

CAMILO A. SOTO

(813) 210-2319 | CAMILO.SOTO49@GMAIL.COM
HTTPS://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/IN/ATTYCAMILOSOTO

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant County Attorney, Manatee County, Bradenton, FL October 2020 – present

- Handles various intricate transactional issues for the county, including agreements for public improvements, the approval and modification of community development districts, and mining permitting;
- Reviews staff reports, ordinances and other documents related to development approval where county staff has identified legal issues or where the application requires legal review;
- Confers with county litigators when legal challenges to the county's land use decisions are filed in the circuit court, including conducting research, analysis, the legal review and drafting of pleadings, including appellate briefs, attendance at depositions and court hearings, as well as the negotiation of potential settlements;
- Consults with county staff focusing on land use matters, such as the interpretation and amendment of the county's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code, the review and interpretation of applicable state legislation, and environmental matters; and
- Advises the Board of County Commissioners, Planning Commission, and county staff during legislative/quasi-judicial hearings and appellate Department of Administrative Hearings.

Corporate Attorney, Avatar Property and Casualty Insurance, Tampa, FL June 2019 – October 2020

- Investigated, evaluated, negotiated, and resolved disputed insurance claims, applying construction law and real property development knowledge to ensure efficient resolution;
- Appeared as corporate representative at depositions, mediations, hearings, and trials;
- Conducted examinations under oath, and drafted claim determination letters, reservation-of-rights and other claim-related correspondence; and
- Worked closely with Avatar's legal team to develop litigation strategy.

Associate, Law Office of Thamir A.R. Kaddouri, P.A., Tampa, FL December 2018 – May 2019

- Drafted requests for interrogatories, requests for production, and requests for admissions in defending contractors involved in construction defect claims;
- Authored litigation reports assessing liability exposure for our clients and insurance companies;
- Deposed contractors, material suppliers, and developers; and
- Participated in complex motion practice related to design, construction, and material-related deficiency litigation.

Assistant City Attorney, City of Clearwater, Clearwater, FL May 2007 – February 2018

- Aided the city through several complex development/redevelopment issues, like the US 19 Corridor rezoning, Imagine Clearwater bluff master plan, medical marijuana dispensary zoning regulations, and Reed-related sign code revisions;
- Drafted complex leases between the city and Crabby Bill's Seafood, Inc., Marina Cantina, Inc., Saint Petersburg College, and Clearwater Ferry, Inc.;
- Defended an appeal for a reduction of a \$450,000.00 code enforcement fine, the largest in city history;
- Provided legal counsel to a multitude of Enterprise Fund city departments and the Planning/Development Services department;
- Reviewed and drafted modifications of the City's Development Code, Comprehensive Plan, and Code of Ordinances;

- Provided counsel on legal issues ranging from land use, zoning, long-range development, and procurement;
- Represented the city in 100+ administrative, quasi-judicial, and legislative hearings before the Department of Administrative Hearings, the City's Community Development Board and City Council; and
- Prosecuted violations of the City's Community Development Code before the city's Code Enforcement Board or Pinellas County court.

Assistant Public Defender, Public Defender's Office, Clearwater, FL Sept. 2006 – May 2007

- Represented criminal defendants facing incarceration by drafting motions to suppress, motions related to discovery issues, and motions related to evidentiary matters and advocated at their related hearings.

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Hillsborough County Bar Association, Member
- Manatee County Bar Association, Member
- American Planning Association, Member
- Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizen Advisory Committee, Hispanic-at-Large Representative 2019-2020
- Tampa Heights Civic Association, Election Committee Chairman 2019-2022

EDUCATION

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL May 2017
Master of Urban and Regional Planning

Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Lansing, MI May 2005
Juris Doctor, with concentration in Litigation

Honors/ Activities: Law Review-Senior Associate Editor and recipient of John Voelker Award; Moot Court Board-Cooley National Moot Court Team (State Competition); Intra-School Moot Court Competition-2nd Best Advocate & Semi-Finalist; First-Year Moot Court Competition-Best Advocate & Finalist; Institute of Int'l and Comparative Law, University of Paris at Sorbonne; and Dean's List (3) and Honor Roll (7).

Publication: *What's Black, Blue and Slimy All-Over? It's Toxic Mold. And, it Could Be Festering in Your Home. But Will You Be Fully Compensated For Your Exposure To It?*, 7 COOLEY J. PRAC. & CLINICAL L. 285 (2005)

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL August 2002
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, minor in International Studies

Honors: Dean's List and Honor Roll; Florida Bright Futures Scholarship; University of South Florida Honors Program/College; and Latino Honors Scholarship.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Florida Bar
 U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida