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VERDICTS AND DISPOSITIONS

Oakes Farms Food & Distribution Services, LLC and Francis A.

*Oakes, III v. Chris N. Patricca and The School District of Lee
County, Florida, et al*

*Florida National Insurance Solutions Inc., v. Welcome Home
Development Corp.*

*Yindra Carmona and Victor Lopez, Sr., as Mother and Father and
Legal Guardians of a minor vs. School Board Of Lee County.*

*Iberia Bank v. Blue Water Coach Homes Condominium
Association, Inc.*

Sabrina Moore v. Maritta and Kenneth Stevens

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Appellate Practice

Automobile Liability (PIP/PD/BI/UM)

Condominium and Homeowners' Association Litigation

Construction and Construction Defect Litigation

Director & Officer Liability (D&O)

First and Third Party Property and Casualty Claims

Product Liability

Public Entities

BAR & COURT ADMISSION

Florida Bar

United States District Court for the Southern and Middle Districts
of Florida

Oklahoma Bar

Philip Fairman was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. Phil obtained a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master's Degree in Labor and Industrial Relations from the University of Cincinnati. Phil obtained his *Juris Doctor* from the University of Tulsa College of Law.

Phil began his legal career as a prosecutor with the State Attorney's office in Ft Myers. Phil then worked as a corporate attorney for Carnival Cruise Lines and then again as a prosecutor with the State Attorney's office in Sarasota.

Phil joined the Ft. Myers office of Vernis & Bowling of Southwest Florida nearly 20 years ago. Phil worked as an in-house liability trial attorney with St Paul-Travelers Insurance Company. Phil then worked for over a decade as an Assistant County Attorney for Charlotte County where he defended public entity liability claims. Phil returned to Vernis & Bowling of Southwest Florida where he continues to practice in the areas of property and casualty insurance, automobile liability, premises liability, and Director and Officers litigation. He represents insurance companies, insureds and self-insureds in trial and appellate litigation. Phil has represented clients in successful jury trials in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee, Hillsborough and Highlands counties.

Phil is a member of the Florida Bar, Oklahoma Bar, Federal District Courts for the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida, and Federal District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

In his free time, Phil enjoys lap swimming, cruising with wife and his adult children, and cooking on his Big Green Egg. He is Tampa Bay Rays fan but still closely follows his hometown Cincinnati Reds.

EDUCATION

Graduate:

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REPORTED DECISIONS

Charlotte County v. Grant Medical Transportation, Inc. 68 So.3d 920

In the Interest of C.W., a Child 681 So.2d 1181

Better Roads Incorporated v. Maria De Jesus Gonzalez et al, and Ronald Dale Walker and Krehling Industries, Inc. 744 So.2d 1123
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Skyler Trettis is a civil litigation attorney in the St. Petersburg office of Vernis and Bowling. He graduated *cum laude* from Stetson Law school and graduated *cum laude* from Florida State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance.

Skyler has a concentration in handling legal disputes involving commercial liability, products liability, automobile liability, premises liability (including negligent security), and a variety of professional negligence actions throughout Florida.

Prior to joining Vernis & Bowling in 2017, Skyler was a judicial intern for circuit court Judge Jack Day, where he researched complex civil litigation issues.

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Jennifer Whitworth is an experienced insurance defense attorney representing insurers, insureds, and businesses in complex civil litigation. Licensed since 2011, her practice focuses on personal injury, personal and commercial auto and trucking liability, wrongful death, industrial accidents, products liability, strict liability, premises liability, construction defect, accounting malpractice, FLSA disputes, and first-party claims involving bad faith, UIM, and breach of contract. Jennifer also provides coverage opinions, drafts reservation of rights and denial letters for insurers, and handles declaratory judgment actions on behalf of insurers disputing coverage.

Jennifer delivers strategic, cost-effective legal representation with an emphasis on early evaluation, coverage analysis, strategic motion practice, and litigation efficiency. She has a strong record of securing favorable jury verdicts and summary judgments in high-exposure cases. Known for her responsiveness and practical insight, Jennifer is a valued partner to claims professionals across the insurance industry.

Outside of work, Jennifer enjoys hiking, traveling, cooking, and spending time with her husband, Bryan, their three sons—Logan, Ben, and Jake—and their pets, Annie and Whiskey.

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Jeff Gill was born in Suffern, New York in 1962. He grew up in Waldwick, New Jersey and graduated from Waldwick High School in 1980. He graduated from Haverford College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1984. Following his graduation from college, Jeff coached high school basketball for a year. He then enrolled in the Vanderbilt University School of Law from which he graduated with

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a *Juris Doctorate* in 1988. Upon graduation from law school, Jeff began his legal career in the Pensacola office of Carlton, Fields, et al. He founded the firm of Bridgers, Gill & Holman in 1991 and acted as managing partner there until joining Vernis & Bowling in 2002.

Jeff has tried more than 150 civil jury trials. He has tried and won cases in most Florida jurisdictions including Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Washington, Gadsden, Lee, Jefferson, Taylor, Madison, Suwannee, Dixie, Columbia, Alachua, Nassau, Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Flagler, Putnam, Marion, Volusia, Lake, Seminole, Orange, Pasco, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Hillsborough, Palm Beach, Broward, Dade and Collier counties as well as in the Federal Courts of the Northern and Southern Districts of Florida.

Jeff has served as national trial counsel for several large corporations in defense of their Mass Tort Litigation. He has also served as statewide trial counsel in Florida for several fortune five hundred companies. He has obtained defense verdicts for his clients in wrongful death cases in both State and Federal Courts and has prevailed in trials against some of the most high-profile lawyers in Florida including, but not limited to, Fred Levin, Bob Montgomery, Chris Searcy, Mike Papantonio and Joel Wolpe.

Jeff has been the head basketball coach at Pensacola Catholic High School since 2015 and lead the Crusaders to the final four in 2018.

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William G. Hyland Jr. is located in the firm's Orlando/Deland office. His practice areas include Insurance Defense, Premises Liability, Wrongful Death, Products Liability, Automobile Liability (PD/BI/UM), and Construction Law. Mr. Hyland is a seasoned trial lawyer with thirty-four years of complex, high profile litigation experience, having defended over 100 cases to verdict. Bill's experience in handling matters in these areas of practice includes the handling of catastrophic injury cases, and complex litigation matters involving multiple party actions. A former prosecutor, Bill served as in-house counsel to Travelers Insurance Company for twelve years, handling major exposure cases. He is licensed to practice in Florida, Alabama, Colorado, the District of Columbia,

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and the United States Supreme Court. An Adjunct Professor of Law at Stetson University College of Law and Stetson University, where he teaches advanced Trial Advocacy, his professional lectures include speeches at the National Archives and the University of Virginia.

Mr. Hyland was born and raised in Northern Virginia. In 1980, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alabama and in 1983 he earned his J.D. from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law. Mr. Hyland is also a professionally published author of the widely praised book, "*In Defense of Thomas Jefferson*" (St. Martin's/Thomas Dunne Books, 2009), nominated for the Virginia Literary Award. Mr. Hyland also worked with a Top-Secret security clearance for the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and served an internship at the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies. His law review publications include *Legal Advertising and the Decline of the Profession*, *University of Alabama Journal of the Legal Profession* (2011); *A Civil Action: Hemings v. Jefferson*, *American Journal of Trial Advocacy*, (2007); *Law v. National Security: When Lawyers Make Terrorism Policy*, *University of Richmond Journal of Global Law and Business* (2008); *Creative Malpractice: The Cinematic Lawyer*, *University of Texas Review of Entertainment and Sport Law*, (2008); *The Politicization of the Founding Fathers*, *The Huffington Post*, (2010).

Ronald Dale Walker and Krehling Industries, Inc. 744 So.2d 1123
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