

### **Bernie de la Rionda**

Bernie de la Rionda has been an attorney since 1983. In 2018 he retired after serving thirty-five years as an Assistant State Attorney (prosecutor) with the State Attorney 's Office, Fourth Judicial Circuit, Florida. In 2019 he returned to the State Attorney's Office and works part-time prosecuting death penalty trials and ineffective assistance of counsel evidentiary hearings. In addition to working part-time he is in the process of writing a book.

Mr. de la Rionda graduated *cum laude* from the University of Miami, Florida in 1980, and received his law degree from Florida State University in 1982.

As an Assistant State Attorney, Mr. de la Rionda maintained an active murder caseload while a member of the Homicide Unit for thirty-two years. He also served as Senior Homicide Advisor, Senior Managing Director, Director of the Homicide / Major Crimes Division, Grand Jury Advisor, Director of Circuit Court and Director of the Repeat Offender Courts; Division Chief of Nassau County and Division Chief of the Public Corruption Unit; as well as a trial attorney in the Felony, Sexual Assault and County Divisions. Mr. de la Rionda also was cross sworn as an Assistant United States Attorney.

Mr. de la Rionda won the State Attorney's Office First Annual Distinguished Service Award in 1991, the Fourth Annual Jury Trial Award in 1993, and in 2009 the Meritorious Service Award. He received other honors, including the Mayor's Victim's Rights Award in 1999, the Justice Coalition's Government Agency Award in 2009, the FBI's Director Community Leadership Award in 2010, and in 2013 the Board of Directors Advocacy Award from the Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation.

Mr. de la Rionda has tried over two-hundred and fifty felony jury trials, including one hundred murder trials (forty-eight involving the death penalty).

He has talked to prosecutors, law enforcement, law, college and high school students, and citizen groups in the areas of the Constitution, Death Penalty, Homicide Prosecution and Investigation, Grand Jury, Justifiable use of Deadly Force (Self-Defense), Officer Involved Shootings, Career Criminals, Jury Selection, Prosecuting High-Profile cases, Opening Statement, Closing Argument, Cross-examination, Trial Preparation, Repeat Offender Courts, Career Criminal Laws, Public Corruption, Victims' Rights, and Search and Seizure issues.