



Appellate Law

We have one of most successful appellate practices in Florida. We use our trial, negotiation and appellate skills to put our clients in the best leverage position at every phase of a lawsuit. Not only do we handle dozens of appeals generated each year by our trial practice, but we are frequently called upon to serve as appellate counsel for our peers. We have also been retained by some of the largest corporations in America to serve as their regular appellate and trial support counsel.

Attorneys in the Appellate Practice Group, led by Edward G. Guedes, include Florida Board-certified experts. We have a record of success pursuing and defending appeals of final judgments and verdicts, as well as non-final, interlocutory appeals, on behalf of public and private sector clients throughout the State. In addition, the Group's attorneys, with insight into appellate procedures and the current state of the law on various procedural and substantive issues, also provide invaluable trial/litigation support on a daily basis to the 20 seasoned trial attorneys that make up our Litigation Division.

The Group successfully advocates regularly before:

- The Florida Supreme Court;
- All of the Florida district courts of appeals;
- The appellate divisions of Florida's twenty judicial circuits;
- The United States Circuit Courts of Appeals;
- The United States Supreme Court; and
- Appellate courts in numerous other jurisdictions.

Significant Cases, Broad Perspective

Our collective experience includes handling some of the most significant constitutional and government law matters to come before the courts of Florida and the United States. The Group's attorneys have a track record of successfully representing clients in appellate matters involving:

- Class actions;
- Bid and procurement disputes;
- Commercial disputes;
- Business torts;
- Zoning and land use;
- Municipal bond validations;
- Labor and employment (including wage and hour issues);
- Intellectual property;
- Environmental regulation;
- Telecommunications;
- Torts;
- Contracts;
- Government purchasing;
- Civil rights;
- Ad valorem taxation; and
- Probate matters.

The Group also handles matters involving the issuance of and opposition to extraordinary writs such as certiorari, mandamus, prohibition and quo warranto. Our extensive knowledge of appellate practice and procedures allows us to advise clients regarding the meaningful and cost-effective use of appellate stays, motions for rehearing and rehearing en banc, and requests for certification of issues for further appellate review.

Successful appellate advocacy means more than advancing the best arguments. It requires a careful assessment of how the law in a particular field is developing and determining which battles are worth fighting, and which ones create the potential for adverse consequences to a client or industry. This 360° perspective on how appellate precedents shape the development of the law is critical to many clients' business and governmental objectives.

Advocates for 'Friends of the Court'

This is particularly the case when representing individuals and entities who seek to participate in appellate proceedings as *amicus curiae* or "friends of the court." In such situations, clients often feel their interests might be adversely affected by ongoing appellate proceedings to which they are not formal parties. We provide a candid assessment of the impact their involvement might have on a pending appellate proceeding. We also consult with counsel for the parties engaged in litigation, as well as other potential amici, to develop a strategy for amicus participation and carefully select the issues to be advocated to maximize the influence and persuasiveness of the client's amicus position.