

CHANAE L. WOOD

PARTNER

Ft. Lauderdale
(954) 763-4242
cwood@wsh-law.com

Chanae serves as City Attorney for Miami Shores Village, providing legal counsel on a broad range of municipal and governmental matters. She also represents developers and governmental entities in land use, zoning and general government matters. She has extensive experience counseling municipal clients on compliance with public records, sunshine law and ethics, and matters dealing with comprehensive planning, procurement, utilities, administrative, and constitutional law.

Chanae also assists developers and private property owners as they navigate the intricacies of the development review process, including securing approvals for affordable housing developments. Her representation of clients often begins with pre-acquisition due diligence and extends through the permitting and legislative processes required to develop a property.

As an advocate for land use and affordable housing, Chanae is passionate about addressing housing challenges and helping her clients bring transformative projects to life. She is widely recognized for her strategic insights and unwavering commitment to supporting developers and entrepreneurs as they shape thriving communities.

Prior to law school, Chanae worked for Miami-Dade County

PRACTICE AREAS

- Municipal Counsel
- Public Sector Land Use and Zoning
- Private Sector Land Use and Zoning
- Wireless and Telecommunications
- Governmental Affairs and Procurement
- Special Counsel to Local Government
- Constitutional Challenges
- Governmental Actions and Defense
- Real Estate, Land Use and Zoning Disputes

Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan as a Commission aide and for Florida State Senator Oscar Braynon, II as a legislative aide. She also interned for Congresswoman Federica Wilson in Washington D.C.

A graduate of St. Thomas University School of Law, Chanae's professional and community involvement includes her current role as the 2026 President-Elect of the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Miami-Dade County.

In addition to her legal practice, Wood is a strong advocate for wellness in the professional space. She emphasizes the importance of fostering a balanced and fulfilling lifestyle, inspiring those around her to prioritize holistic well-being.

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Selected to 2023 class of the ULI Southeast Florida/Caribbean Leadership Institute
- Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. Bar Association, Group I Director, 2020-2021 Executive Board
- Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association, 2016 - Present
- American Planning Association, Broward Section, 2019-2020 Member At-Large
- St. Thomas University School of Law Young Lawyer's Division Council, 2019 - Present

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Lawdragon, 500 X – The Next Generation guide, 2026
- Legacy Miami, Most Powerful & Influential Business Leaders, 2026
- Daily Business Review Florida Legal Awards, On the Rise, 2026
- 36 Under Thirty-Six Professionalism Award, Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, 2026
- Legacy Miami, 40 Under 40 Award, 2025
- Florida *Super Lawyers*, Rising Star, 2023-present
- University of Florida Association of Black Alumni South Florida Chapter, Gator Greats Gator First Award, February 2019
- First Black Law Review Editor-in-Chief, *Certificate of Recognition,* Miami-Dade County, 2017

PUBLICATIONS

- "Black and Poor: The Grave Consequences of Utah v. Strieff," St. Thomas Law Review, 2017

- Nonprofit Organizations
- Investigations & Audits of Governmental Agencies
- Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technology

ADMISSIONS

Florida, 2018

EDUCATION

St. Thomas University School of Law, J.D., 2018

- CALI Book Awards: Legal Research & Writing, Advanced Legal Research & Writing, Advanced Legal Skills; Dean's List (all semesters); Pro Bono Commendation, Over 100 service hours

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University of Florida, 2013

- Bachelor of Science Degree in Family, Youth, & Community Sciences and minors in Public Leadership and International Studies & Humanitarian Assistance

PRESENTATIONS

- *Vibrant Voices: Women of Color Driving Success*, KNOW Summit, April 13, 2026
- *The Hero's Reward: Crafting a Legacy of Influence*, 10th annual Black Professionals Summit, November 22, 2024
- *Real Talk, Real Estate,* Something at the Table, August 2024
- *Webinar: State-mandated ethics training for Government officials,* Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman, December 2023
- *First Amendment Liability Concerns for Disruptive Public Meetings*, International Municipal Lawyers Association's 2022 Mid-Year Seminar, April 11, 2022
- *Women's History Month Luncheon,* Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman, March 2022
- *A Journey Through Black History,* Miami Dade Bar, February 23, 2022
- *How to create impactful and sustainable DEI Programs in law firms*, International Municipal Lawyers Association, January 25, 2022
- "Virtual Hispanic Heritage Month Presentation with Florida Supreme Court Justice John D. Couriel," Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman, October 12, 2021
- *How Do We Mobilize? Understanding Your Right to Protest*, Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association, May 2021
- *Women's History Month Conference*, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman, March 2021
- *Substantive Law Series: Municipal Law*, Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. Bar Association, February 2021
- *Legal Issues Surrounding COVID-19 Vaccination and Black and Minority Communities*, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman, February 2021

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PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- *Miami Legacy 40 Under 40*, MIA Media Group LLC, 2025
- Florida *Super Lawyers*, Rising Star, 2023-present
- University of Florida Association of Black Alumni South Florida Chapter, Gator Greats Gator First Award, February 2019
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PUBLICATIONS

- "How One Law Firm Is Redefining DEI and Shaping the Next Generation of Young Attorneys," Daily Business Review, July 18, 2023
- "Black and Poor: The Grave Consequences of Utah v. Strieff," St. Thomas Law Review, 2017

PRESS MENTIONS

- *In Her Own Words: For Chanae Wood, justice means being true to the law and to herself*, The Business Journals, July 9, 2026
- *From Storybooks to Self-Care: Chanae Returns to Inside South Florida to Share Her Wellness Journey*, WSFL News, January 13, 2026
- *Lost your job? South Florida conference gives women tools to reflect and rebuild*, NBC 6, January 20, 2026
- *WSHC+B Names Several New Partners*, CityBiz, January 16, 2025
- *How A Midsize Law Firm Is Making A Big Splash In DEI*, Law360, December 1, 2022
- *Weiss Serota D&I Chair On Launching Legal Pipeline Program*, Law360, March 05, 2021
- *Coral Gables Law Firm, Florida Memorial University Announce Joint Talent 'Pipeline' for Black Lawyers*, Daily Business Review, March 04, 2021
- *"Beyond Statements: A Call to Action After the Death of George Floyd"*, Daily Business Review, June 2020

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- *The Hero's Reward: Crafting a Legacy of Influence*, 10th annual Black Professionals Summit, November 22, 2024
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