



G. Jeffrey Vernis, Esq.
Managing Partner

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VERDICTS AND DISPOSITIONS

Passarelli v. The Cheesecake Factory
Rivas-Martinez v. Dominguez
Battle v. Ainsworth d/b/a Chick-fil-A
Perez v. Lowe's
Lovett v. Heughins
Greene, Tammia v. Lowe's
Rosenzweig, Mark & Sandra v. Lowe's
Vernis & Bowling Obtains Defense Verdict in Florida's First Live Jury Trial post COVID-19

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Automobile Liability (PIP/PD/BI/UM)
Construction and Construction Defect Litigation
Coverage & Declaratory Judgment Actions
Cyber Security & Data Privacy
Director & Officer Liability (D&O)
Errors & Omissions Liability (E&O)
First and Third Party Property and Casualty Claims
Garage and Garagekeepers Liability
Government Law
Medical Malpractice
Premises Liability
Product Liability
Professional Liability/E & O
Trucking



Florida Bar Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer

AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
Martindale-Hubbell's Bar Registry of Preeminent Lawyers in America

Florida's Legal Elite, by Florida Trend Magazine

Florida's Super Lawyers by Super Lawyers Magazine published by Law & Politics

Florida's Leading Lawyers by South Florida Business Journal

Florida's Power Leaders in Law by South Florida Business Journal

Florida's Top Lawyers by South Florida Legal Guide

G. Jeffrey Vernis was born in Coral Gables, Florida. In 1984, he graduated from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in International Political Science. While at U.S.F., Jeff was a founding member of a social fraternity requiring higher academic standards which later became a national fraternity. He then attended St. Thomas University School of Law, in Miami, Florida. St. Thomas University conferred a Juris Doctorate upon him in 1987. Some of his academic memberships and honors include Dean's list, 1986, 1987; Moot Court Board, 1984, 1985; member of Delta Theta Phi law fraternity.

Since graduating from St. Thomas University in 1987, Jeff began working for Vernis & Bowling, in the Fort Lauderdale, Florida office, handling general insurance defense matters. In 1988, he began working in the Palm Beach County office, located in North Palm Beach, Florida, and became managing attorney in 1990.

Jeff specializes in civil trial and appellate practice and is Board Certified in Civil Trial Law by the Florida Bar Board of Specialization. Certification is the highest level of recognition by the Florida Bar of the competency and experience of attorneys. Jeff is AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell, which identifies attorneys with preeminent legal ability and is a reflection of expertise, experience, integrity and overall professional excellence. He is recognized in Martindale-Hubbell's Bar Registry of Preeminent Lawyers in America. Jeff has also been selected as one of Florida's Legal Elite by Florida Trend Magazine

BAR & COURT ADMISSION

United States Supreme Court
Florida Bar
Florida Supreme Court (includes all Florida State courts)
U.S. District Court for the Southern, Middle and Northern Districts of Florida

EDUCATION

Graduate:

St. Thomas University School of Law, Miami, FL, 1987, Doctor of Jurisprudence

Honors:

Dean's List, 1987

Moot Court Board, 1984, 1985

Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity

Undergraduate:

University of South Florida, B.A. Degree in Criminal Justice with minor degree in International Political Science, 1984

and one of Florida's Super Lawyers by Super Lawyer Magazine. He has also been named one of Florida's Leading Lawyers by the South Florida Business Journal. Jeff has been listed as one of Florida's Top Lawyers by the South Florida Legal Guide and named one of Florida's Power Leaders in Law by South Florida Business Journal.

Jeff's areas of practice are insurance defense, commercial litigation and employment related practices (including trial and appellate practice). His experience includes the handling of lawsuits involving assault and battery, automobile liability, negligent hiring, supervision and retention, premises liability, negligent security, sexual assault, garage liability, construction and construction defect litigation, automobile dealership liability, consumer law, public law, including State, County and municipality, malicious prosecution/false arrest, product liability, coverage disputes, wrongful death, environmental law, employment related practices including sexual harassment, wrongful discharge and Americans with Disabilities Act, homeowner's association law, professional malpractice liability, constitutional law, and subrogation.

Jeff's experience in handling matters in these areas of practice includes the handling of catastrophic injury cases, complex litigation matters, multiple party actions and high profile cases. He has handled extremely high profile matters including *Morelock v. William Lane* (wrongful death), *Kraus v. Smith & Co.* (wrongful death), *Saccone v. State of Florida Department of Children and Families*, (wrongful death of a child), *Garcia-Bengochea v. State of Florida Department of Children and Families* (wrongful adoption), *John Daly v. PGA* (personal injury/negligent security) and national class action litigation and multi-federal district class action litigation before the Multi-District Litigation Panel in Washington D.C. Further, this experience has led to Jeff being a speaker at numerous seminars and insurance industry conventions throughout the country including the National Risk and Insurance Management Society annual convention, National Restaurant Association Conference, the Florida Retail Federation annual conference, the Council on Litigation Management's Annual Conference, the Florida RIMS convention, the National Society of Professional Insurance Investigators' (NSPII) annual conference and many other national conferences. Jeff has also been a speaker at numerous in-house seminars for insurance companies and self-insureds throughout the United States. He is a regular speaker for the Florida Bar, the CEU Institute and the Council for Litigation Management.

Jeff is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Florida Supreme Court (includes all Florida State courts) and the U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Middle

Districts of Florida (trial bar). In addition, Jeff is a member of the Defense Research Institute (DRI), the National Restaurant Association, and the Council for Litigation Management (CLM). Jeff also is a charter/founding member of the National Retail and Restaurant Defense Association (NRRDA) and currently serves as its General Counsel.

Jeff has an outstanding trial and appellate record and will provide details upon request. He has successfully handled numerous appeals in Florida. Among others, Jeff was lead counsel of record for the appellate matters of *Kimmins Recycling, Inc. v. Rogers*, 704 So2d 600 (4th DCA 1997) (tort threshold requirements); *Stuart Lincoln Mercury v. Wisk*, 25 F.L.W. D 578 (Fla. 4th DCA 2000)(attorney's fees); *Janashpa, Inc. v. Seitter*, (Fla. 4th DCA 1999) (new trial); *Brownell v. Florida Department of Corrections*, (Fla. 1st DCA 1998)(compensable injury); *Armstrong v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, (Fla. 4th DCA)(new trial, UM), *Richards v. Luxury Imports, Inc.*, (Fla. 4th DCA 2005) (Fraud/Deceptive Trade Practices), *Samuels v. Luxury Imports, Inc.*, (Fla. 4th DCA 2005) (Deceptive Trade Practices/new trial) and *Verdino v. Pete's Café*, (Fla. 4th DCA 2005) (Liquor Liability), *Green v. Luxury Imports, Inc.*, (Fla. 4th DCA 2006) (Deceptive Trade Practices/fraud/class-action), *Rosenfeld v. Seltzer*, (Fla. 4th DCA 2008) (trial evidence and jury instructions), *Petit-Dos v. School Board of Broward County*, (Fla. 4th DCA 2009) (Fabre defense/intentional tort/comparative negligence) and *Cardany v. Lowes*, Fla. (4th DCA 2009) (trial evidence/new trial).

Jeff is also actively involved in community organizations. He serves as President of the Board of Directors of Jeff Industries, Inc., which offers unique and innovative programs, education and training for troubled children and the mentally ill in Palm Beach County.

Jeff's outside interests include tennis, boating, scuba diving, traveling and martial arts (aikido and iaido). Mr. Vernis holds the rank of sixth degree black belt and a teaching certification (Shidoin) in the Japanese martial art of Aikido, awarded by the Aikido Foundation (Aikido World Headquarters in Japan) and the United States Aikido Federation.