







Michael J. Corso

Stockholder - Fort Myers Office

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Overview

Michael J. Corso is Board Certified (by both The Florida Bar and the National Board of Trial Advocacy) in Civil Trial Law and Business Litigation. He is past chair for the **Tort and Insurance Litigation** practice area. Mike's current civil trial practice area is heavily involved in the defense of non-medical professionals, including lawyers, accountants, architects, engineers and surveyors, copyright/trademark infringement, product liability and also more general tort defense matters in litigation.

Mike frequently writes and speaks on issues regarding the defense of non-medical professionals, law office risk management issues, and drones to members of the public as well as to bar associations, attorneys, accountants, architects, and engineers. His most recent article was published with AIA Trust, "**An Architect's Guide to Using Drones**." He has appeared throughout the United States in programs sponsored by professional associations, bar associations, clients and educational institutions.

Mike has been recognized throughout his career, including the Outstanding Aerospace Engineer Award by **Purdue University's School of Aeronautics & Astronautics** (2011), the **Florida Defense Lawyers Association** President's Award, and the **Defense Research Institute's** Exceptional Performance Citation. He's been honored by **Florida Super Lawyers®** magazine every year since 2007 and was named to the **Top 100** list of lawyers in Florida for his work in professional malpractice defense in years 2019-2021. Mike was previously named the "Personal Injury Defense Litigation Lawyer of the Year in Fort Myers" in 2017. **Naples Illustrated** named Mike a "Top Lawyer" in legal malpractice law and product liability litigation (2018-2021). **Florida Trend magazine's Legal Elite®** (2009-2012, 2016-2017), and Best Lawyers in America (2012-2022) have also named him.

Mike was born and raised in the Philadelphia area. After admission to the Pennsylvania Bar and private practice there, he moved to Florida in 1974 as a member of the United States Air Force. After serving four years in the Air Force's JAG program as a special prosecutor, Mike moved to the Fort Myers area in 1978 with his wife Sandra.

Professional and Civic Affiliations

Mike is very active in a number of professional associations, including the **Lee County Bar Association** (president, 1985), the **Collier County Bar Association**, the **American Bar Association** (member of Tort and Insurance Law Practice Committee), the **Federal Bar Association**, **Defense Research Institute**, the **Florida Defense Lawyers Association** (past president), **Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel**, **American Institute of Architects** (allied member) and the **Florida Engineering Society** (associate member). Mike is also a member of The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Boosters Club of the City of Palms Annual High School Basketball Tournament, **Purdue University Industrial Advisory Council** and American Legion, Florida Post 400.

Practice Areas

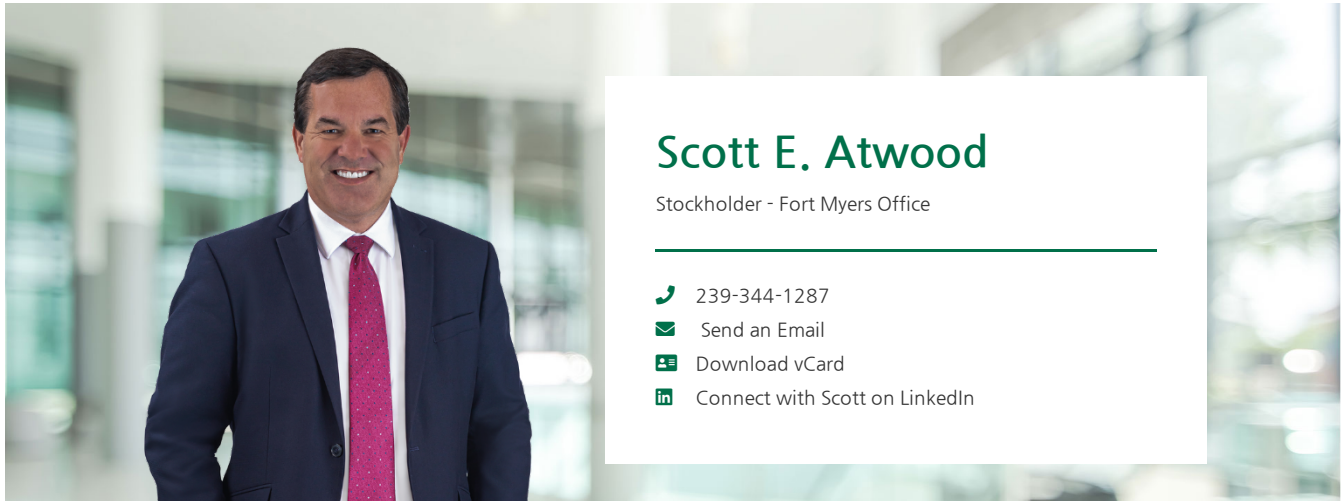
- ▶ Tort & Insurance
- ▶ Intellectual Property
- ▶ Enforcement and Litigation

Education

- ▶ Purdue University, B.S.
- ▶ Villanova University, J.D.
- ▶ Admitted to The Florida Bar
- ▶ Admitted to The Pennsylvania Bar





News & Insights

- ▶ Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 39 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"
- ▶ 20 Henderson Franklin Attorneys Recognized as 2021 Florida Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- ▶ Michael Corso presented "Avoiding Legal Malpractice" at the FDIA's Liability Claims Conference



Scott E. Atwood

Stockholder - Fort Myers Office

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Overview

Scott is Chair of the firm's Labor and **Employment Law** group. From complex labor and employment counseling and litigation to general business matters, he has been representing the interests of entrepreneurs, public entities, and businesses of all sizes throughout the United States, including Florida and Georgia, for more than 25 years.

More specifically, Scott has extensive experience in all aspects of employment law, including Title VII, ADA, ADEA, and Section 1983 discrimination, harassment, and retaliation matters, FMLA leaves issues, and FLSA and state law wage situations. He also assists his clients in whistleblower claims and non-compete, non-solicitation, trade secret, and contract disputes. With regard to general corporate matters, he prepares employment agreements, operating and shareholder agreements, restrictive covenant (non-compete, non-solicitation, confidentiality) agreements, and business contracts.

Scott also brings his expertise as a Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil **Mediator** to facilitate a resolution as an alternative to lengthy and expensive litigation. As Chair of the **Florida Bar's Labor and Employment Section**, Scott is extremely active in helping formulate and implement legal policy on both the state and local level. He is admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in Florida, Georgia, and the District of Columbia, including U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida.

Scott has repeatedly been recognized as a **Florida Super Lawyer** in labor and employment law. In 2020 and 2021, Naples Illustrated named Scott a "Top Lawyer". Previously, he was recognized by Atlanta Super Lawyers as a "Rising Star" in labor and employment law. While attending law school, Scott was elected Editor-in-Chief of the **Florida Journal of International Law** and was awarded the President's Award for outstanding service to the University. He now serves on the College of Law's Alumni Council.

Scott also contributes to the **Southwest Florida Business and IP Blog**. His posts include:

- ▶ **When do employers need to pay overtime?**
- ▶ **Supreme Court Holds that Civil Rights Law Covers LGBT Employees**
- ▶ **DOL's Initial Families First Guidance Throws Some Curveballs; Effective Date Now April 1**
- ▶ **Florida Jury Finds in Favor of Employer in Paralegal's Overtime Trial**

When not working, Scott enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, and watching New England sports.

Practice Areas

- ▶ Employment
- ▶ Mediation & Arbitration
- ▶ Business Litigation

Education

- ▶ Dartmouth College, B.A., *with honors*
- ▶ University of Florida College of Law, J.D.
- ▶ College of William & Mary, M.A.
- ▶ Admitted to The Florida, Georgia and District of Columbia Bars

News & Insights

- ▶ **Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 39 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"**
- ▶ **Scott Atwood Sworn in as Chair of The Florida Bar Labor & Employment Section**
- ▶ **20 Henderson Franklin Attorneys Recognized as 2021 Florida Super Lawyers and Rising Stars**

Professional and Civic Affiliations





Scott devotes countless hours to the community. Currently, he is on the Executive Council (and past President) of the **Lee County Bar Association Foundation**, is Chair of the **Sidney & Berne Davis Arts Center** Board of Directors, and is a member of the **UF Law Alumni Council**. He is also a member of the **Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce** Leadership Class (2017).

Scott previously served on the Florida Bar's **Board of Governors**, including its Executive Council and Disciplinary Committee; was President of the Florida Bar's Young Lawyers Division and its Out-of-State Division; was Vice-Chair of the Florida Bar's Continuing Legal Education Committee; was President of the Lee County Bar Association; and, was Chair of the Small Firm Section of the Atlanta Bar Association. He is a former member of the 20th Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee, Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, and the Florida Bar's inaugural Diversity Committee. Scott also served on the Allocations Committee for Lee County United Way, on the Executive Committee of the **Dartmouth Club of Georgia**, and was a Barrister in the Calusa Inns of Court.



Robert C. Shearman

Stockholder - Fort Myers Office

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Overview

Robert C. Shearman is the immediate past chair of the **Tort and Insurance Litigation** Department, is **Board Certified in Civil Trial Law**, and is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Civil **Mediator**. He concentrates his practice in the defense of **tort**, civil rights, **employment**, and **real estate** claims.

Bob represents public and private entities with respect to constitutional claims, wrongful termination, discrimination, and harassment matters. He also represents law enforcement agencies and officers and serves as attorney for the Lee County Sheriff's Office Civil Service Board. Additionally, Bob handles civil litigation and administrative actions defending errors and omissions claims for real estate professionals. In addition to litigating in state and federal court, he practices extensively before federal, state and administrative agencies.

Bob provides preventative harassment and discrimination training for employers frequently lectures on law enforcement liability, employment law, real estate, and tort litigation, and has been published in employment law journals. He also is a regular speaker at **Henderson Franklin's HR Law & Solutions** educational seminar. Prior to working with Henderson Franklin, Bob practiced maritime law in Miami, Florida, representing vessel insurers, manufacturers, and shipyards.

Recognition throughout Bob's career has included being honored by **Florida Super Lawyers**® magazine every year since 2012, **Best Lawyers in America**® (2017-2022), and **Naples Illustrated** "Top Lawyers" (2021). He is married with three children. When not working, he enjoys cycling, golfing, boating and watching Florida State University sports.

Professional and Civic Affiliations

In the community, Bob is a member of the cabinet and Board of Directors of the **United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee, Inc.** and served as the 2019 Campaign Co-Chair. He was elected to several terms as president of his homeowners' association and of the **Southwest Florida Seminole Club**, where he currently serves on the Board of Directors. Bob is an alumnus of Leadership Lee County, a former Big Brother, and served as a trustee of the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium. He has organized numerous golf and fishing tournaments to benefit local charities.

Bob is a past president of the Southwest Florida Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and a former member of the Inns of Court, Calusa Chapter.

Practice Areas

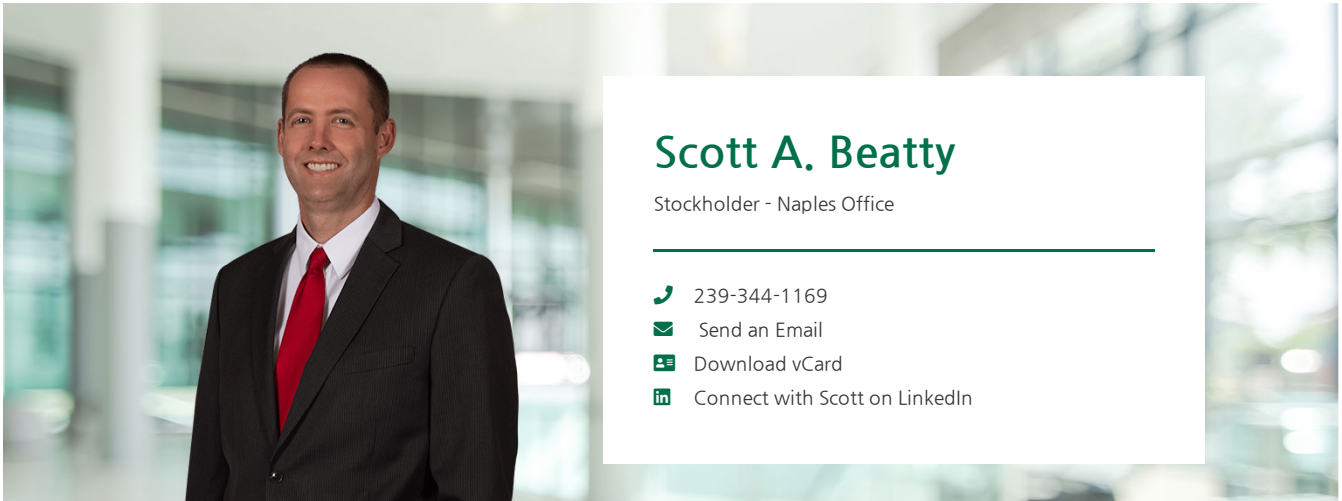
- ▶ Employee Benefits and Employment Contracts
- ▶ Fort Myers Employment Law
- ▶ Mediation & Arbitration
- ▶ Real Estate Litigation
- ▶ Tort & Insurance
- ▶ Real Estate Litigation

Education

- ▶ Emory University, B.A.
- ▶ Florida State University, J.D., *with honors*
- ▶ Admitted to the Florida Bar





News & Insights

- ▶ Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 39 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"
- ▶ 20 Henderson Franklin Attorneys Recognized as 2021 Florida Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- ▶ 18 Henderson Franklin Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® 2021



Scott A. Beatty

Stockholder - Naples Office

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Overview

Scott concentrates his practice in the areas of civil, business and commercial **litigation**, including **real estate litigation**, boundary and border disputes, business torts, **construction and lien law litigation**, contract disputes, collections, foreclosures, and **title insurance** claims.

In addition, he represents insurance carriers, third-party administrators, and employers in the defense of **workers' compensation** claims. Scott also handles **appellate cases** throughout the State of Florida. He is admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida, as well as the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Scott also speaks and writes on construction-related topics. His most recent articles include:

- ▶ **How to Pay Twice for Your Construction Project**
- ▶ **Florida's Construction Lien Law: It's Neither Horseshoes Nor Hand Grenades**
- ▶ **What Options Do Owners Have to Take Possession of Real Property in Florida?**
- ▶ **Residential Real Estate Contracts: the Hidden Surprise of Specific Performance**

Scott was selected as one of *Gulfshore Business Magazine's* and Business Observer's (f/k/a *Gulf Coast Business Review's*) top "40 Under 40", which recognizes bright, young business leaders, executives and professionals under the age of 40 who live and work in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties. Naples Illustrated magazine also named Scott to their "Top Lawyers" list in 2018, 2020 and 2021 for his work in Appellate and Business Litigation law.

A native of Florida, Scott resides in Naples with his wife and children and enjoys fishing and kayaking. He is also a founding member of Square One Improv, a comedy improv group performing throughout Southwest Florida.

Professional and Civic Affiliations



Scott is a Charter Fellow of the **Construction Lawyers Society of America** ("CLSA") and is a member of the Trial Law Institute and Diversity Law Institute. He also devotes time to the **Boy Scouts of America**. Scott also is active in various Florida Bar law-related education activities,

including the Collier County Mock Trial program, where he coached and mentored students at Gulf Coast High School. Scott also gives presentations at local schools regarding the legal profession and the legal system in the United States.

Practice Areas

- ▶ Appellate
- ▶ Banking & Finance
- ▶ Business Litigation
- ▶ Condominium and Homeowners' Associations
- ▶ Construction
- ▶ Real Estate Litigation
- ▶ Workers' Compensation

Education

- ▶ Wake Forest University, B.A., *cum laude*
- ▶ University of Miami, J.D., *cum laude*
- ▶ Admitted to The Florida Bar

News & Insights

- ▶ Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 39 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"
- ▶ Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 28 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"
- ▶ Henderson Franklin Opens New Office in Naples

Published Opinions

- ▶ *Lazy Flamingo USA v. Greenfield*, 834 So.2d 413 (Fla. 2d DCA 2003)
- ▶ *Loidl v. I & E Group*, 927 So.2d 1016 (Fla. 2d DCA 2006)
- ▶ *Lanza v. Damian Carpentry*, 6 So.3d 674 (Fla. 1st DCA 2009)
- ▶ *In re Gallo*, 573 F.3d 433 (7th Cir. 2009)
- ▶ *Ellering v. Sellstate Realty Systems Network, Inc.*, 801 F. Supp. 2d 834 (D. Minn. 2011)






Representative Matters

- ▶ Represented a workers' compensation insurance carrier concerning a claim for temporary partial disability ("TPD") indemnity benefits. The carrier prevailed at the final hearing and the claimant then appealed the decision to the First District Court of Appeals ("DCA"). The DCA had previously written several conflicting opinions on whether receiving unemployment benefits result in an "offset" or "credit" or "reduce" of the amount of TPD indemnity benefits a claimant can receive at the same time he/she is receiving TPD indemnity benefits. This case resolved the prior conflicting decisions in favor of the employer and carrier thus reducing liability for exposure for TPD indemnity benefits when an injured employee is also receiving unemployment benefits. The DCA also clarified that this defense is not an affirmative defense which must be specifically plead in accordance with procedural rules.
- ▶ Successfully defended a developer that had been sued for damages in excess of \$3 million for breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty. After trial, the Court entered a complete defense verdict in favor of the developer.
- ▶ Represented a property owner that obtained a temporary and permanent injunction against a neighbor that had interfered with the property owner's riparian rights to access and use a boat docking area. After obtaining the injunction, successfully obtained an order of contempt after the neighbor continued to violate the injunction.
- ▶ Successfully defended a franchisor against claims brought by a former franchisee seeking rescission and damages in excess of \$500,000 for violations of franchise laws and breach of contract.
- ▶ Obtained defense judgment in favor of manufacturer who was sued for damages for breach of a commission agreement.



C. Richard Mancini

Stockholder - Bonita Springs Office

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Overview

Richard is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Court Mediator and concentrates his practice in the areas of **trust & estate litigation**, contested guardianships, **business litigation**, banking & financial institutions and **mediation and arbitration**. He handles contested estate and trust matters, breach of fiduciary duty litigation, and representation of the fiduciaries or beneficiaries of estates and trusts. Richard represents clients in complex business disputes, contract disputes, as well as **real property litigation** and foreclosures. Richard was listed by *Naples Illustrated* as a "Top Lawyer" in the practice area of alternate dispute resolution (2018) and in trusts and estate law (2021).

In addition, Richard is a Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) certified arbitrator and represents clients in securities and investor-related disputes. Richard is admitted in all Florida State Courts, as well as the United States District Court for the Middle and Southern Districts of Florida.

Prior to law school, Richard was a chief executive officer for a public/private economic development alliance in Alabama and formerly Vice President of the Greater Brandon (Florida) Chamber of Commerce where he acted as a liaison between the business community and governmental agencies concerning all aspects of community development. Richard currently resides in Naples.

Professional And Civic Affiliations

Richard is very active in the community. He is a member and former chairman of **SWFL, Inc.** (formerly the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce). Rich is also a former member of and President of the Board of **Naples Christian Academy** and is the former Chairman of the Board of the Bonita Springs/Estero Economic Development Council (BSEEDC), now known as the **South Lee EDC**.

Representative Matters

- ▶ Represent personal representative and trustee defending claims of undue influence and incapacity by other beneficiaries.
- ▶ Serve as co-counsel representing beneficiary that challenged inter-vivos transactions based on undue influence and coercion, obtaining jury verdict to return substantial property to trust.
- ▶ Represent adult children of incapacitated mother in obtaining full guardianship to protect mother from unscrupulous friends and family.
- ▶ Serve as co-counsel representing personal representative of estate who claimed real property was not asset of decedent, obtaining summary judgment in favor of estate.

Practice Areas

- ▶ Estate & Trust Litigation
- ▶ Banking & Finance
- ▶ Mediation & Arbitration
- ▶ Real Estate Litigation
- ▶ General Counsel Services

Education

- ▶ University of South Florida, B.A.
- ▶ St. Thomas University School of Law, J.D.,
with honors
- ▶ Admitted to the Florida Bar






News & Insights

- ▶ Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 39 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"



Mark A. Niede

Stockholder - Fort Myers Office

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Overview

Mark is Chair of the firm's Intellectual Property Group and concentrates his practice on **intellectual property** and Internet matters with specific emphasis on **trademarks**, **copyright**, trade secret protection, franchising, cybersecurity, **privacy**, and data protection. He works with clients to develop comprehensive **intellectual property** and **trade secret** protection strategies. Mark also represents clients in licensing transactions and franchising, assisting both franchisors and franchisees.

Mark has advised clients on domestic and international intellectual property issues, including new product launches, corporate rebranding projects, acquisitions and licensing for over 20 years. He counsels clients on both the acquisition and protection of intellectual property rights as well as **enforcement** of those rights in state and federal court.

Mark's practice also encompasses digital and internet-related legal issues, assisting clients with the creation and implementation of privacy policies, terms of use agreements, user agreements, GDPR, and **DMCA compliance**. He also counsels clients on data protection and data breach response matters. Mark writes on copyright, patent and trademark law on the firm's **Southwest Florida Business & IP Blog**. His recent posts include:

- ▶ [5 Simple Things to Keep in Mind with Non-Disclosure Agreements](#)
- ▶ [Put personal info protection on your holiday shopping list](#)
- ▶ [Political Music - Who Controls the Use?](#)
- ▶ [Don't Be the Victim of a Trademark Scam](#)
- ▶ [COVID-19: Trade Secrets and the Remote Workforce](#)
- ▶ [Growing Pains: Intellectual Property Challenges for Expanding Businesses](#)

Naples Illustrated magazine named Mark a "Top Lawyer" for his work in intellectual property law (2018-2021). Prior to joining Henderson Franklin, he practiced law in Chicago, Illinois. When not working, Mark is known to play guitar poorly, but loudly.

Professional and Civic Affiliations

Mark serves as co-chair of the Lee County Bar Association's Intellectual Property Group Section. He is also involved in the Fort Myers, Bonita Springs the Naples Chambers of Commerce, and is a member of **INTA**.

Published Opinions

Embroidique v. Stitchtopia, et al. 2018 WL 1830796 (S.D. FL 2018), successful defense of claims for injunctive relief based on copyright infringement, theft of trade secrets and other theories.

Practice Areas

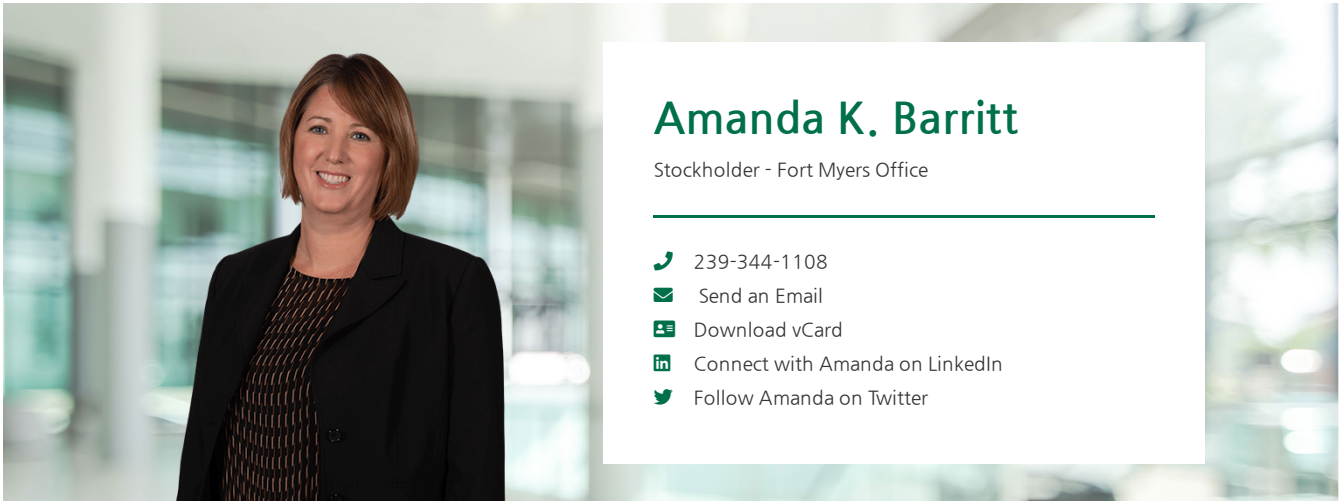
- ▶ Business & Tax Planning
- ▶ Fort Myers Intellectual Property Lawyers
- ▶ Mergers & Acquisitions
- ▶ Enforcement and Litigation
- ▶ Intellectual Property Transactions
- ▶ Patent Law
- ▶ Privacy and Data Security
- ▶ Trade Secrets
- ▶ Trademark Law
- ▶ Copyright Law

Education

- ▶ Miami University, B.A.
- ▶ Chicago-Kent College of Law, J.D.
- ▶ Admitted to the Florida Bar & Illinois Bar






News & Insights

- ▶ [Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 39 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"](#)
- ▶ [Mark Niede to Discuss Corporate Data and Privacy at the Above Board Chamber's August Luncheon](#)
- ▶ [Cetrangelo and Niede Discuss Cryptocurrency for the Rotary Club of Fort Myers](#)



Amanda K. Barritt

Stockholder - Fort Myers Office

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Overview

Amanda K. Barritt is Florida Bar Board Certified in Condominium & Planned Development Law and serves as chair of the firm's **Real Estate** Department and **Condominium and Homeowners' Associations** Practice Group. She concentrates her practice in **real estate** law and, more specifically, in the areas of residential and commercial community associations, commercial real estate transactions, easements, contract preparation, and real estate development. Amanda represents residential and commercial condominium, homeowners' and property owners' associations, non-profit social and recreational clubs, developers, builders, investors and individuals.

Amanda also contributes to the firm's blog, **The Legal Scoop on Southwest Florida Real Estate**. Some of Amanda's most popular posts include:

- ▶ [Incorporating Electronic Technology Into Association Operations](#)
- ▶ [Condominium and HOA Boards Beware of Holding "Executive Sessions"](#)
- ▶ [Selling Your Condo? 7 Things to Know About the Condominium Rider to a Residential Contract](#)
- ▶ [It's Now Easier to Preserve HOA Restrictions... for Some](#)
- ▶ [HOA's: Your Restrictions Have an Expiration Date](#)

In 2021, Amanda was interviewed and featured in the Thrive Global article by **Jason Hartman**, "[Amanda K. Barritt of Esquire Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt: 'Be a problem-solver, not an impediment to getting a transaction closed.'](#)" Thrive Global was founded by Arianna Huffington in 2016 and was named to Forbes' list of "**America's Best Startup Employers**" in 2021. Authority magazine also published the interview, "[Women Leaders Of Real Estate: Amanda K. Barritt of Esquire Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt On The 5 Things You Need To Succeed In The Real Estate Industry.](#)" **Authority Magazine** is devoted to sharing interesting "thought leadership interview series" featuring people who are authorities in Business, Pop Culture, Wellness, Social Impact, and Tech.

Amanda has been honored throughout her career for her work in real estate, including being named as one of **Florida Trend Magazine's Legal Elite** (2018), a "Top Lawyer" by Naples Illustrated magazine (2019-2021), and Best Lawyers in America® (2020-2022). Based on peer feedback, Best Lawyers also named Amanda the 2022 Community Association Law "Lawyer of the Year" in Fort Myers.

Amanda was born in Tampa, Florida, and grew up in Brandon and Valrico. While in law school, Amanda worked as a law clerk in Florida's Division of Land Sales, Condominiums and Mobile Homes and served as administrative editor on the Florida State University Law Review. She practiced real estate law in Destin, Florida, prior to moving to Fort Myers, where she currently lives with her family and two dogs. Outside of the office, Amanda enjoys going to the beach with her family, cruising, and doing arts and crafts with her children.

Practice Areas

- ▶ Banking & Finance Attorneys
- ▶ Condominium and Homeowners' Associations
- ▶ Real Estate
- ▶ Title Insurance

Education

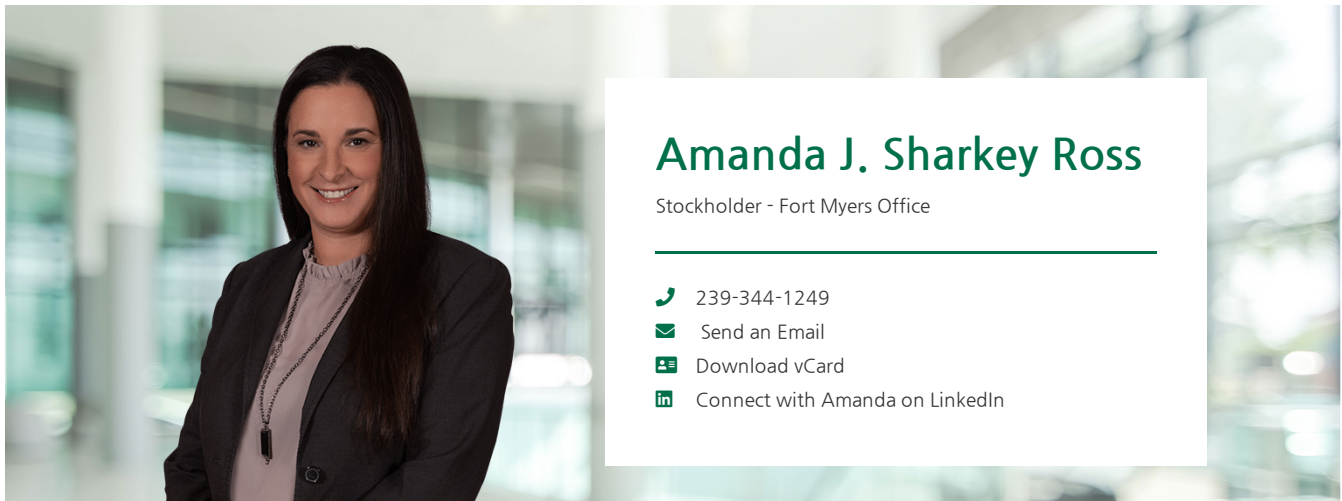
- ▶ Auburn University, Bachelor of Industrial Design, *cum laude*
- ▶ Florida State University, J.D., *cum laude*
- ▶ Admitted to The Florida Bar

News & Insights

- ▶ Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 39 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"
- ▶ Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 28 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"
- ▶ 18 Henderson Franklin Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America© 2021





Professional and Civic Affiliations

Amanda is a member of the **South Gulf Coast chapter of the Community Association Institute** (CAI), Real Property Probate & Trust Section and Condominium and Planned Development Committee of The Florida Bar and **Lee County Bar Association**. She's currently serving on the Board of Directors for **Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties**, and she's a member of an allocations team for the **United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties**, and she's also Secretary of Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School Fine Arts Association, Inc.



Amanda J. Sharkey Ross

Stockholder - Fort Myers Office

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Overview

Amanda focuses her defense **litigation** practice in the areas of premises liability, negligent security, construction litigation, product liability and transportation (vehicular, marine). A large part of Amanda's practice involves maritime law. Yacht and vessel owners rely on her experience with purchase and sale transactions, pre-purchase surveys, registration and documentation, vessel insurance and other matters to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. Amanda contributes to the firm's **Southwest Florida Business and IP Blog**. Her articles include:

- ▶ [If you boat in federal waters, take note of a new federal law effective today](#)
- ▶ [Should I document my vessel with the U.S. Coast Guard?](#)
- ▶ [Why is a Survey Needed When Purchasing a Vessel?](#)
- ▶ [What You Need to Know About Registration and Documentation Before Buying a Boat](#)
- ▶ [What You Need to Know About Insurance Before Buying a Boat](#)
- ▶ [What You Need to Know About Obtaining Title Before Buying a Boat](#)

Amanda handled maritime and admiralty defense, as well as vessel and yacht purchase and sale transactions in the Miami area. She is fluent in both English and Spanish. Amanda is admitted to practice in all Florida state courts, the United States District Court for the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida, and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Amanda has received much recognition throughout her career including being named a "Top Lawyer" by Naples Illustrated for her work in admiralty and maritime law (2019, 2021); a "Rising Star" by Florida Super Lawyers (2011, 2014–2017), a "Top Up & Comer" by the **South Florida Legal Guide** (2014–2017), and a "Best Up and Coming" attorney by **Florida Trend Legal Elite** (2008).

During college, Amanda was an active member of Phi Alpha Delta, pre-law fraternity, and was a member of the Varsity Crew. She was awarded the Lynch Foreign Language Award and studied at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Amanda went on to the **University of Miami School of Law** where she worked with the UM Athletic Department as well as the Miami Dolphins Legal Department.

Professional and Civic Affiliations

Amanda is a volunteer with the **Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida**, Teen Court of Lee County, Bonita Springs Little League, and Pinewoods Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization. She is also on the executive committee for the **Stetson University Alumni Board** and an active member of the University of Miami Hurricane Club, Lee County Bar Association, and the Southwest Florida Federal Court Bar Association.

Practice Areas

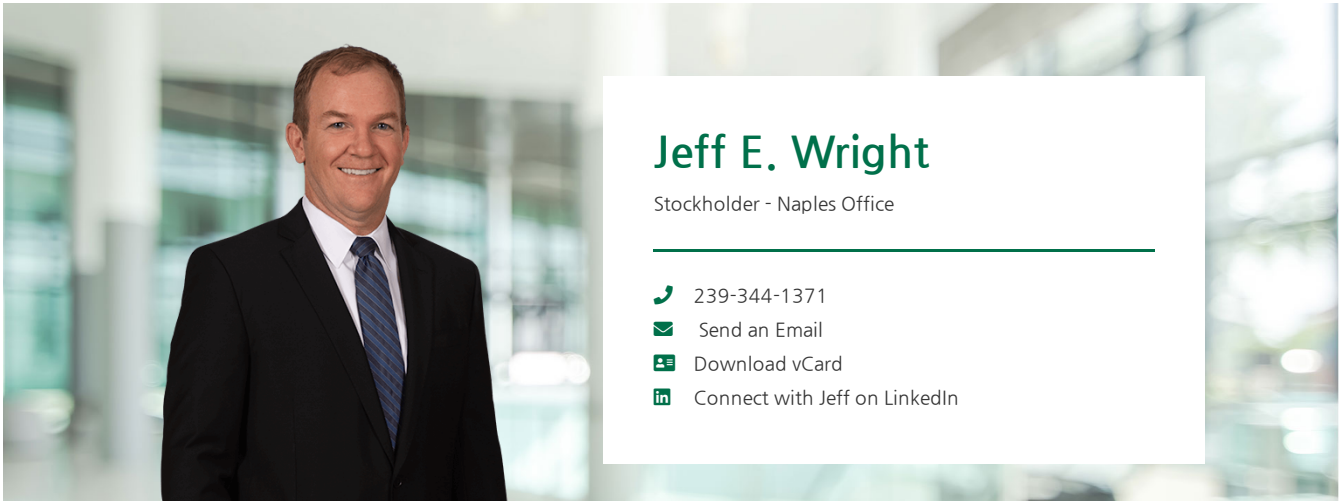
- ▶ Tort & Insurance

Education

- ▶ Stetson University, B.A.
- ▶ University of Miami Law School, J.D., *cum laude*
- ▶ Admitted to the Florida Bar





News & Insights

- ▶ [Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 39 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"](#)
- ▶ [Sharkey-Ross Elected Stockholder at Henderson Franklin](#)
- ▶ [Florida Litigation Attorney Amanda Sharkey Ross Discusses Legal Ethics and More in Fort Myers](#)



Jeff E. Wright

Stockholder - Naples Office

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Overview

Jeff represents private property owners, developers, **associations**, and investors in obtaining land use entitlements, and in addressing land use and permitting concerns. He also specializes in working through the often complex challenges presented by local government regulation of land use and the exercise of private property rights. Jeff's expertise includes Florida's Sunshine Law and Public Records Law, zoning and code enforcement, and all matters involving city, county, and local governments. Jeff is admitted in all Florida and Colorado state courts, as well as the United States District Court, Middle and Southern Districts of Florida, United States Bankruptcy Court, Middle District of Florida, and United States District Court, District of Colorado.

Jeff serves as Chair of the **Land Use & Environmental Law** Department. He is Board Certified in City, County & Local Government Law, a designation by the Florida Supreme Court that recognizes special knowledge, skills, and proficiency in this area of the law. Jeff has also been named a "Top Lawyer" by *Naples Illustrated* for his work in land use and zoning law (2018-2021).

Jeff has been involved in land use and comprehensive planning issues in Florida since 2006. He has served as an Assistant County Attorney on growth management and land use matters in Collier County, Florida. Jeff was a member of the **Florida Association of County Attorneys'** statewide Growth Management Committee from its inception in 2009 and has provided critical input on growth management legislation, referenda, and reform.

A Michigan native, Jeff resides in Naples with his wife and two daughters. When not working, he enjoys boating, fishing, kayaking, and traveling with his family.

Professional And Civic Affiliations

Jeff is a member of the Collier County Bar Association, the Lee County Bar Association, and the Florida Bar's Real Property and Land Use Sections. He currently serves on the **Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce** Government Relations Committee and on the local Urban Land Institute (ULI) chapter Management Committee. He's a member of Real Estate Investment Society (REIS), Collier County Building Industry Association, and Naples Area Board of Realtors (NABOR). He's a former member of Florida Association of Counties Growth Management Committee and Florida Association of Code Enforcement.

Practice Areas

- ▶ Land Use & Environmental

Education

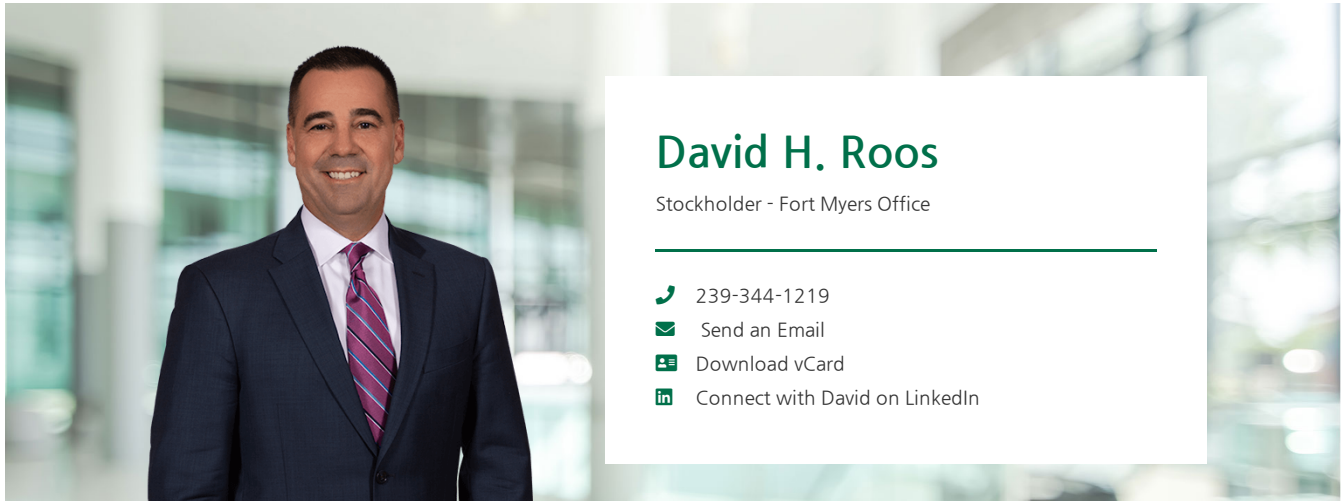
- ▶ University of Florida, B.A.
- ▶ University of Denver College of Law, J.D.
- ▶ Admitted to the Florida Bar & Colorado Bar

News & Insights

- ▶ Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 39 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"
- ▶ Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 28 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"
- ▶ Henderson Franklin Names Jeff Wright Chair of Land Use & Environmental Law Department





Representative Matters

- ▶ Represents residential and commercial developers to obtain rezonings, special exceptions, conditional uses, and other entitlements for development of various projects including apartments, convenience stores, and residential communities.
- ▶ Has obtained land use approvals in multiple jurisdictions throughout Southwest Florida and beyond, including Collier County, Lee County, Naples, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Marco Island, Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, LaBelle, and others.
- ▶ Represents cell tower operators throughout Florida to obtain local government entitlements for their facilities.
- ▶ Represents developers and local governments in land use related litigation, both judicial and administrative, including Florida Land Use and Environmental Dispute Resolution proceedings.
- ▶ Represents national resort hotel company in pursuing and obtaining local government approvals and incentives for development.



David H. Roos

Stockholder - Fort Myers Office

-  239-344-1219
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Overview

David Hamilton Roos serves as Chair of the firm's **Workers' Compensation** division. He represents insurance carriers, third-party administrators, and employers in the defense of workers' compensation claims. David has authored many articles, including:

- ▶ "Recent Legal Developments in Workers' Compensation Law," published in the Winter 2011 *Trial Advocate Quarterly*;
- ▶ "Defending A Workers' Compensation Claim on the Basis of Fraudulent Identity Under Chapter 440, Florida Statutes," published in the Fall 2004 *Trial Advocate Quarterly*; and,
- ▶ Co-authored the article "Using False Identification to Obtain Employment," featured in the October 2008 edition of the Henderson Franklin's employment law newsletter.

David formerly served on Henderson Franklin's Executive Committee. Naples Illustrated named David a "Top Lawyer" in Workers Compensation law in the years 2018-2021.

Prior to joining Henderson Franklin, David lived in Coral Springs and practiced in Broward and Miami-Dade counties, representing insurance companies involving first-party homeowner property and casualty defense claims. David was born in Fort Myers and grew up in Cape Coral. He is married to Esther and has two daughters, Abigail and Hannah, and a son, Josiah.

Professional And Civic Affiliations

David is a member of the Lee County Bar Association and The Florida Bar (Workers' Compensation and Trial Law Sections). He previously served as Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Section of the Florida Defense Lawyers Association (FDLA).

Representative Matters

- ▶ Represented a workers' compensation insurance carrier concerning a claim for temporary partial disability ("TPD") indemnity benefits. The carrier prevailed at the final hearing and the claimant then appealed the decision to the First District Court of Appeals ("DCA"). The DCA had previously written several conflicting opinions on whether receiving unemployment benefits result in an "offset" or "credit" or "reduce" of the amount of TPD indemnity benefits a claimant can receive at the same time he/she is receiving TPD indemnity benefits. This case resolved the prior conflicting decisions in favor of the employer and carrier thus reducing liability for exposure for TPD indemnity benefits when an injured employee is also receiving unemployment benefits. The DCA also clarified that this defense is not an affirmative defense which must be specifically plead in accordance with procedural rules.

Practice Areas

- ▶ Workers' Compensation

Education

- ▶ University of South Florida, B.A.
- ▶ Nova Southeastern University, J.D., *cum laude*
- ▶ Admitted to the Florida Bar




News & Insights

- ▶ Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 39 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"
- ▶ Attorneys David Roos and Spencer Shaw to Discuss COVID-19 and Workers' Compensation Claims
- ▶ Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 28 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"



Russell S. Whittle

Stockholder - Fort Myers Office

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Overview

Russell has been representing the interests of insurers and employers in the defense of **workers' compensation** and liability matters in Florida for nearly 30 years. His varied experience also includes serving as senior staff counsel for a Medicare compliance company, general counsel for an insurance company focusing on the professional employer organization market, and as a title insurance company attorney.

Russell was designated as a "Certified Medicare Set Aside Consultant" in 2012. He has lectured throughout the country on Medicare set aside issues, Medicare Secondary Payer legislation, and compliance, discovery, ethics, liability and workers' compensation law. In 2020 and 2021, Naples Illustrated named Russell to their annual list of "Top Lawyers".

When not working, he enjoys spending time with his wife and their three children, golfing, traveling and watching Boston sports.

Professional and Civic Affiliations

Russell is a member of the **American Bar Association**, the **Workers' Compensation Section of the Florida Bar** and the **American Association for Justice**.

Practice Areas

- ▶ Workers' Compensation

Education

- ▶ Skidmore College, B.A.
- ▶ University of Miami School of Law, J.D.
- ▶ Admitted to the Florida Bar

News & Insights

- ▶ Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 39 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"
- ▶ Russell Whittle Unravels COVID-19 and Related Workers' Compensation Concerns for Municipalities
- ▶ Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 28 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"

Guest Speakers Leslie Rippley



Leslie Rippley serves as the Divisional Assistant Vice President of Florida Sales, for Summit Holdings, a monoline workers compensation insurance company. Summit was founded in Lakeland over 40 years ago, is market share leader in the state of Florida, and now operates in 14 states. Leslie and her team of Agency Executives are responsible for helping their independent agents' success representing Summit and offering second-to-none workers compensation solutions for business owners. Over the course of her three decades plus in the insurance industry, she has served in claims, underwriting and sales leadership roles.

An Ohio native, Leslie earned a Bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University in Distributive Education and Sales Communication. She earned Certified Insurance Counselor and Associate in Underwriting designations. Leslie resides in Sarasota with her husband,

John.

Leslie may be reached at leslie.ripple@summitholdings.com or by phone 800-282-7644.



CHRISTOPHER T. TRITT

AAI

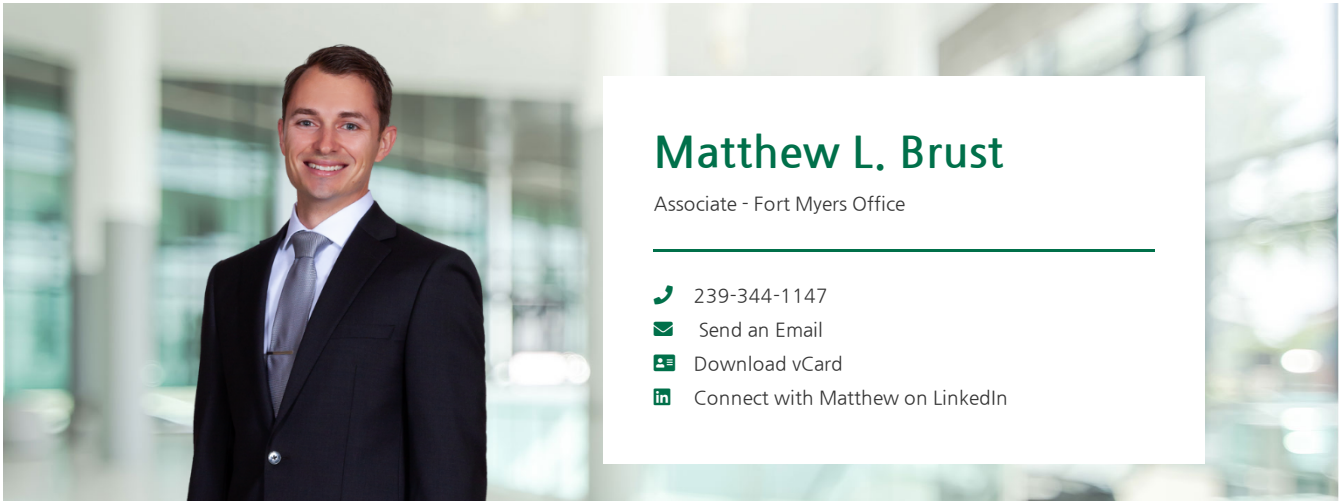
President & Co-Founder

Christopher began his insurance career in 1992 focusing on property and casualty, while attending the University of Florida. From there, he held various positions with State Farm Insurance. He was named a top regional producer of life insurance products in 1995.

In 1998, Christopher joined Prudential. One year later, he was honored as national "Rookie of the Year" for Prudential's PruPac division. Christopher joined Insurance and Risk Management Services in 2000 and began to focus on commercial property and casualty in Southwest Florida.





After four years, he joined an insurance management company, delivering a consultative approach to the marketplace and held various leadership positions in sales through multiple acquisitions.

Christopher became president and co-founder of Insurance Management Consultancy. He specializes in loss-sensitive workers' compensation, captive solutions, product recall and food contamination solutions for his partners. Christopher's primary responsibilities include new partnerships, sales strategy and training. He and his wife Betty have three children. His oldest daughter Olivia attends the University of Florida.



Matthew L. Brust

Associate - Fort Myers Office

-  239-344-1147
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Overview

Matthew L. Brust concentrates his practice in **business formations**, operations, and planning. He also focuses on **mergers and acquisitions**, including federal and state **taxation** planning while also representing clients before the IRS and Florida Department of Revenue. He enjoys the technical and analytical aspects of tax law. Matthew's experience in tax consulting includes tax efficient acquisitions, structuring, and succession planning, with a focus on working with entrepreneurs to help them achieve their business goals.

Matthew is a speaker and co-developed the firm's Startup Bootcamp. He is also a blogger on the **Southwest Florida Business and IP Blog**. His posts include:

- ▶ [How does receiving a PPP Loan impact filing my company's taxes?](#)
- ▶ [Should I start my new business as an LLC or S-Corporation?](#)
- ▶ [What is an LLC and why do I need one?](#)

Prior to joining Henderson Franklin, Matthew was a senior tax consultant with an international firm located on the east coast of Florida. While attending **Florida Coastal School of Law** to obtain his Juris Doctor, he interned as a law clerk, and was a teaching assistant.

Matthew is a Cape Coral native. He met his wife at **Mariner High School**. In his free time, Matthew enjoys cycling, soccer, boating and reading John Grisham novels.

Professional and Civic Affiliations

Matthew is a member of the Florida Bar, the Lee County Bar Association and the American Bar Association. Over the years, he has volunteered his time to United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) and to local "beach sweep" events to help clean up Florida's beaches.

Representative Matters

- ▶ Represented a seller of three pizza franchises in South Florida;
- ▶ Represented shareholders of a closely held corporation in a stock purchase;
- ▶ Represented a taxpayer before the IRS to reduce and resolve years of penalties and interest;
- ▶ Advised a client on the Bramblett Structure with respect to preserving capital gains on undeveloped real estate; and
- ▶ Formation of a business structure to efficiently and effectively invest in a real estate syndicate.

Practice Areas

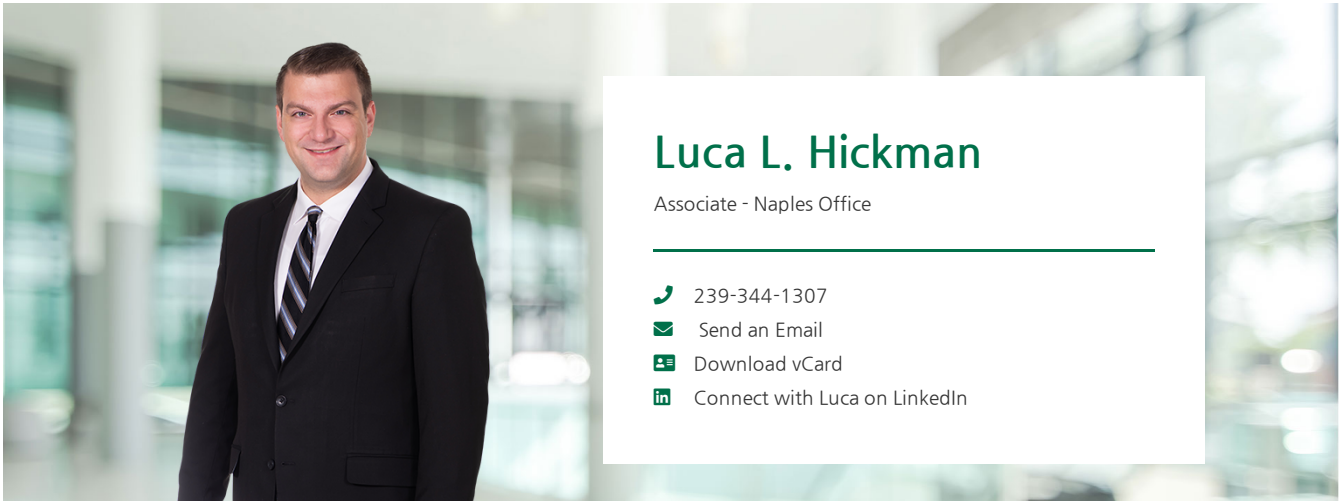
- ▶ Business & Tax Planning
- ▶ Business Planning Group
- ▶ Employee Benefits and Employment Contracts
- ▶ Tax and Not for Profit Exempt Organizations Group
- ▶ Tax Planning & Controversy Group
- ▶ Mergers & Acquisitions

Education

- ▶ Webber International University, B.S.
- ▶ Florida Coastal School of Law, J.D., cum laude
- ▶ University of Florida Levin College of Law (LL.M., Taxation)
- ▶ Admitted to The Florida Bar





News & Insights

- ▶ [Startup Bootcamp Coming to Ave Maria Law School in Naples](#)
- ▶ [Cape Coral Native Matthew Brust Joins Henderson Franklin's Corporate Legal Team](#)



Luca L. Hickman

Associate - Naples Office

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Overview

Luca is a Florida Bar Board Certified Intellectual Property Law expert and a registered patent attorney. He is energized by working with talented and passionate inventors, artists and musicians. Coupled with his background as a dual United States-German trained electrical engineer, Luca now brings his technical problem-solving skills to navigate his clients' legal matters.

As an entrepreneur himself, Luca understands the "real world" challenges his clients face running a business. He helps clients - especially startups - with a myriad of issues including contract negotiations, employee handbooks, intellectual property licensing agreements, and End User License Agreements ("EULAs") for software companies. Luca also conducts patent prior art and trademark clearance searches, prepares and prosecutes patent, trademark and copyright applications and prepares patent non-infringement opinions.

Luca also has experience working on high profile business and contractual matters, including multi-million dollar mergers and acquisitions involving publicly traded companies and celebrities, assisting clients with creation and management of **intellectual property** portfolios, brand licensing and anti-infringement matters - including extensive anti-counterfeiting work and creating and overseeing global trademark portfolios.

Over the years, Luca has handled a variety of multi-jurisdictional **litigation** matters involving copyright, patent, trademark and trade secret infringement, breach of contract and non-compete agreements, as well as cases concerning environmental protection, real estate disputes and hurricane related claims. Using his background in engineering, Luca also defends engineers, architects and other design professionals against design defect and other professional liability claims. For his work in intellectual property law, *Florida Super Lawyers*® magazine named him a "Rising Star" in 2021, and *Naples Illustrated* magazine named him a "Top Lawyer" in 2021.

Luca is admitted to practice in all Florida and Illinois state courts; the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. Supreme Court; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit; U.S. District Courts for the Middle, Southern and Northern Districts of Florida; U.S. Court of International Trade, U.S. Tax Court, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Court. Luca is also registered as a Foreign Practitioner through the **Canadian College of Patent Agents and Trademark Agents**.

Luca received his undergraduate degrees from the Milwaukee School of Engineering (with high honors) and Lübeck University of Applied Sciences. He graduated valedictorian and first in his class from Ave Maria School of Law, and now serves as a member of its Alumni Board. Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Luca and his wife currently reside in Estero, Florida. When not working he enjoys fishing, writing, working on cars and prototyping his latest invention idea.

Practice Areas

- ▶ Tort & Insurance
- ▶ Intellectual Property
- ▶ Copyright Law
- ▶ Enforcement and Litigation
- ▶ Intellectual Property Transactions
- ▶ Patent Law
- ▶ Privacy and Data Security
- ▶ Social Media
- ▶ Trade Secrets
- ▶ Trademark Law
- ▶ General Counsel Services

Education

- ▶ Milwaukee School of Engineering, B.S.
- ▶ Lübeck University of Applied Sciences, Diplom-Ingenieur
- ▶ Ave Maria School of Law, J.D.
- ▶ Admitted to the Florida Bar
- ▶ Admitted to the Illinois Bar

News & Insights

- ▶ Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 39 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"
- ▶ Luca Hickman Achieves Florida Bar Board Certification in Intellectual Property Law
- ▶ 20 Henderson Franklin Attorneys Recognized as 2021 Florida Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

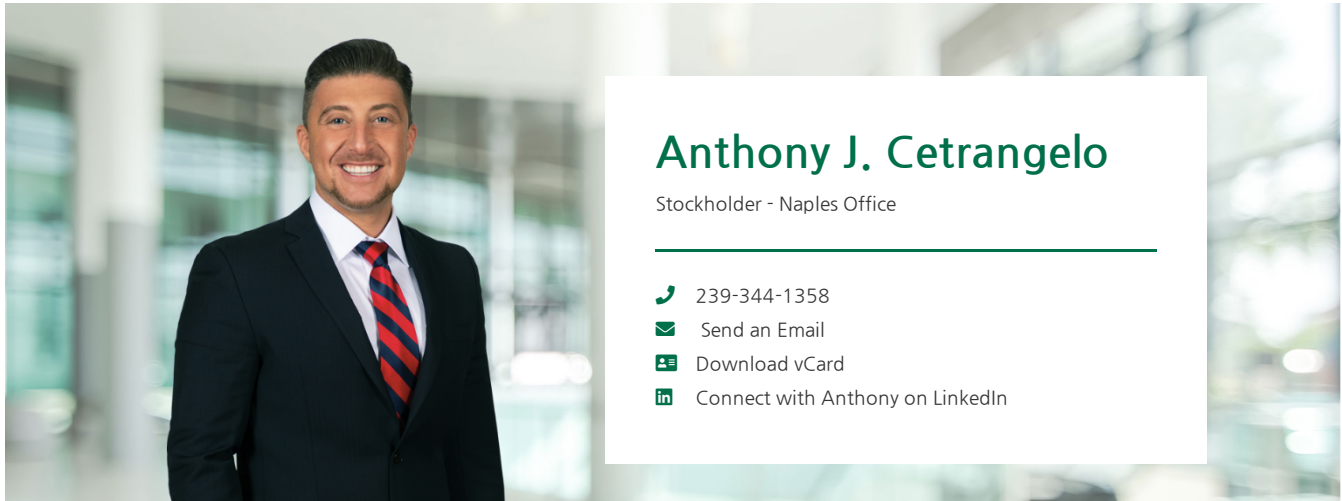
Articles

- ▶ [What is the difference between patents, trademarks and copyrights?](#)
- ▶ [Digital Intellectual Property: What rights does Apple have over digital photos upon death of a user?](#)
- ▶ [Protecting Your Digital Intellectual Property Through Estate Planning](#)
- ▶ [Copyright and patent protection apply to product packaging, too](#)
- ▶ [Copyright Issues Using Photographs and Videos on Websites and Social Media](#)

Professional and Civic Associations





Luca is dedicated to his community and currently serves on the Catholic Charities, [Diocese of Venice](#), Board of Directors. He is also the President and Director of the Fresh Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization which raises awareness of agricultural and water instability issues. He managed domestic and international engineering teams, including personally overseeing construction and long-term preservation of aquaponic tilapia farms at two orphanages in Kenya.

Luca is a member of the [Entertainment, Arts & Sports Law Section](#) of the Florida Bar, [Lee County Bar Association](#) (and serves as co-chair of the Intellectual Property Section), the [Southwest Florida Federal Court Bar Association](#), the [Florida Defense Lawyers Association](#), [DRI](#) (where he is a member of the [Intellectual Property Litigation Committee](#)) and the [Catholic Bar Association](#).



Anthony J. Cetrangelo

Stockholder - Naples Office

-  239-344-1358
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Overview

Anthony J. Cetrangelo focuses his practice in the areas of **wills, trusts, estates, probate, trust administration** and general corporate law. Prior to joining Henderson Franklin, he was the managing partner of a Naples, Florida, law firm.

Anthony makes it a priority to ensure that clients feel comfortable during the entire process of their legal matter and to identify the most efficient manner to achieve their desired goals. More specifically, he assists clients in all aspects of planning an estate, drafting Last Wills and Testaments, Revocable Trusts, Irrevocable Trusts, Lady Bird Deeds (Enhanced Life Estate Deeds), Advance Directives, Durable Powers of Attorney, Living Wills, and Health Care Surrogates.

Anthony also frequently guides families through trust administration or summary administrations, as well as formal administrations in probate court. Many times, estate planning, trust and probate matters are difficult periods of time for people and families. Anthony understands this, and tailors his practice to making sure that clients are heard and do not feel alone during this process.

Anthony has been recognized for his work, including being named "Legal Aid Attorney of the Month" in November 2018 and receiving Avvo's "Client Choice" Award in 2017 and 2018. For his work in the field of trusts and estates law, he was named a "Top Lawyer" by *Naples Illustrated* in years 2019-2021, a "Rising Star" by *Florida Super Lawyers*® in 2021, and Best Lawyers in America named him "One to Watch" in 2021 and 2022.

While currently practicing law, Anthony is also pursuing his Executive LL.M. in Taxation, at Georgetown Law. **Georgetown Law's Graduate Tax Program** is annually ranked as one of the top tax programs in the nation.

Anthony received his Juris Doctoris from **Ave Maria School of Law** and a Bachelor of Science from **Troy University** (Troy, Alabama), with honors, majoring in Literature and minoring in Criminal Justice.

While attending Troy University, he played Division-1 college football for the Troy Trojans as a place kicker and was named to the Sun Belt Conference's Commissioner's List, which honors Collegiate Student-Athletes with a 3.5 G.P.A. or better. Anthony also won three Sun Belt Conference Championships while playing with the Troy Trojans. In law school, Anthony was presented with the Dean's Honor Roll Award and two CALI Awards for Business Law and Computer Law. He also was a Student-Ambassador for the law school and competed on the Moot Court Team.

Professional and Civic Affiliations

Anthony is a member **Lee** and **Collier** County Bar Associations, the **National Italian American Bar Association** and Collier Lawyers Care, providing pro bono services through Legal Aid Society of Collier County.

Practice Areas

- ▶ Fort Myers Estate & Trust Litigation Lawyers
- ▶ Estate Planning & Trust Administration

Education

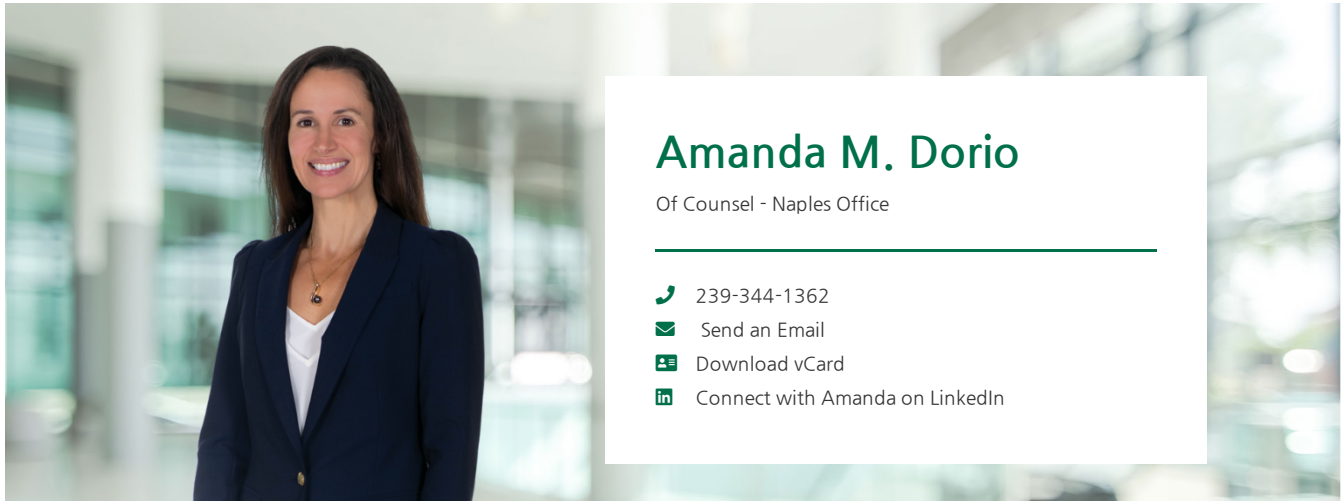
- ▶ Troy University, B.S., *with honors*
- ▶ Ave Maria School of Law, J.D.
- ▶ Georgetown University Law Center (LL.M. in Taxation Candidate)
- ▶ Admitted to the Florida Bar

News & Insights

- ▶ **Cryptocurrency Counselors: Yes, your cryptocurrency needs to be in your estate plan**
- ▶ **Cryptocurrency Counselors: Estate Planning for Digital Assets**
- ▶ **Cetrangelo and Niede Discuss Cryptocurrency for the Rotary Club of Fort Myers**





Representative Matters

- ▶ Design, prepare, and implement estate plans for individuals and families focused on preserving wealth for their descendants.
- ▶ Represent and assist ultra-high-net-worth families with the transfer of family-created wealth between generations.
- ▶ Obtain Orders Determining Homestead in Probate Court.
- ▶ Obtain Creditor Claims in Probate Court.
- ▶ Serve as counsel to personal representatives and trustees in connection with the administration of estates and trusts and disposition of their real estate holdings.
- ▶ Serve as counsel to numerous beneficiaries receiving substantial inheritances.
- ▶ Represent fiduciaries and beneficiaries in disputed matters involving estates, trusts and guardianship.



Amanda M. Dorio

Of Counsel - Naples Office

-  239-344-1362
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Overview

Amanda M. Dorio focuses her practice in the areas of **wills, trusts, estates, probate**, and trust administration. She has the unique ability of empathizing with her clients and understands that every family's dynamics differ. Amanda is vigilant in ensuring that the appropriate and necessary resources are available to protect her clients' assets and legacy. She spends the time necessary to develop estate plans that are current and appropriate for each client's individual situation because estate plans are not one-size-fits-all.

Amanda also has experience in the administration of many probate scenarios - from a simple summary administration to ancillary administrations and complex formal administrations. In addition, Amanda works closely with her clients to ease the pain of their loss, compounded by a probate matter.

Amanda graduated *cum laude* from **Cleveland State University**. She then went on to graduate from **Marquette University Law School**, where she was an editor of the law journal, *Elder's Advisor*. Amanda also practiced as an advocate with the Legal Aid Bureau of Maryland and clerked for a Judge in the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. Prior to joining Henderson Franklin, Amanda was the managing partner of a Naples, Florida, law firm. Amanda is licensed to practice law in Florida and Wisconsin.

Professional and Civic Affiliations

Amanda is a member of Collier Lawyers Care, providing pro bono services through **Collier County Legal Aid Society**, and she was a member of their strategic advisory board. Amanda also sits on the board of directors for the **Jewish Federation of Greater Naples** and contributes her time to the **YMCA of Collier County**.

Practice Areas

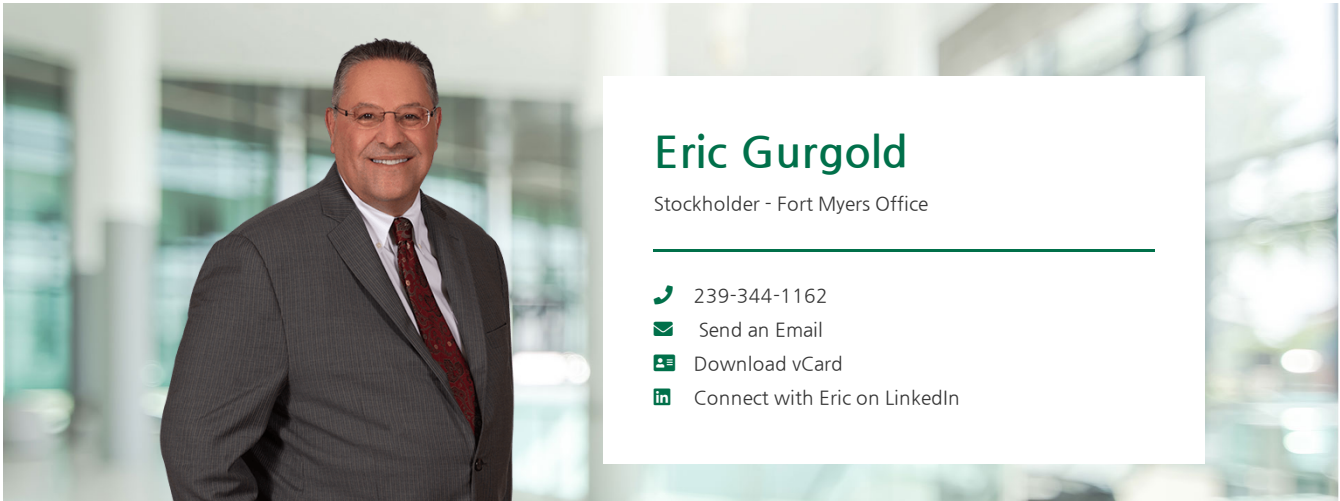
- ▶ Estate Planning & Trust Administration
- ▶ Trust Administration
- ▶ Wills and Trusts

Education

- ▶ Cleveland State University, *cum laude*
- ▶ Marquette University Law School
- ▶ Admitted Florida and Wisconsin





News & Insights

- ▶ Questions First Responders Must Consider to Best Protect Their Loved Ones
- ▶ Henderson Franklin Welcomes Estate Planning Attorney Amanda Dorio



Eric Gurgold

Stockholder - Fort Myers Office

-  239-344-1162
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Overview

Eric Gurgold currently serves as Chair of the **Estate Planning and Administration** division. He is Board Certified in Wills, Trusts & Estates by The Florida Bar and holds an LL.M. in taxation from Boston University School of Law. For over twenty-five years, Eric has concentrated his law practice in the areas of estate planning, estate and trust administration, elder law, probate litigation, title insurance claims related to probate issues, business law and taxation. He assists clients in the preparation of wills, trusts, family limited partnerships, inheritance and estate tax returns, as well as providing counsel to minimize income and estate taxes. Eric is admitted to practice in New Jersey, New York, Florida and the United States Tax Court.

Eric often lectures for accountants, attorneys, financial advisors, life insurance underwriters and community groups. He has also authored the following articles:

- ▶ **Impact of the Supreme Court's Ruling on Same-Sex Marriages on Estate Planning and Estate Administration**
- ▶ **New Tax Law Changes Shape of Estate Planning: The Importance of Properly Titling Assets for Estate Planning Purposes**
- ▶ **What if Prince Died in Florida: The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Does Not Repeal the Federal Estate Tax!**

Eric has been recognized by *Florida Super Lawyers*® magazine (2013-2021), Best Lawyers in America (2018-2022), and Naples Illustrated magazine as a "Top Lawyer" (2020-2021) for his work in trust, estate and probate law. A native of New York, Eric presently resides in North Port with his wife, Susanne.

Professional And Civic Affiliations

Eric is a member of the Executive Council of the Florida Bar Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section and serves on the Section's Estate and Trust Tax Planning Committee, Probate Law and Procedure Committee, and is a Member at Large.

Eric is a member of the Florida, New Jersey and New York Bar Associations, as well as a member of the Charlotte County Estate and Tax Planning Council, Charlotte County Bar Association, **Lee County Bar Association** and **Academy of Florida Elder Law** Attorneys.

Eric is very active in the community and has served as a member of the Grant Advisory Committee and Scholarship Review Committee of the **Southwest Florida Community Foundation**. He is past chair of the Charlotte County Grievance Committee for the 20th Judicial Circuit. Eric also has been an active member of Rotary International and has served as president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary on behalf of local Rotary Clubs.

Practice Areas

- ▶ Estate & Trust Litigation
- ▶ Estate Planning & Trust Administration
- ▶ Tax Planning & Controversy Group
- ▶ Title Insurance

Education

- ▶ Boston University, B.A.
- ▶ New York Law School, J.D.
- ▶ Boston University School of Law, LL.M. (Taxation)
- ▶ Admitted to the Florida Bar, New York Bar, and New Jersey Bar

News & Insights

- ▶ Naples Illustrated Magazine Recognizes 39 Henderson Franklin Attorneys as "Top Lawyers"
- ▶ 20 Henderson Franklin Attorneys Recognized as 2021 Florida Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- ▶ COVID driving changes in estate planning law

Guest Speaker Elizabeth McCormick



Elizabeth McCormick. As a decorated former US Army Black Hawk Helicopter pilot, Elizabeth flew command and control, air assault, rappelling, top-secret intelligence missions, and also transported high level government VIPs including the Secretary of Defense. These stories keep attendees on the edges of their seats, and the stories are turned into relatable lessons that any audience can put into immediate action.

She has received many awards in the army, and supported United Nations peacekeeping operations in Kosovo, receiving the Meritorious Service Medal for her excellence in service. In 2011, Elizabeth was

awarded the US Congressional Veteran Commendation for her commitment to serving her country and community as a disabled veteran.

Elizabeth has consistently booked 100+ engagements per year, and has spoken to a variety of audiences at some of the world's leading brands including Coca-Cola, Sherwin Williams, Boston Scientific, Rockwell Collins, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Intuit, Oracle, Hitachi Vantara, Pharmacyclics, Celgene, Prudential, Mass Mutual, Charles Schwab, and more for their Leadership, Sales and Safety related functions. As well as a many Associations' conferences in the USA and internationally, including male dominated industries such as RETA (Refrigeration Engineers & Technicians Conference), IAAI (International Association of Arson Investigators, and ESICA (Eastern States Insulation Contractors Association).

As an in-demand renowned motivational business success speaker, Elizabeth inspires audiences with her pioneering aviation experiences and shares her lessons learned in a dramatically memorable keynote presentation. As a premier leadership trainer and top performing founding member of the John Maxwell Team of speakers, she is a dynamic and energizing entertainer sought after for events around the world.

An authority on Leadership and Veterans Issues with the media, Elizabeth has been seen on ABC, CBS, FOX, CW, MSNBC, and been featured in the Wall Street Journal, and more. A best-selling author, her personal development book, *The P.I.L.O.T. Method*; the 5 Elemental Truths to Leading Yourself in Life, has sold more than 35,000 copies and is available for bulk purchase for your event attendees! Elizabeth also has more than 19 total books out; with her series of small format business success tip books: *Soar 2 Success* in a variety of Leadership, Culture, and Entrepreneurial topics. She may be reached at elizabeth@yourinspirationspeaker.com, www.pilotspeaker.com or by phone at 1-800-931-8369.