized by FLDOE: Math-25<sup>th</sup> out of 408 (K-8 schools) and ELA-37<sup>th</sup> out of 408 (K-8 schools).

*At Franklin Academy, Palm Beach Gardens, FL:*

**5th Grade Department Chair/Teacher-2014-2015**

*At Boca Raton Community Middle School, Boca Raton, FL:*

**Middle School History-2013-2014**

*At Fort Pierce Central High School, Fort Pierce, FL:*

**Special Education Teacher-2010-2012**

*At Warrington Middle School, Pensacola, FL:*

**Special Education Teacher-2008**

*At Rocky Bayou Christian School, Niceville, FL:*

**Fourth Grade Teacher-2006-2008**

*At Okaloosa County School District, Okaloosa County, FL:*  
**ESE/Vision Impaired Contract Instructor-2005-2006**

*At Marion High School, Marion, AR:*  
**Instructor-2003-2005:** Teach AP US History and Advanced World History courses.

*At Arkansas Northeastern College, Blytheville, AR:*  
**Adjunct Instructor-2003:** Taught US History Since 1876; Taught Leadership and Supervision

*At Baker College, Flint, MI:*  
**Online Instructor- 2002-2005:** Taught at least two courses online in Business and Management each term. Courses were taught via the Internet using Blackboard 6.0.

*At the Mississippi County Christian Academy, Dell, AR:*  
**Administrator- 2002-2003:** Promoted to school administrator. Interviewed, hired and evaluated staff; managed a staff of 29 classified personnel, 6 non-classified personnel; planned and conducted faculty development activities; oversaw a \$750,000 budget; reported to school board on a monthly basis  
**Instructor –2001-2003:** Developed syllabi and overall course structure for Introduction to Business, Civics, World History and US History courses. Incorporated various multimedia tools within the classroom. Introduced the concept of cooperative learning.

*At the New Brockton High School, New Brockton, AL:*  
**Assistant-** Hired as teaching assistant to mainstream one Autistic student and one moderately handicapped student.

#### **RELATED EXPERIENCE**

**Research,** Dissertation, Minneapolis, MN, 2001  
Use of the SPSS software package; literature reviews; extensive search and synthesis.

**Self-Study,** Mississippi County Christian Academy, Dell, AR 2002 Coordinator of the accreditation process that is being conducted through the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (ANSAA). Designed survey instrument and completed data processing of surveys using the Statistical Package for the Social Scientist (SPSS) software.

**Faculty Training,** Baker College, Flint, MI, 2002  
I completed faculty training for online instructors then assumed an adjunct faculty role for online programs in the Spring Quarter 2003.

**Technology-** Florida Technology Conference Attendee, 2011:  
Googlize the Classroom

Beyond the Textbook  
Apps for Special Education  
Photostory 3 for the Special Education Classroom  
Cell Phones in Education

**Kagan Training:** Cooperative Learning  
Teaching in the Block

#### **PAPERS**

“Educational Reforms: Innovative or Destructive?”

Residential Colloquia at Capella University, Minneapolis, MN ■ 2001

“History of the Comprehensive Community College”

Residential Colloquia at Capella University, Minneapolis, MN ■ 2002

“Educational Roots: A critical examination of the History of American Higher Education” Paper presented to the Comprehensive Committee at Capella University, Minneapolis, MN ■ 2002

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

“Surfing Your Way to a Degree”- Released March 1, 2003. 1st Books Library/Ingram Press, First Edition. Copyright 2003.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

“Who Moved My Cheese”

Workshop presented to the faculty at Miss. Co. Christian Academy, August 2002. Workshops conducted using PowerPoint, video and overheads.

“Seven Habits of Highly Ineffective Educators”

Teacher In-service presented to the faculty at Miss. Co. Christian Academy, August 2002. Workshops conducted using PowerPoint, video, overheads, and cooperative learning activities.

“Burnout or Rejuvenate”

Teacher In-service presented to the faculty at Miss. Co. Christian Academy, August 2002. Workshops conducted using PowerPoint, video, overheads, and cooperative learning activities.

Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (ANSAA)-2002 Presentation made to the Board of Directors regarding the ANSAA accreditation process. Presentation was made using PowerPoint and other multimedia materials.

Arkansas Conference on Teaching-2004

Presentation made on how to build a successful Advanced Placement United States History program. Presentation was made using PowerPoint and other multimedia materials

### GRANTS

Integrating Technology in the Classroom

Grant proposal written as part of course requirements for ED 855 Funding and Managing Educational Enterprises. Grant was partially funded through computer hardware donation valued at \$2500.00 by Hewlett-Packard.

Integrating Technology in the Classroom

Grant proposal for placing computers and “Cable in the Classroom” in every room at Mississippi County Christian Academy. Proposal made it to the semi-final round (3<sup>rd</sup> of 4 stages).

USAC

School received \$2658 for a grant through the Schools and Libraries Consortium. Grant was used to purchase new textbooks and curriculum for Life Science, Earth Science and Physical Science.

Arkansas Humanities Council

School received \$2921 for a grant through the AHC. Grant was used to purchase classroom sets of Civil War novels, Civil War multimedia, secure the Civil War Expo traveling exhibit and honorarium for noted Civil War author.

Learning Station Insight

2011 Grant for Standards-Based Assessment program featuring online, paper/pencil, and student response formats

## PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

*Associate Editor*- Academy of Management, Higher Education Journal  
HYPERLINK

"<http://myaom.pace.edu/octane8admin/websites/ProfessionalDevelopment/default.asp?ID=7>"

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*NCATE Reviewer*- NCATE Institutional Compliance and Certification *Committee Member*- National Council for the Social Studies Government Relations Committee  
*Program Committee Member*- Florida Charter School Conference/Florida Charter School Consortium

*Board Member*- Families Are Special Adoption Services, Inc.

*Vice President*- Fort Pierce Central High School Building Level Planning Team

*District Judge*- Saint Lucie County History Fair

*Member*- Saint Lucie County Public Schools Assessment and Grading Task Force

*Clinical Educator Certified*-Indian River State College/Saint Lucie County

## DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Terrie Young- Capella University, 2003. General Education Ph.D. learner.

Benedicta D'Souza- Capella University, 2005. Special Education Ph.D. learner

## MEMBERSHIPS

Arkansas Association of School Administrators

National Council for the Social Studies

Arkansas Council for the Social Studies

Florida Council for the Social Studies

## ENDORSEMENTS AND CERTIFICATES

Leadership Jonesboro Alumnus

Education Administration: Florida

Elementary Education (K-6): Florida

Secondary Education- Business and Social Sciences: Arkansas and Florida

Exceptional Student Education: Florida

Reading First Academy-Just Read: Florida

Advanced Placement United States History Instructor: College Board