



# SOLOMON ESTIFANOS GONITE

## MILITARY CAREER

Solomon Estifanos Gonite was born in Rochester, New York. Immediately upon graduating from high school, Mr. Gonite, along with his twin brother Samuel, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in July 1996. He was only 17 years old at the time. He attended boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, continuing onto Marine Combat Training school at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina, where he graduated in the top 5%, earning a *Meritorious Mast*.

Upon completing Marine Combat Training school, he began training in military occupational specialty (MOS) as a Communications Intelligence Intercept Operator/Analyst. Mr. Gonite graduated from basic and advance Morse Intelligence School at the joint intelligence training center located at Fort Huachuca, Arizona as the *Honor Graduate*. Thereafter, he attended Communications Signal School at Corry Naval Station in Pensacola, Florida, earning *Marine of the Quarter*.

While completing MOS training, at 2<sup>nd</sup> Radio Battalion at Camp Lejeune, he participated in peace-time exercises in Norway, and in England training alongside the British Royal Marines.

From Oct. 1999 to the end of his enlistment, Mr. Gonite served as a Marine Security Guard—“Ambassador in Blue” and was selected for Marine Security Guard Duty, holding a top secret security clearance. He also served at the United States Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Mr. Gonite received an Honorable discharge from the United States Marine Corps in June of 2002.

## EDUCATION

Upon separating from the Marine Corps, Mr. Gonite attended the University of Florida, earning a Bachelor (w/ *Honors*) and a Master in Accounting. Thereafter, he became a Certified Public Accountant and worked at a regional accounting firm practicing both tax and auditing.

Subsequently, he felt the call to attend bible school and, therefore, attended Rhema Bible College in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma from September 2008 to May 2011. In addition to his studies, Mr. Gonite served as an usher and volunteered with the prison ministry.

Upon completing Bible College, Mr. Gonite attended law school at Florida State University from August 2011 to May 2014, receiving the *Mason Ladd merit scholar*. While attending law school, he served as the Senior Articles Editor, Journal of Transnational Law & Policy and a member of both the Christian Legal Society and the Black Law Students Association. He was the recipient of the Business Law Certificate (signifying advanced training in core business-law courses) and at the same time, clerked for the Honorable Chief Judge Karen Specie of the United State Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Florida; and Parks & Crump Law Firm. Mr. Gonite graduated with his Juris Doctor degree in May of 2014.

## EMPLOYMENT

Upon completing law school, Mr. Gonite accepted employment with the State of Florida Auditor General Office; auditing school boards and colleges and universities.

## INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Mr. Gonite is currently active in Christianity, martial arts (specifically, jiu-jitsu), and developing business opportunities.