

**MARY CATHERINE BONNER**

*Attorney at Law*

**BONNER LAW OFFICES**

---

207 SW 12<sup>TH</sup> COURT ▪ FT. LAUDERDALE, FL ▪ 33315  
tel: (954) 523-6225 | fax: (954) 763-8986 | email: Kate@KateBonner.com

**PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

***PRIVATE PRACTICE OF LAW 1980-present***

Ms. Bonner has had the privilege of arguing a federal statutory construction case before the United States Supreme Court

She routinely handles complex, paper-intensive federal criminal trial, appellate and post conviction litigation.

Ms. Bonner has been involved in complex Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations Act and Continuing Criminal Enterprise litigation, both at the trial and the appellate level, handling cases of many months' trial duration and/or including tens of thousands of pages of documentary evidence and transcripts.

She has undertaken trial and post conviction representation in many Districts of the United States as well as having participated in collateral litigation--both alone and in conjunction with foreign counsel--in matters in the Republic of Liechtenstein, Anguilla, British West Indies, and New Zealand, among others.

In addition to membership in the integrated Bar of the State of Florida, Ms. Bonner is a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, as well as the Bars of the United States Courts of Appeals for the Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Eleventh Circuits as well as the Bar of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

She is a member of the Bar and the [former] Trial Bar of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida and a member of the Bars of both the Northern and Middle Districts of Florida, as well as of the Bars of the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas. She has litigated in the United States District Courts for, inter alia, the Southern District of Illinois, the Western District of Ohio, the Northern District of Iowa, and the Western District of Kentucky.

---

**REPRESENTATIVE CASES HANDLED BY MS. BONNER IN THE  
PRIVATE PRACTICE OF LAW 1980-PRESENT**

Is currently awaiting a decision on the grant of certiorari in the United States Supreme Court on an issue where the State intentionally interjected race into the sentencing trial. Because of the complexities of federal habeas corpus law, she

had to attack the current federal habeas corpus law which virtually enshrines the order of a state trial judge, an elected official.

Trial of an international businessman who was charged with a felony in the State of Montana, in all likelihood brought improper motives of law enforcement. State refused to entertain dismissal of the felony as part of a plea agreement. After a trial—where a linguist was a witness as to the interpretation of the wording of legislative enactment—that person was acquitted.

Direct Appeal of the denial of a Rule 3.850 motion in a death case from Central Florida where the hearing on the motion was held without the presence—for a part of the hearing—of the defendant.

Rule 3.850 (now 3.851) matter in South Florida from the imposition of the death penalty for the second time on a man charged with two separate murders, one of a police officer.

Habeas counsel for petitioner (Title 28 United States Code Section 2241 proceeding) in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida in a matter of first impression. Defendant had been acquitted at a State of Florida bench trial on the basis of insanity (old law); hospitalized; and, when he recovered, the State sought and won “vacatur” of the acquittal. This habeas litigation ensued. That gentleman was released.

Trial counsel for defendant accused of importation/distribution of 600,000 pounds of marijuana. Pre trial matters consumed approximately one year’s time; trial, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, lasted approximately sixteen weeks. Appellate counsel on that same matter in the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Extradition counsel for United States Citizen charged under Title 21, United States Code, Section 848 (Continuing Criminal Enterprise, then-possible sentence of life imprisonment). Utilizing local counsel admitted to practice before the Bar in Anguilla, British West Indies, succeeded in precluding extradition of the defendant to the United States for prosecution.

Trial counsel for defendant accused of laundering the proceeds from importation/distribution of 600,000 pounds of marijuana. (Related but separate trial from that in the Southern District of Illinois). Trial, which took place in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, lasted approximately thirteen weeks.

Counsel on direct appeal as well as on “invited” post-conviction Motion to Vacate Sentence (due to conflict of interest of trial counsel). The United States Court of

Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit recognized that a substantial problem had been raised on direct appeal but suggested that further development was necessary in the context of a Motion pursuant to Title 28 United States Code Section 2255. Such Petition was filed, supplemented with vast evidentiary submissions, yet denied without hearing. After Petitioner filed his second appeal, the Government confessed error. The petition was granted and the conviction vacated.

Representation of a lawyer whose conviction was based in large part on the conflict between the role of that person's trial counsel and that counsel's former role as the highest executive in the Office of the United States Attorney.

Representation on direct appeal of the conviction of a foreign lawyer who was extradited to the United States. Questions of international law and of the trial court's actions in requiring the gentleman to proceed to trial though his trial counsel was hospitalized are to be argued. He was then represented by inexperienced lawyers who had been retained solely to handle the coordination of witnesses and to research the extradition/Specialty issue.

Representation in a high profile case where the trial judge, at the urging of the Government, found that an unwritten joint defense agreement precluded the counsel for the defendant on trial from cross-examining the government witness who had been a party to the joint defense agreement. The preclusion was not entire, but affected vast areas of potential cross-examination and included the preclusion that no evidence learned, even about others, from the now-government witness could be used in the defense of the defendant on trial.

Counsel currently has pending a Motion to Vacate Sentence of a former elected law-enforcement officer where the defense presented its witness list to the Court which included the names of the former counsel of the defendant on trial. This is before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida at Gainesville. Those counsel had been disqualified due to a conflict of interest with a government witness. Mid-trial the government revealed that it was "investigating" those lawyers listed by the defense for "crimes." They refused to testify on the defendant's behalf.

Counsel currently has pending the appeal of a denial of a Motion pursuant to Rule 3.850. On direct appeal the substantial issues raised were resolved with a per curiam opinion. The trial judge denied the motion without granting leave for the movant to respond to the papers presented by the State.

Counsel also represents Federal and State Employees in Discrimination Actions.

**OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER, SOUTHERN  
DISTRICT OF FLORIDA 1979-1980**

Assistant Federal Public Defender. Handled cases from intake through appeal. This included conduct of bond hearings, preliminary hearings, the preparation, filing and litigation of pre-trial motions, conduct of the trial and sentencing, direct appeal--including oral argument--and petitions for Certiorari to the United States Supreme Court.

Handled Motions to Vacate Sentence, previously filed pro se by prisoners, after appointment of the Office of the Public Defender by the Court. This included amendment of deficient petitions, requests for discovery, resistance to Government or State motions for Summary Judgment or to Dismiss or both, investigation, preparation for hearing, conduct of evidentiary hearing, filing of objections to Reports and Recommendations of Magistrates (now Magistrate Judges) to United States District Judges. Also included was obtaining leave to proceed to the United States Court of Appeals and litigation, including oral argument, at that level.

**EDUCATION**

University of Miami School of Law  
University of Florida

Juris Doctor, cum laude, 1979  
Bachelor of Arts, 1966