



Joseph Bootka, Esq.
Attorney

Vernis & Bowling of
Southwest Florida, P.A.
2369 West First Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Phone: (239) 334-3035

Email: JBootka@Florida-Law.com

Fax: (239) 334-7702

Website:
www.national-law.com

VERDICTS AND DISPOSITIONS

Kacey Chiddister vs. Florida Department of Children and Families
Florida Department of Children and Families v. Kacey Chiddister,
as father and natural guardian of C.H.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Automobile Liability (PIP/PD/BI/UM)
Civil Litigation
First and Third Party Property and Casualty Claims
Liability Defense
PIP/Personal Injury Protection Litigation
Premises Liability

BAR & COURT ADMISSION

Florida Bar
United States Supreme Court
United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida
United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida

EDUCATION

Graduate:
Ave Maria School of Law, *Juris Doctor*

Undergraduate:
Aquinas College, Bachelor of Arts, Majoring in Political Science
with a Minor in Legal Studies

Joseph D. Bootka was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. He graduated from Aquinas College with a Bachelor of Arts, Majoring in Political Science with a Minor in Legal Studies. After college, Joseph attended Ave Maria School of Law where he earned his *Juris Doctor*.

Joseph was admitted to the Florida Bar and immediately joined the Vernis & Bowling Team to focus his civil trial practice in all areas of automobile negligence, premises liability, civil rights litigation, first/third party claims and liability defense.

Joseph is a member of the Florida Bar and is also admitted in the United States Supreme Court, United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida and the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

When not working, Joseph enjoys all aspects of outdoor life with his beautiful wife to include camping, hiking, boating, and lounging at the beach.



Joseph Bootka, Esq.
Attorney

Vernis & Bowling of
Southwest Florida, P.A.
2369 West First Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Phone: (239) 334-3035
Email: JBootka@Florida-
Law.com
Fax: (239) 334-7702
Website:
www.national-law.com

VERDICTS AND DISPOSITIONS

Kacey Chiddister vs. Florida Department of Children and Families
Florida Department of Children and Families v. Kacey Chiddister,
as father and natural guardian of C.H.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Automobile Liability (PIP/PD/BI/UM)
Civil Litigation
First and Third Party Property and Casualty Claims
Liability Defense
PIP/Personal Injury Protection Litigation
Premises Liability

BAR & COURT ADMISSION

Florida Bar
United States Supreme Court
United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida
United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida

EDUCATION

Amanda grew up in Tampa, Florida. While there she received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology Honors from the University of South Florida. After graduation, Amanda served as a sexual assault victim advocate for several years, which inspired her to attend law school. She received her *Juris Doctorate* degree from American University Washington College of Law. While in law school, Amanda served as the Senior Articles Editor for the American University Law Review as well as a Marshal-Brennan Constitutional Law Fellow with the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project. She graduated *Cum Laude* and in the top 15% of her class.

Since joining Vernis & Bowling, Amanda's practice area has focused on insurance defense and general civil litigation. She brings her passion for advocacy to every case and enjoys helping her clients through all aspects of litigation.

In her free time, Amanda enjoys practicing archery, painting, traveling, and camping.

Graduate:

Ave Maria School of Law, *Juris Doctor*

Undergraduate:

Aquinas College, Bachelor of Arts, Majoring in Political Science
with a Minor in Legal Studies

VERNIS & BOWLING

ATTORNEYS AT LAW • EST. 1970



Joseph Bootka, Esq.
Attorney

Vernis & Bowling of
Southwest Florida, P.A.
2369 West First Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Phone: (239) 334-3035

Email: JBootka@Florida-Law.com

Fax: (239) 334-7702

Website:
www.national-law.com

VERDICTS AND DISPOSITIONS

Kacey Chiddister vs. Florida Department of Children and Families
Florida Department of Children and Families v. Kacey Chiddister,
as father and natural guardian of C.H.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Automobile Liability (PIP/PD/BI/UM)

Civil Litigation

First and Third Party Property and Casualty Claims

Liability Defense

PIP/Personal Injury Protection Litigation

Premises Liability

BAR & COURT ADMISSION

Florida Bar

United States Supreme Court

United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida

Mia Tolliver is an associate attorney at the St. Petersburg office. She is a South Louisiana native and graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from the University of Louisiana with a bachelor's degree in political science with a pre-law concentration and a minor in philosophy. As an undergraduate, she was a member of *Pi Sigma Alpha* Honor Society and competed nationally in the American Moot Court Association. Mia received her *Juris Doctorate* from the Stetson University College of Law. While in law school, she was a member of the Dispute Resolution Team and the Moot Court Team, where she competed nationally, served as captain, and earned the Best Brief Award at the Southeast Regional Jessup competition alongside the rest of her team, the largest moot court competition in the world. She was awarded the John Scheb Inn of Court Outstanding Appellate Advocacy Award at graduation.

Mia is admitted to practice law in the State of Florida. She originally joined Vernis & Bowling as a law clerk. Since being admitted to the Florida Bar, she has focused her practice on areas of personal injury litigation including auto liability defense, wrongful death, and premises liability. Her goal as a defense attorney is to provide confident and excellent representation for her clients, while building lasting relationships by exceeding client expectations.

Outside of work, Mia enjoys running, visiting her family back in Louisiana, and exploring the beautiful scenery throughout St. Petersburg.

EDUCATION

Graduate:

Ave Maria School of Law, *Juris Doctor*

Undergraduate:

Aquinas College, Bachelor of Arts, Majoring in Political Science with a Minor in Legal Studies

VERNIS & BOWLING

ATTORNEYS AT LAW • EST. 1970



Joseph Bootka, Esq.
Attorney

Vernis & Bowling of
Southwest Florida, P.A.
2369 West First Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Phone: (239) 334-3035

Email: JBootka@Florida-Law.com

Fax: (239) 334-7702

Website:
www.national-law.com

VERDICTS AND DISPOSITIONS

Kacey Chiddister vs. Florida Department of Children and Families
Florida Department of Children and Families v. Kacey Chiddister,
as father and natural guardian of C.H.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Automobile Liability (PIP/PD/BI/UM)

Civil Litigation

First and Third Party Property and Casualty Claims

Liability Defense

PIP/Personal Injury Protection Litigation

Premises Liability

AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell

Robert Swanson attended the University of Central Florida, where he graduated with Bachelor of Science degrees in Health Care Administration and Legal Studies. At UCF Robert was active in *Phi Gamma Delta* fraternity and the *Order of Omega* honor fraternity. Robert received his *Juris Doctorate* degree *cum laude* from Stetson University College of Law. While in law school, Robert was active in the Health Law Society and was also a member of *Phi Delta Phi* legal fraternity.

Prior to his employment at Vernis & Bowling, Robert has practiced almost exclusively insurance defense. He was most recently practicing for the largest defense firm in Florida, representing carriers in bodily injury litigation, trucking litigation, premises liability and homeowners' insurance claims. At Vernis & Bowling, Robert focuses his practice on bodily injury, premises liability and first property insurance claims.

Robert litigates his cases as efficiently as possible, always being mindful of his clients' time and resources. His favorite part of practicing law is alleviating his clients concerns and securing a favorable outcome, either through negotiation, mediation, or trial.

Robert is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell and is admitted to all state of Florida courts and the U.S. Middle District of Florida. In his free time, Robert enjoys traveling with his wife and children and is huge fan of UCF athletics and the Tampa Bay Lightning.

BAR & COURT ADMISSION

Florida Bar
United States Supreme Court
United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida
United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida

EDUCATION

Graduate:
Ave Maria School of Law, *Juris Doctor*

Undergraduate:
Aquinas College, Bachelor of Arts, Majoring in Political Science
with a Minor in Legal Studies

VERNIS & BOWLING

ATTORNEYS AT LAW • EST. 1970



Joseph Bootka, Esq.
Attorney

Vernis & Bowling of
Southwest Florida, P.A.
2369 West First Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Phone: (239) 334-3035

Email: JBootka@Florida-Law.com

Fax: (239) 334-7702

Website:
www.national-law.com

VERDICTS AND DISPOSITIONS

Kacey Chiddister vs. Florida Department of Children and Families
Florida Department of Children and Families v. Kacey Chiddister,
as father and natural guardian of C.H.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Automobile Liability (PIP/PD/BI/UM)
Civil Litigation
First and Third Party Property and Casualty Claims

Ryan Benninger was born in Morgantown, West Virginia. Before joining Vernis & Bowling, he worked for a maritime defense firm located in Miami, Florida, where he focused much of his practice assisting in the defense of cruise lines in crewmember personal injury claims before the ICDR. Mr. Benninger also assisted in the defense of maritime-related personal injury, wrongful death, and limitation of liability civil actions in Florida state and federal courts.

Previously, Mr. Benninger had served as an Assistant District Attorney under Richard E. Bower at the Fayette County District Attorney's Office located in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He successfully prosecuted felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile criminal matters in one of the most active county-level district attorney's offices in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. Benninger also has considerable appellate experience litigating matters in the Pennsylvania Superior and Supreme Courts. Prior to working as an ADA, Mr. Benninger served as judicial law clerk to the Honorable Judge Joseph M. George, Jr., in the Court of Common Pleas of Fayette County, Pennsylvania. He also served as a court-appointed member of the Fayette County Compulsory Arbitration Panel. He also spent time working alongside his lawyer-parents who operate a personal injury/medical malpractice Plaintiff's firm in Morgantown, West Virginia. Mr. Benninger utilizes his broad range of experience, skills, and

Liability Defense
PIP/Personal Injury Protection Litigation
Premises Liability

BAR & COURT ADMISSION

Florida Bar
United States Supreme Court
United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida
United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida

EDUCATION

Graduate:

Ave Maria School of Law, *Juris Doctor*

Undergraduate:

Aquinas College, Bachelor of Arts, Majoring in Political Science
with a Minor in Legal Studies

experience to effectively represent his clients' interests. He is compassionate and cares about his client's outcome and performs his due diligence in researching to offer them solutions.

Mr. Benninger began his academic studies at West Virginia University, located in Morgantown, West Virginia, where he obtained his B.S. in Biology. He worked for a year as an Orvis-Endorsed fly-fishing guide for an outfitter and lodge located in Western Maryland. He returned to WVU to complete his M.S. in Agriculture Resource Economics. During his tenure in graduate school, Mr. Benninger was asked to participate in research projects funded by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Energy, which required that he undertake extensive legal research and perform lobbying activities, leading to his interest in pursuing a law degree. Mr. Benninger later completed law school at WVU College of Law in 2015, graduating in the top third of his class and excelling in the areas, of trial litigation, trial advocacy, and alternative dispute resolution. During law school, Mr. Benninger served as a Magistrate Court-appointed mediator and received *Pro Bono* recognition at graduation. He then graduated from the University of Miami School of Law, located in Coral Gables, Florida, with an L.L.M. focused in Admiralty and Maritime law.

At Vernis & Bowling, Mr. Benninger's multi-discipline practice focuses on insurance defense, admiralty and maritime matters, personal injury and wrongful death, premises liability, recreational dive/snorkeling accidents, municipal code enforcement, and school board litigation. He utilizes his broad range of experience and skills to effectively represent his client's interests. He is compassionate and cares about the case outcome and performs his due diligence in researching to offer them solutions.

Mr. Benninger enjoys spending time with his wife and raising their two sons and can frequently be found chasing tarpon, sharks, and bonefish in the backcountry waters of the Florida Keys when he is not working to assist his clients.