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## ***Biography of Bruce B. Blackwell, Esquire King, Blackwell, Downs & Zehnder, P.A.***

A third generation Floridian, Bruce B. Blackwell was raised in rural Marion County, was a high school valedictorian and graduated from Florida State University with a B.A. in 1968, where he received numerous leadership honors and awards including the Hall of Fame, Omicron Delta Kappa, Order of Omega, Gold Key, service as Senior Class President, Outstanding Senior of his fraternity, and Founding Chair of the first Student Alumni Association. After graduation he served as an officer in the United States Air Force with distinction, initiated the first Interracial Council on any USAF base in the United States and was named to *Outstanding Young Men of America*, 1972 edition. In his last two years of active duty he served as the protocol aide to Vice Admiral Walter H. Baumberger, Commander, United States Taiwan Defense Command in Taipei, Taiwan. He returned to Florida State in 1972 to pursue a law degree and worked as an administrative aide to the Comptroller of the State of Florida, a statewide elected Cabinet officer, during his first year, and later clerked for two prominent Tallahassee law firms during his second and third years of law school. While in law school he received a number of American Jurisprudence book awards signifying the highest academic average in his class, and graduated with Honors. He was named the most outstanding male student leader at Florida State University. Before entering a private trial practice in 1981, he was an attorney for Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Co., and later an antitrust attorney with AT&T. He was the youngest lawyer asked to be a member of the trial team in the antitrust suit to break up the Bell System. He then spent almost a year with SunBanks of Florida, Inc. during a period of rapid expansion to a statewide banking system. He is now a partner with the six lawyer law firm of King, Blackwell, Downs & Zehnder, P.A., which specializes in complicated civil litigation. He has been admitted to practice in Florida, Georgia, and New York, formerly served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Woodrow Wilson College of Law in Atlanta, Georgia, and is a frequent lecturer at seminars on legal ethics and substantial trial related seminars within the profession. He is presently the Counselor and Master to the First Central Florida Inn of Court, a legal society dedicated to promoting professionalism and civility in the practice of law. In March 2003, Mr. Blackwell was the second member of his firm to receive the annual Orange County Bar Association's William Trickel Professionalism Award. Mr. Blackwell has recently been named to *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2006 and 2007 Editions, and the *Orlando Business Journal's* "Best of the Bar" for 2006.

Mr. Blackwell has previously served as the President of the Orange County Bar Association, Chair of its first Gender Bias Committee, Chair of the Ninth Circuit's Grievance

Committee, Chair of the Ninth Circuit's Fee Arbitration Committee, and from 1998 - 2001 as the Co-Chair of the Orange County Bar Association Fair Judicial Campaign Practices Committee.

He formerly served on the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar ("BOG") from 1994-98. He previously chaired The Florida Bar's (TFB) 1986 Mid-Year Meeting, and The Florida Bar Annual Meeting for 1997. He was Co-Chair for the BOG Disciplinary Review Committee, and liaison for the Practice Management Section and The Equal Opportunities in the Profession Committee. During his BOG service, he also chaired The Solo and Small Firm Special Committee. He was previously appointed by the Florida Supreme Court to its Pro Bono Services Committee overseeing pro bono services statewide, and by the former Chief Justice in 1998 to serve on a committee to study the need for additional District Courts of Appeal. In late 2006, he was appointed by the current Chief Justice to serve on the Chief Justice's Advisory Committee.

He has served as a member of The Florida Bar Foundation Board of Directors since 1998 and helps oversee the disbursement of more than 40 million dollars in legal aid grants statewide each year on behalf of the lawyers of Florida. He is presently the President-Elect, Chairs the Legal Assistance for the Poor/Law Student Assistance Grant Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee, is a member of the Foundation's Executive Committee, the Development Committee, and for several years was a Chair of the Administration of Justice Committee recommending grants for systemic legal issues in Florida. In 2002, he received The Foundation's President's Award for Excellence.

He was honored with the 1996 Judge J. C. "Jake" Stone Legal Aid Society Distinguished Service Award which represents the annual outstanding pro bono service award for the Ninth Circuit, and received the President of the Florida Bar's 1997 pro bono service award for the Ninth Circuit. He was honored by The Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL) with its annual 1998 Friend of FAWL Award. He is also profiled in *Who's Who in American Law* since 1996, *Who's Who in America*, and in July 2004, July 2005 and January 2006, was named by *Florida Trend* magazine on the first three statewide lawyer peer reviews as one of the state's "Legal Elite" representing the top 2% of lawyers practicing in Florida.

He is presently a member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee for Lawyers Action, a statewide PAC for Florida lawyers to ensure fair and impartial courts and protect the core values of the legal profession and practice of law.

Mr. Blackwell has previously served as the National President of the Florida State University Alumni Association, is currently President of The Florida State University College of Law Alumni Association, was formerly Chair of the Winter Park Civil Service Board, President of the Orlando Touchdown Club, a member of the Session for First Presbyterian Church of Orlando (FPCO), Chair of its Nominating Committee and Congregational Life Commission, and will serve in 2007 as the FPCO Dean of its College of Elders. He has

previously served on numerous other civic and religious boards over the past twenty-five years in the greater Orlando area.

Mr. Blackwell has been married for more than 37 years to Julie McMillan Blackwell, and together they have two daughters, Blair Allison Blackwell, a 1996 graduate of Princeton University, and Brooke Blackwell Castino, a 2000 graduate of Vanderbilt University.