

Josefina “Josie” Tamayo

Josie Tamayo was born in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. After Fidel Castro took control of the country, she and her parents fled Cuba, immigrating to the United States, and settled in Milledgeville, Georgia. She received her bachelor's degree from Emory University and her law degree from Georgia State University.

Ms. Tamayo has an extensive background (33 years) as a public servant. She has served as an Assistant States Attorney, General Counsel for five state agencies (Department of Children and Families, Department of Health, Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Department of Management Services, and the Lottery) and served as the First Cuban American Woman appointed to serve as Circuit Judge on the Second Judicial Circuit.

In 2012, Ms. Tamayo received the Distinguished Service Award from the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency recognizing her commitment to the betterment of society. Ms. Tamayo is also an active volunteer in the community; she mentors young lawyers, and regularly speaks at community events, sharing her story and inspiring others.