



Kimble McKay, Esq.
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VERDICTS AND DISPOSITIONS

*Wiggins, Michelle v. Kellogg & Kimsey, Inc. v. Southwest
Construction Services, Inc*
Gallegos v. Phorcys

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Automobile Liability (PIP/PD/BI/UM)
Construction and Construction Defect Litigation
Coverage & Declaratory Judgment Actions
First and Third Party Property and Casualty Claims
General Liability Defense Litigation
Premises Liability
Sinkhole Litigation

BAR & COURT ADMISSION

Florida Bar

EDUCATION

Graduate:
Florida Coastal School of Law, Juris Doctorate, 2013
Undergraduate:
University of Florida, Bachelor of Arts in Criminology, 2010

Kimble McKay began working at Vernis & Bowling in the summer of 2012. He was born and raised in Tampa, Florida. In 2010, he graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology. While at the University of Florida, he was a member of the Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Society.

Kimble then attended the Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville, Florida. Florida Coastal School of Law conferred a Juris Doctorate upon him in 2013. Some of his academic memberships and activities while at Florida Coastal include Business Law Society, Sports Law Society, and volunteering at the Family Nurturing Center.

Since graduating from Florida Coastal School of Law in 2013, Kimble has been working at Vernis & Bowling of the Gulf Coast as an attorney handling general insurance defense matters with a specific focus on construction defect litigation and bodily injury claims. Kimble is an avid Florida Gators fan. In his spare time he enjoys playing sports, boating, fishing, and other outdoor activities.



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Len Hackett was born in Fall River, Massachusetts. He majored in Criminal Justice at Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts where he graduated with a B.A. in 1986. Thereafter, he enlisted in the United States Army where he earned his commission as a Lieutenant. While in the Army, he participated in and was decorated for his performance during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Following his tour in the Army, he attended Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. During law school, he served on the Cleveland State Law Review and Law Review Editorial Board. He graduated cum laude in May of 1996.

Len's practice areas include employment law, labor law, condominium/homeowner association law, and personal injury litigation that involves catastrophic injury and/or wrongful death. He has extensive experience in defending both public and private employers in all aspects of employment litigation that involve claims of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful discharge, family and medical leave, equal pay violations, wage-hour, and civil rights. Len also provides guidance and legal advice to employers with regard to problem prevention and employment-related issues. He has represented and defended numerous business owners, commercial and residential property management companies, and homeowners in lawsuits involving serious personal injury and wrongful death arising from liability associated with the ownership and/or control of premises. Len also represents and defends condominium and homeowners' associations in such areas as covenant enforcement litigation, fair housing discrimination claims, service and/or emotional support animal issues, director and officer liability, breach of fiduciary duty claims, and ADA matters.

Mr. Hackett is a Florida Bar Board Certified Labor and Employment Attorney and is currently a member of the Florida and Jacksonville Bar Associations.



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Nationally Board Certified Trial Advocate **Florida Bar Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer** **Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Court Mediator**

Christopher Blain is the managing attorney of the Tampa, Florida office. He has worked all aspects of the insurance industry. He is an expert in Civil Trial and is Board Certified by the Florida Bar and Nationally Board Certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He was born in Addison, Illinois which is a suburb outside of Chicago. He attended college at Lake Forest College where he graduated in 1996. He continued his education at Barry University, School of Law where he received his *Juris Doctor* in 2002. While in law school, Chris worked under the Honorable Judge Walter Komanski at the Ninth Judicial Circuit, where he researched complex civil litigation issues.

Chris has tried numerous matters to jury verdicts in both State and Federal Courts. He has litigated general liability defense work ranging from handling lawsuits involving claims of wrongful death, premises liability, insurance coverage, auto negligence, negligent security and property claims. Chris has also represented Homeowner/Condominium Associations and their Board Members before HUD, State and Federal Courts regarding disputes arising over deed restrictions, enforcement of those restrictions and alleged discrimination. In addition, Chris has also lectured extensively in these fields where he has been a featured speaker at continuing education seminars around the United States on a variety of insurance defense and litigation topics.

Chris is admitted to practice law in all State Courts in Florida as well as all Federal Courts which include the Northern, Southern and Middle Districts of Florida. He is admitted to practice in the Eleventh Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals. Further, he is admitted to practice in all courts in the State of Illinois.

In his free time, Chris enjoys being active in the Tampa area. He is an assistant soccer coach for his son's team and can also be found cheering on his daughter at her drama class performances.



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Chelsey M. Ederly was raised in Birmingham, Alabama. She graduated *summa cum laude* with Honors from the University of Alabama in 2007, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management. In 2010, Chelsey earned her J.D. from Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama, where she was awarded a presidential merit scholarship. She was admitted to the Alabama Bar in 2010 and is licensed to practice before all state and federal courts in Alabama.

During law school, Chelsey served as Research and Writing Editor of the American Journal of Trial Advocacy and the President of Defense Research Institute. She participated in a number of school competitions and became a member of the Cumberland Trial Advocacy Board.

Chelsey's areas of practice primarily include general insurance defense, automobile defense, commercial vehicle liability, and premises liability. She is a member of the Alabama Bar Association as well as the Birmingham Bar Association. Her outside interests include running outdoors and playing piano.



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Kory R. Watson has been with Vernis & Bowling of the Gulf Coast since July of 2013. Kory was born in Springfield, Illinois. In 2008, he graduated with honors from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. While at UIUC, Kory was President of the Undergraduate Patent Law Society and Treasurer of the Chi Epsilon National Civil and Environmental Engineering Honor Society.

Kory then attended Southern Illinois University School of Law in Carbondale, Illinois. After his first year, he was accepted as a member of the Southern Illinois University Law Journal and his work was chosen twice for publication. Kory also served as Vice Justice for the Stephen A. Douglas Chapter of the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity and as Legal Research Assistant to Professor Patricia McCubbin. He graduated *cum laude* from Southern Illinois University School of Law obtaining his *Juris Doctorate* in 2011. Academic achievements include: Dean's List, *Phi Kappa Phi* Award, Academic Excellence Award, and Dean's Scholarship.

After graduation, Kory entered private practice where he focused on civil litigation in Tampa, Florida, and assisted in the litigation of numerous personal injury cases. In July of 2013, Kory joined Vernis & Bowling of the Gulf Coast, then located in Clearwater, Florida. The Clearwater office was later relocated to St. Petersburg in January of 2015. When Kory is not working he enjoys fishing, wakeboarding, cooking, and watching his favorite sports teams.