

# CITY, COUNTY and LOCAL GOVERNMENT Law Section

A Section of The Florida Bar

## Member Spotlight

Meet **Brijesh Patel**, Assistant County Attorney, at the Seminole County Attorney's Office and current Chair of the Student Education/Admissions to the Bar Committee of the Florida Bar. Brijesh has worked in the legal departments of Universal Orlando and Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy. In local government, Brijesh has been with the Seminole County Attorney's Office for almost a year and has previously worked at the Pinellas County Attorney's Office for about three years. Brijesh has practiced in the areas of human rights, purchasing, animal services, and building and currently practices in the areas of information technology, community services, purchasing, and grants. Let's hear what Mr. Patel had to say during our Member Spotlight interview!



**What was your first job?** My very first job starting in high school was as a food stocker at Universal Orlando. Right before I applied, Universal had changed their policy so you had to be 18 years old in order to work in rides; thus, I started off as a food stocker and then eventually transferred to work at a kids ride at Islands of Adventure. Although the pay was as you would expect for a first job, this job truly taught me the meaning of hard work. While I started off as a food stocker at Universal, I ultimately worked there as an attractions attendant, a trainer, a lead, a contracts representative, and a contracts administrator, over the course of 12 years!

**What do you like most about being a local government lawyer?** As cliché as it sounds, I enjoy the fact that my work makes a direct, positive impact in the community. I have had the pleasure of working with an incredibly smart group of peers at both the Pinellas County Attorney's Office and now, the Seminole County Attorney's Office, who care about each other, personally and professionally.

**To date, what professional achievement are you most proud of?** I would say being assigned all things related to the CARES Act. It has been a tremendous undertaking in preparing multiple forms of agreements, researching, and answering questions from staff, but I take great pride in the responsibility to ensure the county is protected and to help further staff's goal of helping those impacted by Covid-19 in the community.

**What is one thing someone meeting you for the first time would never suspect, or be surprised to find out?** I have played recreational basketball with multiple ex-NBA players!

**What are some of your favorite hobbies?** I love playing (and watching) basketball and I enjoy all things related to fitness. Prior to Covid-19, I used to play basketball ~4x a week. To me, it's something that I can do and forget about all the stressors in life happening at the moment. I am also very competitive so the chase to win drives me.