



**Craig Schaeffer** has been a prosecutor with the **12th Judicial Circuit** since 1993. He graduated from Barry University in 1990 Summa Cum Laude and then attended law school at the University of Florida, where he graduated with honors. He started his prosecution career in the Misdemeanor Division in Manatee County and was promoted to the Felony Division in Sarasota in 1995. He was promoted to the **Child Sex Crimes Unit** in early 2000, where **he prosecuted some of the worst child predators in the circuit**. He successfully prosecuted some of the first sexually violent predator cases under the new Jimmy Ryce Act in the early 2000s. He also prosecuted dozens of homicide cases, including the high-profile death penalty case of Carlie Brucia, who was kidnapped, sexually battered, and murdered by Joseph Smith. He was promoted to the position of **Felony Division Chief** in 2004, and to **Chief Assistant State Attorney** in 2013, where he continues to serve.

In 2013, Craig was instrumental in setting up one of the nation's first prostitution court diversion programs to help women who were charged with prostitution offenses and were victims of human trafficking. Craig helped morph this program into a specialty court program in 2016, which was the **first devoted human trafficking court in the State of Florida and one of the first nationally**. Craig has helped **train other law enforcement agencies, state attorney's offices, and judges**, both in Florida and nationally, in setting up similar therapeutic human trafficking court programs. He has been **Board Certified by the Florida Bar in Criminal Trial Law** since 2004 and **teaches criminal law and criminal procedure and evidence** as an adjunct professor at the State College of Florida since 2001. He also continues to **teach new recruits at the police academy, as well as advanced courses in Child Sexual Abuse investigations to seasoned law enforcement personnel**. He has always been very involved in the local legal community, volunteering as a teen court judge, as a Board member on the local bar association, and a member and Past President of the John Scheb American Inn of Court.