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SRQ

2022

SEPTEMBER 2022 | SPECIAL AWARDS SECTION

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HOLMES BEACH

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LAKEWOOD RANCH

SARASOTA

VENICE

NORTH PORT

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ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

FIRST EDITION | 2022 ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS LEGAL GUIDE



ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

WELCOME

The Sarasota and Bradenton Area region is home to a robust cadre of legal minds. As part of the annual SRQ Magazine Elite Top Attorneys program, we invited attorneys from Anna Maria and Lakewood Ranch down through Downtown Sarasota, Venice and North Port to nominate the peers who had garnered their utmost respect—whether on the same or opposite side of the negotiating table—and they answered. The respect of one's peers, especially in the discerning legal profession, reflects a defining level of great achievement. We are humbled by the overwhelming number of thoughtful nominations we received from this community of professionals this year and are pleased to share the results with you, our readers.

In *SRQ Magazine's 2022 Elite Top Attorneys Legal Guide* and awards section you will meet this year's honorees whose skills have helped their clients realize their goals. Many of our honorees share their expertise with the community as noted by their philanthropic and leadership contributions. The legal profession is part of a proud and long lineage that has been vital in establishing our modern world. The quality of a society can be judged in part by the measure of fairness manifested in how individuals are treated by our system of laws. Conscientious and skilled litigators are the reliable engines of our legal system, and the smart, skilled men and women represented in this peer-review program ensure the inevitable conflicts of human life can be dealt with in a manner that is equitable and honest. We hope you enjoy meeting *SRQ Magazine's 2022 Elite Top Attorneys—congratulations are in order.*



METHODOLOGY To create the list, the magazine contracted DataJoe Research to facilitate an online peer-voting process and Internet research process. DataJoe Research is a software and research company specializing in data collection and verification, and conducts various nominations across the United States on behalf of publishers. To create the list, DataJoe Research facilitated an online peer-voting process. DataJoe checked and confirmed that each published winner had, at time of review, a current, active license status with the appropriate state regulatory board. If we were not able to find evidence of a lawyer's current, active registration with the state regulatory board, that lawyer was excluded from the list. In addition, we checked available public sources to identify lawyers disciplined for an infraction by the state regulatory board. These entities were excluded from the list. Finally, DataJoe presented the tallied result to the magazine for its final review and adjustments. FINAL NOTE: We recognize that there are many good lawyers who are not shown in this representative list. This is only a sampling of the huge array of talented professionals within the region. Inclusion in the list is based on the opinions of responding lawyers in the region. We take time and energy to ensure fair voting, although we understand that the results of this survey nomination and Internet research campaign are not an objective metric. We certainly do not discount the fact that many, many good and effective lawyers may not appear on the list. DISCLAIMERS: DataJoe uses best practices and exercises great care in assembling content for this list. DataJoe does not warrant that the data contained within the list are complete or accurate. DataJoe does not assume, and hereby disclaims, any liability to any person for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions herein whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident, or any other cause. All rights reserved. No commercial use of the information in this list may be made without written permission from DataJoe. QUESTIONS: For research/methodology questions, contact the research team at surveys@datajoe.com.

DANIEL C. GUARNIERI

HONOREE | Civil Law



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BIO

Dan Guarnieri has been practicing law since 2004. He is a partner in Berlin Patten Ebling's Sarasota office, and manages the firm's litigation group. He has broad-ranging civil experience including complex commercial litigation, real property disputes, contract disputes, construction litigation, commercial collections, commercial foreclosures and local government representation. He also has considerable experience in assisting clients with business entity formation, business transactions, regulatory and compliance counseling, and other business representation with an eye toward avoiding litigation. He represents commercial lenders, along with business owners in the telecommunications, security, construction, and manufacturing industries. He has been lead counsel on numerous cases that have been tried to judgment and has handled appeals in both state and federal courts.

In his spare time, Dan enjoys boating, fishing, SCUBA diving, traveling, and watching the Florida Gators. He has two small children and is told that he loves them very much.

Positioning Statement

Legal experts for life's biggest occasions.

Testimonial

"Knowledgeable, professional and caring. As my sister is an attorney in another state, I've always had high expectations in legal representation, and have been fortunate to find good representation in the several states where we have lived. Having good counsel is very important, both to protect your interests and to smooth the way in important and high-value transactions. I researched carefully before choosing Berlin Patten Ebling, and have been very happy with my choice. Everyone at the firm is first rate and they have developed a culture of service and excellence. Highly recommended."



BERLIN | PATTEN | EBLING
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

FLORIDA BAR

DATE OF ADMISSION

September 23, 2004

DEGREES

University of Florida,
Fredric G. Levin College
of Law, 2004

PRACTICE AREAS

Administrative
Admiralty and Maritime
Banking
Business
City/County/
Local Government
Civil Litigation
Commercial Litigation
Contracts
Real Estate
Trial

LAW FIRM

Berlin Patten Ebling, PLLC



ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

FEATURED HONOREES



FIRST EDITION Recognizing the attorneys in the region who garnered the respect of their professional peers as honorees for the 2022 Elite Top Attorneys Legal Guide.

ADOPTION LAW

Salisbury, Debra M

Law Office of
Debra M Salisbury PA
3293 Fruitville Rd | Unit 101
Sarasota FL 34237-6453
941-366-1616 | Lic. 973769

Stockham, Susan L

Law Office of
Susan L Stockham PA
4017 Swift Rd
Sarasota FL 34231-6542
941-924-4949 | Lic. 342521

APPELLATE LAW

Butler, Jesse R

Dickinson & Gibbons PA
401 N Cattlemen Rd | Ste 300
Sarasota FL 34232
941-366-4680 | Lic. 84058

Wallace, David A

Bentley Goodrich Kison
783 S Orange Ave | Ste 300
Sarasota, FL 34236-4702
941-556-9030 | Lic. 608386

Gore-Maglio, Jennifer Anne

Maglio Christopher &
Toale Law Firm
1605 Main St | Ste 710
Sarasota FL 34236
888-952-5242 | Lic. 88013

Christian, Benjamin A

Maglio Christopher &
Toale Law Firm
1605 Main St | Ste 710
Sarasota FL 34236
888-952-5242 | Lic. 1033821

Whitmire, Elisabeth

Syprett Meshad PA
1900 Ringling Blvd
Sarasota FL 34236-5919
941-365-7171 | Lic. 109318

ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION

Hammersley, Philip N Legacy

Norton Hammersley
Lopez & Skokos PA
1819 Main St | Ste 610
Sarasota FL 34236-5974
941-954-4691 | Lic. 280887

Larsen, Gary H

Dickinson & Gibbons PA
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Sarasota FL 34232
941-366-4680 | Lic. 266906

Telford, Leslie

Mediation Services
of Southern Florida Inc
PO Box 1948
Sarasota FL 34230-1948
941-957-3004 | Lic. 212644

Lyons, Robert G

Icard Merrill Attorneys
& Counselors
2033 Main St | Ste 600
Sarasota FL 34237
941-953-8138 | Lic. 234230

Watts, Dana J

Ulrich Scarlett Watts & Dean PA
713 S Orange Ave | Ste 201
Sarasota FL 34236
941-955-5100 | Lic. 292141

O'Day, Sharon

Sharon O'Day PA
1858 Ringling Blvd | Ste 110
Sarasota FL 34236-5917
941-228-8571 | Lic. 415472

Icard, Thomas F Jr

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2033 Main St | Ste 600
Sarasota FL 34237
941-953-8132 | Lic. 162741

Vaughan-Birch, Norman

Kirk Pinkerton PA
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Sarasota FL 34236-6717
941-364-2400 | Lic. 116463

Haskins, Mark A

Mark A Haskins PA
2801 Fruitville Rd | Ste 230
Sarasota, FL 34237-5365
941-281-4000 | Lic. 881627

Brannan, Stephen G

Stephen G Brannan &
M. Joseph Loeb Jr. Esq
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941-792-1695 | Lic. 521442

ATTORNEYS FOR NON PROFITS

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Hecker, Susan Barrett

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941-329-6625 | Lic. 948380

Fields, Pamela

Legal Aid of Manasota
1900 Main St | Ste 302
Sarasota FL 34236-5927
941-366-0038 | Lic. 37015

Leibovitz, Janella

Legal Aid of Manasota
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941-366-0038 | Lic. 194824

Pennewill, Betsy

Community Foundation
of Sarasota County
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Sarasota FL 34237-5222
941-556-7152 | Lic. 156140

Stover, Robin

Gulfcoast Legal Services Inc
1112 Manatee Ave E | Fl 2nd
Bradenton FL 34208-2152
941-746-6151 | Lic. 64494

BANKING AND FINANCIAL

Grimes, Michele B

Williams Parker Attorneys at Law
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Sarasota FL 34236
941-329-6611 | Lic. 264393

Pitchford, Malcolm J

Shumaker Loop & Kendrick LLP
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Sarasota FL 34236
941-364-2705 | Lic. 175403

Messick, Robert E

Icard Merrill Cullis Timm
Furen & Ginsburg PA
2033 Main St | Ste 600
Sarasota FL 34237
941-366-8100 | Lic. 314773

Norton, Sam D

Norton Hammersley
Lopez & Skokos PA
1819 Main St | Ste 610
Sarasota FL 34236-5974
941-954-4691 | Lic. 484105

BANKRUPTCY AND WORKOUT

Roberts, Kelly

Roberts Law PLLC
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941-444-9783 | Lic. 83804

Johnson, Sherri L

Johnson Legal of Florida PL
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Gensmer, Timothy W

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941-952-9377 | Lic. 586242

Blanton, Laurie L

Holland Law Group PA
3639 Cortez Rd. W. Ste 130
Bradenton, FL 34210
941-306-3601 | Lic. 54483

LIFE'S BIGGEST OCCASIONS



DON'T NEED TO COME WITH A SINKING FEELING.

Life is filled with highs, lows, and legal holes to avoid. But you don't need to navigate these celebrated moments and complex occasions alone.

At Berlin Patten Ebling, we've been there before —
and we know how to guide you.



BERLIN | PATTEN | EBLING

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Sarasota
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Lakewood Ranch
941.907.9022

Venice
941.955.9991

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813.467.7500

St. Petersburg
727.822.2505



FEATURED HONOREES

ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS



FIRST EDITION Recognizing the attorneys in the region who garnered the respect of their professional peers as honorees for the 2022 Elite Top Attorneys Legal Guide.

BANKRUPTCY AND WORKOUT *cont.*

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Sherry F Ellis Law PLLC
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941-363-0800 | Lic. 146668

Hildreth, Mark D

Shumaker Loop & Kendrick LLP
240 S Pineapple Ave | Fl 10th
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BUSINESS LAW

Jackson, Daniel J “Dan”

Rising Stars
Dunlap & Moran PA
22 S Links Ave | Ste 300
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941-366-0115 | Lic. 1015499

Wilson, Michael J

Williams Parker Attorneys at Law
200 S Orange Ave
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941-536-2043 | Lic. 641502

Buffington, Zachary B

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Band, Gregory S

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941-917-0505 | Lic. 869902

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Cejka, Jason

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Schembri, Jenifer S

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DeLeo, Daniel J

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Whitney, Jonathan P

Lutz Bobo & Telfair PA
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Caswell, Christopher

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Gomez, Conrado Jr

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941-954-9991 | Lic. 1010973

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Parpas, George

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& DuBose PA*
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Schuchat, Michael E

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Doublerly, Andrew L

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Sarasota FL 34232
941-366-4680 | Lic. 88193

Grosso, Jennifer L

Bentley Goodrich Kison
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Sarasota FL 34236-4702
941-556-9030 | Lic. 637815

Dorman, Lori M

*Persson Cohen Mooney
Fernandez & Jackson PA*
6853 Energy Ct
Lakewood Ranch FL 34240
941-306-4730 | Lic. 75401

Crittenden, Aaron B

Harilee & Bald PA
202 Old Main St
Bradenton FL 34205
941-744-5537 | Lic. 112878

Castro, Sara

Castro Potts Law Firm PLLC
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Sarasota FL 34236
941-300-9595 | Lic. 1010197

McKay, Scott D

McKay Law Firm PA
1904 Manatee Ave W | Ste 300
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941-251-4951 | Lic. 187800

Trimyer, Brian L

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Bradenton FL 34205
941-744-5537 | Lic. 183792

COURTNEY FLANDREAU

HONOREE | Personal Injury



CONTACT 889 N Washington Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236
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BIO

Courtney Flandreau has been a trial attorney for over fifteen years, representing both plaintiffs and defendants throughout Florida.

Earlier in her career, Courtney served as senior staff attorney for one of the largest insurance companies in the country, representing hundreds of defendants in accident cases. She became a plaintiff's attorney in 2017 and now exclusively advocates for the wrongfully injured.

Courtney provides exceptional service to her clients, applying the knowledge she gained as a defense lawyer together with extensive trial experience, to help those who have been hurt due to the negligence of another. She is dedicated to providing personalized, effective legal representation to her clients. Courtney leverages her skills and compassion for her clients to maximize settlements and win difficult trials against insurance companies.

Tell us about yourself and

your firm. Courtney was excited to join Mallard Perez over the summer of 2021, where she will continue to represent the injured and hold wrongdoers accountable. She is dedicated to helping those who have been injured in an automobile accident, as the result of unsafe conditions at a store or restaurant, or due to medical malpractice. She also provides conscientious representation to the most vulnerable clients, including those injured as the result of child abuse or neglect, or mistreatment in a nursing home.

What distinguishes your work and your firm from others?

Mallard Perez is a small firm with a big reputation for winning trials. Earlier this year, they won a \$28 million verdict against DCF. This was a case most lawyers would have turned away, but not Mallard Perez. They knew they had to make things right for the victim. Unlike larger firms, they personally know their clients and the details of their individual cases, which is vital to their success. When they are not in the courtroom, they are busy giving back to the community. Courtney is involved with the Manatee River Rotary Club, her church and animal rescue.



ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

FLORIDA BAR

DATE OF ADMISSION

December 26, 2006

DEGREES

Albany Law School of
Union University, 2004

PRACTICE AREAS

Motor Vehicle Accidents
Slip and Fall/
Trip and Fall Cases
Nursing Home Neglect
Medical Malpractice
Insurance

LAW FIRM

Mallard Perez, PLLC



ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

FEATURED HONOREES



FIRST EDITION Recognizing the attorneys in the region who garnered the respect of their professional peers as honorees for the 2022 Elite Top Attorneys Legal Guide.

CIVIL LAW LITIGATION *cont.*

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Maglio Christopher & Toale Law Firm
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888-952-5242 | Lic. 149462

Kessler, Bryan
Berg & Kessler
1872 S Tamiami Trl | Ste D
Venice FL 34293-3129
941-493-0871 | Lic. 97974

Fredericks, David J
Anderson & Givens PA
5500 Bee Ridge Rd | Ste 201
Sarasota FL 34233
941-866-4348 | Lic. 84185

Jensen, Adria Maria
Shumaker Loop & Kendrick LLP
240 S Pineapple Ave | Fl 10th
Sarasota FL 34236
941-364-2739 | Lic. 11690

Norton, Hunter G
Shumaker Loop & Kendrick LLP
240 S Pineapple Ave | Fl 10th
Sarasota FL 34236
941-364-2771 | Lic. 30534

Reilly, Patrick J
Snyder & Reilly Trial Lawyers
355 W Venice Ave
Venice FL 34285-2004
941-485-9626 | Lic. 125109

Hanson, Mark
Lobeck & Hanson PA
2033 Main St | Ste 403
Sarasota FL 34237-6063
941-955-5622 | Lic. 472182

CIVIL LAW TRANSACTIONAL

Selvaraj, Natasha
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Sarasota FL 34239
941-954-9991 | Lic. 124513

McComb, William C
Berlin Patten Ebling PLLC
3700 S Tamiami Trl | Ste 200
Sarasota FL 34239
941-954-9991 | Lic. 87063

Ebling, Jamie Adam
Berlin Patten Ebling PLLC
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Sarasota FL 34239
941-954-9991 | Lic. 369284

Infanti, Michael P
Infanti Law Firm LLC
PO Box 5292
Sarasota FL 34277-5292
941-256-7246 | Lic. 483590

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Hall, M Lewis III
Legacy
Williams Parker Attorneys at Law
200 S Orange Ave
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941-536-2032 | Lic. 249513

Hutton, Steven D
Legacy
Hutton Dominko & Swaim
2639 Fruitville Rd | Ste 302
Sarasota FL 34237
941-364-9292 | Lic. 342221

Bentley, Morgan R
Legacy
Bentley Goodrich Kison
783 S Orange Ave | Ste 300
Sarasota FL 34236-4702
941-556-9030 | Lic. 962287

Garcia, Martin
Legacy
Garcia Dell
1819 Main St | Ste 300
Sarasota FL 34236-5976
941-960-8101 | Lic. 817597

Chase, Steven J
Legacy
Shumaker Loop & Kendrick LLP
240 S Pineapple Ave | Fl 10th
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-364-2708 | Lic. 210277

Dart, Thomas H
Legacy
Adams and Reese LLP
1515 Ringling Blvd | Ste 700
Sarasota FL 34236
941-316-7603 | Lic. 228788

Bartlett, Charles J
Legacy
Icard Merrill Attorneys & Counselors
2033 Main St | Ste 600
Sarasota FL 34237
941-953-8113 | Lic. 273422

Bowen, Jill M
Rising Stars
Bentley Goodrich Kison
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Sarasota FL 34236-4702
941-556-9030 | Lic. 1019549

Stall, Tyler B
Rising Stars
Hutton Dominko & Swaim
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Sarasota FL 34237
941-364-9292 | Lic. 116074

Pastorick, William "Dirk"
Williams Parker Attorneys at Law
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941-536-2036 | Lic. 1033411

Gregory, Tommy E
Williams Parker Attorneys at Law
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Kison, Amanda R
Bentley Goodrich Kison
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Sarasota FL 34236-4702
941-556-9030 | Lic. 96151

France, Michael A
France Litigation Group
1515 Ringling Blvd | Ste 800
Sarasota FL 34236-6782
941-953-3600 | Lic. 521345

Chapman, John
The John Chapman Law Firm PA
1515 Ringling Blvd | Ste 870
Sarasota FL 34236-6765
941-404-4616 | Lic. 846820

Dominko, Przemyslaw L
Hutton Dominko & Swaim
2639 Fruitville Rd | Ste 302
Sarasota FL 34237
941-364-9292 | Lic. 74143

Goodrich, Brian D
Bentley Goodrich Kison
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Sarasota FL 34236-4702
941-556-9030 | Lic. 106948

Moore, Fred E
Blalock Walters PA
802 11th St W
Bradenton FL 34205-7734
941-748-0100 | Lic. 273480

Dell, Josh R
Garcia Dell
1819 Main St | Ste 300
Sarasota FL 34236-5976
941-960-8101 | Lic. 92341

Wade, Lloydann
Maglio Christopher & Toale Law Firm
1605 Main St | Ste 710
Sarasota FL 34236
888-952-5242 | Lic. 124898

Johnson, Charles F
Blalock Walters PA
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Bradenton FL 34205-7734
941-748-0100 | Lic. 898937

Swaim, Yuliya V
Hutton Dominko & Swaim
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941-364-9292 | Lic. 100406

ELIZETE D. VELADO

HONOREE | Personal Injury



CONTACT 889 N Washington Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236
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BIO

A member of the Florida Bar since 2012, Elizete Velado has spent her entire legal career representing individuals and small businesses that have been disenfranchised or mistreated by an insurance company.

She continues this pursuit at Mallard Perez by protecting the legal rights of those who have been severely injured. An accomplished writer, she has been published in the Florida State University Journal of Transnational Law and several trade publications. Her litigation practice includes cases involving motor vehicle crashes, nursing home neglect, medical malpractice, and cases involving sexual assault or child abuse. She works hard to secure the best outcome possible for her clients and is in the process of working toward board certification in Civil Trial Law.

Tell us about yourself and your firm.

When I first decided to go to law school, I knew I wanted to pursue a legal practice that helped people. I graduated with honors from the Florida State University College of Law and went to work for a firm that sued insurance companies for acting in bad faith and failing to settle claims. I learned a great deal in those first three years of practice about the claims handling process, and from there, I decided I wanted to use my knowledge of the insurance and claim process to help people injured by another's negligence.

What distinguishes your work and your firm from others?

My firm is different from many other personal injury law firms in two ways. First, we do not advertise. Mallard Perez's business model is based entirely on providing outstanding representation and on educating our clients throughout the process. So far, this has resulted in over 20 years of satisfied clients and exponential growth over the last two decades. Second, Mallard Perez attorneys bring 100 years of collective legal experience to the table. This, along with a long track record of multi-million-dollar trial verdicts, helps us resolve a vast majority of our cases for fair amounts without ever going to trial.



ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

FLORIDA BAR
DATE OF ADMISSION
September 27, 2012

DEGREES
Florida State University
College of Law, with
honors, 2012

PRACTICE AREAS
Personal Injury Litigation
Nursing Home Negligence
Medical Malpractice

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
10 years

LAW FIRM
Mallard Perez, PLLC



FEATURED HONOREES

ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS



FIRST EDITION Recognizing the attorneys in the region who garnered the respect of their professional peers as honorees for the 2022 Elite Top Attorneys Legal Guide.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION *cont.*

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Gurley, Alex

Gurley and Associates
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Rosin, Andrew W

Law Offices of Andrew W Rosin PA
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CONSTRUCTION

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Legacy
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Walker, Douglas E

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Preston, David S

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Henson, Brett M

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BIO

Andrew Pouget is a lifelong student of the law and vigilant advocate for justice. He understands that success is earned by hard work, determination, quality legal research, and framing arguments with precision and articulation.

His passion for law is the driving force that compels him to take the extra step, and he does not quit until he achieves the best possible result for his clients.

Since matriculating in 2018, Andrew has continued the firm's legacy of providing high-quality criminal defense to Sarasota, Bradenton and Tampa. Andrew's depth of legal knowledge and proficiency in legal writing provides an essential element to FLG's comprehensive approach to criminal defense, and his aptitude for appellate practice sets FLG apart as a full-service criminal defense firm in the SRQ area.

Tell us about yourself and

your firm. Andrew graduated summa cum laude with a 4.0 GPA in the honors college of University of Detroit Mercy, boasting majors in philosophy, political science, and pre-law. A co-founder of Phi Alpha Delta, Andrew also served as President of the Political Science Association. In 2009 he graduated magna cum laude from Michigan State University College of Law, the only student to ever graduate with a concentration in criminal law while also receiving a certificate from the nationally renowned Geoffrey Fieger Trial Practice Institute. Andrew was a public defender before joining the Fowler Law Group where he serves as senior partner.

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BIO

A board-certified specialist in Wills, Trusts and Estates, Richard (Rick) Gans is president and shareholder with Ferguson, Skipper, PA, and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to his clients. Gans has been part of Ferguson Skipper since 1994 and has an AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, which is the highest rating available for an attorney's legal ability and professional ethics.

Gans' extensive educational background includes earning his BA from Cornell University, his MA from the University of Michigan and his JD from the University of Washington School of Law. Gans then went on to receive his LLM in Taxation from the University of Florida College of Law.

A fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, Gans is also an accomplished speaker and author, with a growing number of published and peer-respected works. His extensive record of accolades includes the Best Lawyers® in America list from 2010-2021 and 15 consecutive years as a Florida Super Lawyer®. Best Lawyers® named him as 2016, 2018 and 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" for Trusts and Estates Law in the Sarasota metropolitan area. Gans has served as board chair of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County and director of the Woman's Exchange Inc.

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David Gurley, Mike Fant, & Alex Gurley

on their recognition by SRQ Magazine as



David Gurley
President



Mike Fant
Senior Associate



Alex Gurley
Senior Associate

'Elite Top Attorneys' in Construction



Gurley & Associates is a construction, surety, and commercial litigation focused law firm headquartered here in Sarasota with affiliate offices in Houston, Texas and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The attorneys at Gurley & Associates pride themselves on providing thoughtful, creative, and comprehensive advice that is founded on a clear understanding of the law and the business needs and values of their clients.



FEATURED HONOREES

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BIO

Over the last 23 years, attorney Barbara H. Gormley has proudly represented only individuals that have been injured as a result of the negligence of another. Ms. Gormley is rated "AV Preeminent" which is the highest level of peer rating and means that her peers, lawyers and judges, have ranked her at the highest level of professional excellence for her legal knowledge, communication skills and ethical standards. Ms. Gormley has provided the highest quality of legal services both inside and out of the courtroom since 1999 and is known for treating every case as if it is going to trial. She represents clients throughout the State of Florida.

Her practice involves personal injury, including serious and catastrophic injuries, wrongful death as a result of automobile and trucking accidents, pedestrians and bicyclists hit by a motor vehicle, motorcycle accidents, trip/slip and fall cases on commercial and residential properties, negligent security resulting in injury cases, as well as nursing home and assisted living facility abuse cases.

Tell us about yourself.

Juris Doctor Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center, Davie, Florida, Deans List Member of the Nova Southeastern University's Moot Court Honor Society State Bar of Florida, Admitted 1999 U.S. District Court Middle District of Florida Florida Bar Association, Trial Lawyers Section Member Eagle Member of the Florida Justice Association Sarasota County Bar Association Martindale-Hubbell® AV Preeminent® Since 2014 to the present 2022



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FLORIDA BAR

DATE OF ADMISSION

April 16, 1999

PRACTICE AREAS

Motor Vehicle Accidents
Trucking Accidents
Motorcycle, Bicycle and Pedestrian Accidents
Negligent Security resulting in injury
Slip/Trip and Fall Accidents
Nursing Home and ALF abuse

DEGREES

Juris Doctor,
Nova Southeastern University,
Shepard Broad Law Center,
Davie, Florida

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

23+ years

LAW FIRM

The Law Office of
Barbara H. Gormley, P.A.



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Amanda King
Family Law



Peter Krotec
Family Law



Kenneth Poole
Family Law



Michael Resnick
Family Law



F. Scott Westheimer
Personal Injury



Elisabeth Whitmire
Appellate Law

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BIO

M. Brandon Robinson's legal career began combating consumer fraud while serving as the Elder Consumer Protection Fellow for Stetson University College of Law.

After transitioning to private practice, Brandon became active in the local legal community by serving as a Director of the Manatee County Young Lawyers Division and a Member of the Florida Bar Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Brandon is a Department of Veterans Affairs Accredited Attorney and a Marine Corps Combat Veteran.

Tell us about yourself and your firm. Brandon Robinson received his Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from Hannibal-LaGrange University in 2011. Brandon earned his Juris Doctor and a Certificate of Concentration in Elder Law from Stetson University College of Law, graduating cum laude in 2015. Upon graduation, Brandon received the Matthew Bender Elder Law Book Award as well as the William F. Blew Pro Bono Service Award, having provided over 470 hours of pro bono services during law school. Brandon is licensed to practice in all Florida Courts as well as The United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida.



ELITE TOP
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PRACTICE AREAS

Trust
Probate
Guardianship
Veterans Disability

DEGREES

- Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management, Hannibal-LaGrange University
- Juris Doctor & Certificate of Concentration in Elder Law Stetson University College of Law

LAW FIRM

Barnes Walker, Goethe, Perron & Shea, PLLC

DAWN MARIE BATES-BUCHANAN

HONOREE | Family Law

BIO

Dawn Marie was raised in Venice Florida, where her father was a police officer and she graduated from Venice High School. Dawn graduated from Stetson University College in December of 1998. Dawn Marie worked for legal aid in Daytona and Bradenton doing family and elder law as Managing Attorney, before opening the Bates-Buchanan & Savitsky Law Group where she has been the primary attorney in more than 70 trials. Dawn Marie handles Estate Planning, Trust Administration, Probate and Bankruptcy law. Dawn Marie is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Law and Circuit Civil and Foreclosure Mediator. Dawn Marie is also trained as a Collaborative Family Law Attorney. In addition, Dawn Marie has a project where she does pet trust for animal owners for free to keep them out of kill shelters. We are the Lady Lawyers of Florida, "a small law firm that is big enough to fight for you, but small enough to care."



CONTACT

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dawnb@ladylawyersfla.com
LadyLawyersFLA.com



ELITE TOP
ATTORNEYS

PRACTICE AREAS

Probate, Estate Planning
and Trust Administration,
Mediation, Consumer
and Bankruptcy

DEGREES

A.S. Legal Assisting; B.A.
University of South Florida;
J.D. Stetson University
College of Law

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

25 years

LAW FIRM

Bates-Buchanan & Savitsky
Law Group, P.A.



FEATURED HONOREES

ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS



FIRST EDITION Recognizing the attorneys in the region who garnered the respect of their professional peers as honorees for the 2022 Elite Top Attorneys Legal Guide.

WILLS cont.

Casanueva, Melissa
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941-254-6611 | Lic. 105788

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Ferguson Skipper PA Attorneys At Law
1515 Ringling Blvd | Fl 10th
Sarasota FL 34236
941-957-1900 | Lic. 106749

Guy, Scarlett R
Guy Law
2170 Main St Ste 205
Sarasota FL 34237
941-822-8869 | Lic. 627623

Kaplan, Todd D
Icard Merrill Attorneys & Counselors
2033 Main St | Ste 600
Sarasota FL 34237
941-907-0006 | Lic. 613371

Bartirome, Anthony D
Blalock Walters PA
802 11th St W
Bradenton FL 34205-7734
941-748-0100 | Lic. 606316

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Whitney C Glaser PA
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Archbold Law Firm PA
2389 Ringling Blvd | Ste A
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Norton Hammersley Lopez & Skokos PA
1819 Main St | Ste 610
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Greene Hamrick Quinlan & Schermer PA
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941-741-8224 | Lic. 861420

Robinson, M Brandon
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Muirhead Gaylor Steves Waskom
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941-484-3000 | Lic. 932140

Najmy, Joseph L
Najmy Thompson PL
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Sarasota FL 34239-6093
941-907-3999 | Lic. 847283

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WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Cromley, Terri F
Carlson Meissner Hart & Hayslett
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Bradenton FL 34208-1235
941-202-4600 | Lic. 118230

Murphy, Edward
Legler Murphy & Battaglia LLP
2411 Manatee Ave W
Bradenton FL 34205
941-748-5599 | Lic. 67792

Annunciata, Amanda
Berlin Law Firm
200 N Washington Blvd
Sarasota FL 34236
941-777-7000 | Lic. 115553

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SARA BOELLER

HONOREE | Family Law



CONTACT 2190 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34293
941.800.4990 | saraboeller@boellerlaw.com | boellerlaw.com

BIO Sara Sawyer Boeller, Esq. is a respected family law attorney serving all of Sarasota, Venice, Manatee, Charlotte County and the surrounding areas. As a native of New Glarus, Wisconsin, Sara Boeller attended the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, where she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, with a minor in Political Science. Recognizing her passion for resolving complex legal situations within the family, she earned her Juris Doctorate degree from the prestigious Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg Florida.

A Background That has Proven Instrumental to Family Law Cases. To provide a unique and beneficial experience for her clients, Attorney Boeller went on to earn her Masters of Arts Degree in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling from the University of South Florida. In 2013, Mrs. Boeller established Boeller Counseling, LLC, a full-service mental health counseling practice. With this extensive background, she is not only extremely experienced in litigating the very complex matters of family law in the courtroom, but she also provides a sympathetic, compassionate, and effective approach to every family law matter. Her unique blend of skills provides clients with a more therapeutic transition throughout the legal process. Attorney Boeller began her legal career litigating family law matters at Gulfcoast Legal Aid in Sarasota, Florida. She then went on to practice exclusively in family law in the private sector. Attorney Boeller also strives to participate in volunteer activities related to family law including organizations such as the Guardian Ad Litem program.



ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

PRACTICE AREAS

Alimony, Collaborative Divorce.
Divorce, Equitable Distribution.
Mediation, Modifications.
Prenuptial Agreements,
Time Sharing and Custody

DEGREES

University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, Minor in Political Science. Stetson University College of Law, Juris Doctorate and M.A. University of South Florida, Masters in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling
Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator

LAW FIRM

Boeller Law, P.A.

SHERRI L. JOHNSON

HONOREE | Bankruptcy



CONTACT
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johnsonlegalofflorida.com

BIO

Sherri L. Johnson graduated with honors from the University of Florida College of Law, and has practiced law in Sarasota for the last 24 years. Ms. Johnson is a former president of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers and the Sarasota County Bar Association and is a Master Emeritus of the Judge John M. Scheb American Inn of Court. In 2022, she was recognized as a Florida Super Lawyer and one of *Florida Trend Magazine's* Legal Elite.

About yourself and your firm. Johnson Legal of Florida, P.L. primarily represents debtors in Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 bankruptcy cases. However, Sherri Johnson, a former special magistrate for the value adjustment boards of several Florida counties, also represents taxpayers in property tax appeals, including disputes over property valuation, denial of exemptions and agricultural classifications, and in removing homestead tax liens and assessments for back taxes. Ms. Johnson is admitted to practice before all Florida courts, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court, and her property tax cases have resulted in many significant appellate decisions, including a recent decision by the Supreme Court of Florida.



ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

PRACTICE AREAS

Bankruptcy Law
Property Tax Law
Homestead Exemption Liens
Probate

DEGREES

University of Florida
College of Law with honors

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

24 years

LAW FIRM

Johnson Legal of Florida, P.L.



ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science,
University of Tampa on a full
ROTC scholarship, in 1987.
Attended Officer Basic School
at Fort McClellan (1988).
Juris Doctorate, Stetson University
College of Law in 1990,
Stanley Milledge Award.
Retired from the US Army
Reserves as Captain in 2000.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

31 years

LAW FIRM

Lutz, Bobo & Telfair
Trial Lawyers

CHARLES W. TELFAIR, IV

HONOREE | Personal Injury



CONTACT 2 North Tamiami Trl, 5th Floor | Sarasota, Florida, 34236
941-951-1800 | cwtelfair@lutzbobotelfair.com | lbtlaw.com



BIO Charles W. Telfair IV is a Personal Injury Attorney. Telfair began his career at Holland and Knight back in 1989. Holland and Knight chose to relocate to Tampa and Lutz, Bobo and Telfair opened its doors in April of 1992. Through his career Telfair has had the privilege of working with some of the biggest corporations in the world: Tropicana, Volvo Penta, Stanely Bostich, to name a few. Telfair believes accessibility and honesty are what his client's appreciate the most. Personal Injury law is personal. Telfair puts forth his energy, knowledge and time to ensure the best possible outcome for his clients.

MISSION Lutz, Bobo & Telfair is an AV rated law firm, by Martindale Hubbell. This means that our peers have given us the highest rating for both ethics and legal ability. Here at Lutz, Bobo & Telfair we are privileged to work with you, and we are honored to share our experience with you. At Lutz, Bobo and Telfair we treat our clients the way we prefer to be treated.



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LESLIE WULFSOHN LOFTUS, ESQ.

HONOREE | Family Law



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LOFTUS LAW
FAMILY LAW MATTERS



BIO Ms. Loftus is a family law attorney who has practiced in Sarasota and Manatee Counties since 2002. She was licensed to practice law in 1984, in Chicago, Illinois. In 1994, she became licensed in Florida. Loftus enjoys her practice and her clients, with whom she works closely to provide individualized service. It is important to her that clients feel welcome, understood, and informed. Ms. Loftus favors negotiated and agreed resolutions where possible and is an active collaborative law practitioner. Some cases are not collaborative and cannot be agreed, however, and when litigating, Loftus is steadfast, purposeful and determined. She is a vigorous and experienced advocate. Loftus balances her professional life with volunteerism. Currently, she serves the Florida Bar's Grievance Committee and Chair of the 12th Judicial Circuit's Professionalism Panel. She is a former member of the board of the Sarasota Tiger Bay Club, the Ringling College Library Association, the City of Sarasota's Board of Adjustment, and the Board of the Florida House on Capital Hill.



ELITE TOP
ATTORNEYS

RECOGNITION

2018 -2022 Designated a "Super Lawyer", an honor afforded to only 5% of Florida lawyers. AV Rated by Martindale Hubbell since 1996 Awarded the C.L. McKaig award for professionalism. Recognized in the 2018 Edition of Florida *Legal Trend Magazine* as one of Florida's "Legal Elite."

LAW FIRM

Loftus Law

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Mark Barnebey – Local Government and Land Use Law

Anthony Bartirome – Estate Planning, Tax Law

Anne Chapman – Labor & Employment Law

Charles Johnson – Business Litigation

Matthew Lapointe - Business & Corporate, Health Care Law

Fred Moore – Business Litigation

Matthew Plummer – Real Estate Law, Finance Law, Leasing

Marisa Powers – Local Government and Land Use Law, Business Litigation

Jodi Ruberg – Business & Corporate, Health Care Law

Scott Rudacille - Local Government and Land Use Law

Jenifer Schembri – Tax Law, Estate Planning, Business & Corporate Law

Timothy Shaw – Real Estate

Robert Stroud - Business & Corporate, Health Care Law

Amanda Tullidge – Real Estate Law, Finance Law, Leasing

Clifford Walters III – Real Estate Law, Business & Corporate Law

90
FOR OVER
years



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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Finance Law | Health Care Law | Labor & Employment Law
Land Use Law | Local Government Law | Real Estate Law | Tax

SARASOTA ■ BRADENTON

blalockwalters.com | 941.748.0100



ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

PRACTICE AREAS

Collaborative Divorce
Divorce Law

DEGREES

- Juris Doctor degree, Regent University (VA)
- Bachelor's degree, University of Wisconsin-Madison

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

21 years

LAW FIRM

McDermott Law Offices, PLLC.

PAUL M. McDERMOTT

HONOREE | Family Law



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BIO

Paul McDermott is a trusted family law practitioner with more than twenty years of experience. He is a member of the Family Law Section of the Florida Bar and the Sarasota Collaborative of Family Law Professionals (sarasotacollaborative.com). He founded McDermott Law Offices in Lakewood Ranch, a firm focused exclusively on family law and divorce cases. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from Regent University (VA) in 2001 and his Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1998.

How do you represent, protect and support your clients?

Every case is unique and requires a strategy to efficiently accomplish the client's objectives. In a divorce case, our cost-effective approach to resolve a case is to first attempt settlement through negotiation, then attend private mediation and if necessary, pursue litigation in court. This three-tiered

approach attempts to preserve client assets, promote civility and safeguard children. Mr. McDermott is also trained in Collaborative Divorce, an emerging method of dispute resolution that helps parties resolve their disputes respectfully, confidentially, fairly and relatively quickly outside of court by engaging a team of collaboratively trained professionals to work together in a team environment.



ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

PRACTICE AREAS

Business Litigation
Construction Litigation
Real Estate Litigation

DEGREES

Albert Sanchez obtained his undergraduate degree at the University of Florida with High Honors and his Juris Doctorate from UF where he was a Member and Editor of the UF Law Review.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

30+ years

LAW FIRM

Sanchez Law, PLLC

ALBERT A. SANCHEZ, R.

HONOREE | Business Litigation



CONTACT 2055 Wood Str. | Suite 220 | Sarasota, FL 34237
941-366-0001 | Albert@sanchezlawfla.com | sanchezlawfla.com



BIO

Albert Sanchez obtained his undergraduate degree at the University of Florida with High Honors and his Juris Doctorate from UF where he was a Member and Editor of the UF Law Review. He has practiced law in Sarasota for over 30 years. During this period, from 1997-2012, he was also the managing partner of a real estate development and homebuilding company and a licensed contractor. This business experience has given him additional insight into how best to advise his clients when faced with a business, construction or real estate dispute. Mr. Sanchez is a member of the Florida Supreme Court Business and Contracts Jury Instruction Committee. Practice Areas: Business, Construction and Real Estate Litigation and Dispute Resolution.

About the firm.

Sanchez Law provides legal advice in the resolution of business, construction and real estate disputes based on a two step process. Initially, Mr. Sanchez performs with his client a thorough review and analysis of the facts relevant to the dispute and the law applicable to the dispute. Once this investigative analysis is performed and the client is advised of how different interpretations of applicable law might affect his/her chances of success, discussions proceed to determine the best strategy for the client going forward. This approach seeks to assist the client in making sound decisions when weighing the costs, risks and rewards of a business, construction or real estate dispute.

CHRISTINE SENSENIG

HONOREE | Labor & Employment



CONTACT 1515 Ringling Blvd., Suite 230, Sarasota, FL 34236
941.953.2828 | csensenig@senseniglawfirm.com | senseniglawfirm.com



 **sensenig**
LAW FIRM, P.A.

BIO

Christine Sensenig is the managing partner of The Sensenig Law Firm, P.A. She provides human resources and employment law advice as well as litigation defense to employers of all sizes in all aspects of the employment relationship. To build strong long-term relationships with clients, the firm explores the “why” behind a client’s concerns. In employment law, clients have needs in “real time” and the firm believes in being an accessible resource to our clients. Christine Sensenig is grateful to have been recognized in her community by colleagues that she respects and admires as a member of *SRQ Magazine’s* Elite Top Attorneys.

“I do my best because I am counting on you counting on me.”
— Maya Angelou



ELITE TOP
ATTORNEYS

DEGREES

- University of South Florida, B.A., B.A., 1988
- University of South Florida, M.L.A., 1992
- University of Florida, Levin College of Law, 1995

RECOGNITION

Florida Trend Magazine
Legal Elite, 2009-2022
SuperLawyer, 2015-2022
University of Florida
Alumni Leader of the Year,
2009, AV Rated by
Martindale Hubbell

LAW FIRM

Sensenig Law Firm, P.A.

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E. Zachary Rans (Construction), Charla Burchett (Wills) and Erik Hanson (Construction).



E. Zachary Rans
Sarasota
Managing Partner



Charla M. Burchett
Partner
Florida Bar Board Certified
Specialist in Wills, Trusts and Estates



Erik M. Hanson
Senior Associate

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www.shutts.com



ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

FLORIDA BAR DATE OF ADMISSION

September 17, 2003.
Also licensed in Pennsylvania.

PRACTICE AREAS

Zoning | Land Use
Environmental | Real Estate
Sustainability | Due Diligence
FEMA | Development
Permitting | Wetlands
Green Building | Waterfront
Permitting | Conservation
Riparian Rights | Docks
Contaminated Site Remediation
Redevelopment | Code
Enforcement | Ethics | Copyright
Shopping Center Law.

LAW FIRM

The Colburn Firm, PL

CASEY COLBURN

HONOREE | Land Use, Environmental Law



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BIO

Mr. Colburn's Florida-based boutique law practice is devoted to the acquisition, disposition and/or the redevelopment of real estate. Casey assists landowners with zoning and permitting, often in the retail shopping center, waterfront, hospitality and housing sectors. He helps property owners to ensure proper application of FEMA's "50% Rule" and other environmental, wetland, protected species, dock and navigation regulations. He leads due diligence teams to assist investors, mergers, and financing. Casey also participates in the development and implementation of environmental rules, cleanup actions, renewable energy technologies, ethical practices, and sustainable strategies. He has lectured about his experience with these topics. A significant part of his practice now involves co-counsel relationships with other lawyers and law firms from across the country. "Being brought in to assist a colleague with a valued client requires respect and confidence that I truly value, much like being recognized again this year by my talented local peers. Thank you, SRQ."



ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

FLORIDA BAR DATE OF ADMISSION

September 24, 1998.

PRACTICE AREAS

Planned Giving Techniques
Compliance with
Regulations for Foundations

LAW FIRM

Community Foundation
of Sarasota County

BETSY PENNEWILL, JD

HONOREE | Attorney for Non Profits



CONTACT 2635 Fruitville Road | Sarasota, FL 34237
941-955-3000 | betsy@cfsarasota.org | cfsarasota.org



BIO

Betsy Pennewill serves as general counsel at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, working with donors and professional advisors to craft planned giving agreements and ensuring compliance with IRC regulations for foundations. She is also skilled in real estate transactions and estate planning matters. Pennewill is a member of the Public Policy Committee of Philanthropy Southeast and the past board chair of Charitable Gift Planners of Southwest Florida.

MISSION

Community impact powered by philanthropy. The Community Foundation of Sarasota County unites people and organizations to create opportunities across generations to improve lives. Each one of us has the potential to impact a person, cause, community. Be The One.

DANIEL HOOPER SMITH

HONOREE | Elder Law



CONTACT 328 N Rhodes Ave | Sarasota, Florida 34237
941-365-9900 | daniel@wiesnerlaw.com | wiesnerlaw.com



BIO

Daniel H. Smith is an attorney at Advocates in Aging focusing on Elder Law, Medicaid Planning, Guardianship, Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning, Special Needs Planning, Probate and Trust Administration, Veterans Benefits, and Long-Term Care Issues. Daniel is licensed to practice law in Florida and Virginia. He received his J.D. cum laude, George Mason University School of Law (2015), and his B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2005).

Tell us about yourself and your firm. Daniel is also a VA Accredited Attorney, representing veterans and their families in appeals of VA Benefits decisions. Daniel also assists seniors in retaining and/or restoring their rights, representing elderly individuals in court and administrative proceedings.



ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

PRACTICE AREAS

Elder Law
Estate Planning

DEGREES

J.D. cum laude,
George Mason University
School of Law (2015)
B.A., University
of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill (2005).

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

7 years

LAW FIRM

Advocates in Aging, Law
Office of Wiesner Smith

IRA STEWART WIESNER

HONOREE | Elder Law



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BIO

Ira Stewart Wiesner is founder of Advocates in Aging, Sarasota's first dedicated Elder Law firm. For over 40 years he has guided clients on issues of aging and disability, preserving assets and accessing care. He was founding member and Chair of the Florida Bar Elder Law Sections. Ira's contributions to the emerging field earned him election as President of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and selection as a Fellow of the Academy.

MISSION

Our mission is to help protect the assets, preserve the independence, and maintain the dignity and security of our clients as they confront the issues of aging or illness.



ELITE TOP ATTORNEYS

PRACTICE AREAS

Elder Law
Estate Planning

COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT

Recipient of the First Theresa Award of the Theresa Foundation, 1995. Witness before Congressional Older Americans Caucus, Chair Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy, III. Guest on Today Show, Bryant Gumbel, October 1996.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

40+ years

LAW FIRM

Advocates in Aging, Law
Office of Wiesner Smith