

Since 2001, Michelle Jorge has concentrated in the specialized areas of Guardianships, Trusts and Estates, Elder Law, Estate Planning, and Special Needs Trust Planning. She represents fiduciaries, guardians, beneficiaries, and disabled clients and their families, in both contested and uncontested matters. Michelle's commitment to these practice areas arises out of her compassion and relentless pursuit of cost-effective justice for her clients.

Michelle routinely represents clients in litigated and routine guardianships, representing professional guardians, fiduciaries, and family members. She regularly initiates incapacity proceedings for incapacitated adults or minors. Michelle is often appointed by the Circuit Court to represent alleged incapacitated persons through the complex mental health and guardianship process.

Michelle is active in trust and probate litigation, successfully defending corporate trustees in breach of fiduciary claims. She also resolves trust construction disputes in favor of her clients and uses alternative dispute resolution strategies that favorably resolve litigated matters. Michelle approaches legal issues in a practical, results oriented manner.

In addition to her legal background, Michelle served as a Vice President for a large, national banking institution. In her work for that institution, she was part of a specialty team, administering Guardianship and Special Needs Trust matters for the bank's clients. Her years in banking provide her valuable insight into fiduciary practices from the institutional perspective.

Michelle has lectured to a variety of groups, including the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys, as well as various advocacy groups consisting of parents, professional guardians, and trustees. In addition to lecturing, Michelle enjoys teaching and has served as an Adjunct Professor at Miami-Dade College, teaching Legal Writing in the Legal Assistant Program. Michelle participates in pro-bono activities, focusing her attention on issues impacting minority groups and children.

Michelle completed her undergraduate studies in Finance, graduating from Florida International University *magna cum laude* in 1998. She then graduated *with honors* from the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law in 2001. During law school, Michelle served as a Judicial Extern for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida and worked at the State Attorney's Office handling multiple trials. Michelle completed all her academic studies, at both the undergraduate and graduate level, with full merit scholarships.

Michelle is a native of Miami and speaks and writes Spanish fluently. Michelle enjoys spending time with her family and is an avid cruiser.