



William J. Schifino Jr.

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Legal Secretary

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Services

Commercial / Corporate Litigation, Director & Officer Liability, Employment Litigation, Intellectual Property, Labor & Employment, Non-Compete & Trade Secrets, Securities,

Bill is Managing Partner of the firm's Tampa office and a board-certified specialist in the area of business litigation. His practice focuses on a variety of litigation and trial practice, including securities litigation and arbitration, professional malpractice litigation, employment litigation, and intellectual property litigation.

Bill is currently serving as President of The Florida Bar for the 2016-2017 term. Bill served eight years as a member of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission, serving as its Chairman, and having been appointed by both Governors Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist. Bill was also involved in a special task force to study enhancement of diversity in the Judiciary and on the State's Judicial Nominating Commission. In addition, in 2017 Bill was tapped by Senate President Joe Negron to serve on the Florida Constitution Revision Commission as one of 37 Commissioners assisting in the study, research and possible revision of the state constitution.

Bill is a frequent speaker and lecturer on a number of litigation and trial topics, including deposition strategies and techniques, expert witness procedures and discovery, and trial issues in Florida. He is also on the Board of Trustees for the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

After law school, Bill worked for the firm Taub & Williams, P.A., subsequently establishing Williams, Schifino, Mangione & Steady, P.A. in 1991, where he was a founding Shareholder, President, and then Managing Director before the firm combined with Burr & Forman in 2012

Education

J.D., University of Florida College of Law, (1985)
B.A., Tulane University, (1982)

Licensed In

Florida

Honors & Awards

- Hillsborough County Bar Association Outstanding Lawyer
- *Florida Trend's* "Legal Elite," Commercial Litigation (2006-2010, 2013, 2015) & Business Law (2016)
- *Best Lawyers*, "Lawyer of the Year," Litigation-Securities, Tampa, Florida (2014, 2016)
- *Best Lawyers in America*, Arbitration, Commercial Litigation, Litigation-Securities (2008-2018)
- *Florida Super Lawyers*, Securities Litigation (2006-2017)
- Martindale-Hubbell™ AV Preeminent Rated Lawyer
- *Chambers USA*, Leading Practitioner in Litigation, General Commercial (2016-2017)

Professional Associations

American Bar Association

Florida Bar, President-Elect (2015-2016)

Florida Bar, Board of Governors, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (2008 - Present)

Florida Bar, Trial Lawyer Section; Business Law Section; Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section

Florida Bar, Young Lawyers Division

Florida Bar Foundation, Fellow

Florida Justice Association, Fellow

Hillsborough County Bar Association, Trial Lawyers Section (1986 - Present), Racial, Ethnic & Gender Bias Committee

Hillsborough County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division

Hillsborough County Bar Foundation, President (2014-2015)

Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association

Tampa Bay Inn of Court

University of Florida Levin College of Law, Board of Trustees

Community Involvement

Florida Guardian Ad Litem Association

Big Brothers / Big Sisters of Greater Tampa

Boys & Girls Club of Tampa Bay, Inc. - Director of Corporate Board

Tampa Bay Little League, Inc. - Coach, President and Director

Experience

- Represented the defendants, including a publicly traded company, in a Federal jury trial brought by the SEC alleging multiple securities law violations in which the jury returned a verdict in favor of the defendants on all counts.
- Successfully represented a California based law firm in a claim for securities law violations in connection with its work in preparing a Private Placement Memorandum and obtained a defense verdict and recovered attorney's fees and costs on behalf of the defendants.

- Lead counsel in defending a large state-wide law firm in a legal malpractice claim under the Interstate Land Sales Disclosure Act for claimed damages in excess of \$60,000,000.00. After approximately two (2) years of litigation, the case was successfully settled.
- Successfully represented the defendant, a public company, in the defense of a claim for breach of employment agreement, director/officer conflict of interest, negligence and fraud and obtained a jury verdict in its favor on all counts and ultimately obtained a jury verdict on a counter-claim for civil theft/embezzlement.

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