

Deratany himself testified about his conduct.

1. Deratany admitted he had not spent much time preparing

In **Greenwood v. Secretary, Department of Corrections**, the federal appellate record states that immediately before trial, Deratany told the court that **he had not spent much time working on the case because he expected it to be resolved through a plea agreement.**

That is particularly significant because the subsequent post-conviction claim alleged ineffective assistance based on failures including:

- failing to depose witnesses;
- failing to test the firearm for fingerprints/DNA;
- failing to interview potential witnesses; and
- failing to call witnesses who allegedly could have provided exculpatory evidence.

The federal record also specifically says that **Deratany testified at the Rule 3.850 evidentiary hearing.**

So there is an actual evidentiary record of **Deratany explaining his representation**, rather than merely somebody accusing him of ineffective assistance.

2. His explanation for the lack of preparation

The most important statement I've located so far is essentially:

Deratany told the court that he **“had not spent much time working on the case”** because he hoped it would be resolved through a plea agreement.

That's important because it provides a contemporaneous explanation for the alleged deficient preparation: **he was expecting a plea resolution rather than preparing the case as though it would go to trial.**

The State's three-year plea offer was apparently withdrawn after Deratany contacted a supervisor in the State Attorney's Office, and the case proceeded to trial.

3. His disciplinary problems provide additional context

The Florida Bar's records are even more direct about the conduct underlying his discipline. In March 2011, the Bar sought an emergency suspension, alleging that Deratany appeared to be causing **“great public harm”** through abandoning clients, failing to appear at hearings, and stating that he was unable to continue representing clients.

Then, in the May 2011 disciplinary matter, the Bar reported that he had repeatedly failed to maintain adequate communication with clients, failed to appear for a civil trial without notifying

the court or client about his conflict with a criminal case, and made disparaging remarks about another defense attorney during a recorded conversation with an incarcerated former client.

And in September 2011, he was **permanently disbarred** after failing to comply with the March suspension order.

Why I think the Greenwood record is especially important for you

If you're investigating **Todd Deratany's representation of Larry Goodman**, I would not stop at newspaper articles.

The strongest evidence would be:

Deratany's actual testimony under oath → his explanation for his representation → the client's allegations → the court's findings → the disciplinary record.