



**Jessica Bates** graduated from Mississippi College in 2008 and Mississippi College School of Law in 2011. She returned to the Gulf Coast after graduation and began serving as a Judicial Staff Attorney in the Sixteenth District Chancery Court. In 2018, she began serving as Judicial Staff Attorney in the Nineteenth District Circuit Court. During her time as Staff Attorney in Circuit and Chancery Court, she worked for a total of nine different judges. Presently, Jessica is the Family Defender for the Jackson County Youth Court. Jessica resides in Ocean Springs with her husband and son.