

# J. Michael Grimley, Director

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## Overview



Mike has 28 years of experience in representing insurance companies, corporations, business entities and individuals in a wide variety of litigation. Mike believes that the interests and goals of his clients are paramount. He has learned that the best way to achieve those goals is through a proactive approach that

involves developing an early case assessment through focused discovery, targeted motion practice and timely dispute resolution, and if the case can not be resolved favorably, then through an aggressive defense at trial. Having tried numerous jury and bench trials throughout the State and Federal Courts in Florida, Louisiana, Texas (ad hoc) and Alabama (ad hoc), Mike has developed the skills to successfully try a wide variety of cases in diverse jurisdictions. That extensive experience in knowing what it takes to prove a case at trial also provides invaluable insight into how to thoughtfully and skillfully develop a case from the beginning to achieve a favorable outcome.

Mike's experience and success have earned him an "AV" rating with Martindale-Hubbell, the directory's highest rating for attorneys, and a significant accomplishment that only two percent of all attorneys achieve. Mike has also been selected as one of Tampa's Top Lawyers as recommended by his peers and seen in the National Law Journal.

Mike handles first and third party claims throughout the State of Florida for primary and excess carriers. He handles matters involving premises liability, auto and trucking claims, professional liability, products liability, admiralty and maritime law, construction defect claims, employment practices claims, and environmental claims. He also handles the insurance coverage and bad faith claims associated with those areas of practice.

Mike's first party practice involves the defense of claims, including bad faith, by homeowners; condominium associations; HOA's; commercial building and property owners; and restoration and remediation contractors. Mike has handled those claims at all stages, from pre-suit EUO's to appraisals and arbitration.

Mike's representative clients include domestic and foreign insurers (both standard and surplus lines); attorneys; doctors and other health care providers; insurance agents; architects and engineers; developers and contractors; various vessels owners and marine interests; businesses and entrepreneurs; short and long haul trucking companies; and all types of premises owners.

## Contact

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## Practices

Construction  
Commercial Litigation  
Amusements, Sports &  
Recreation  
Employment Law  
Environmental & Toxic Tort  
Hospitality, Entertainment &  
Leisure  
Insurance Defense & Coverage  
Maritime & Admiralty  
Premises Liability  
Products Liability  
Professional Liability  
Retail & Restaurant  
Trucking & Transportation

## Industries

Construction  
Insurance

His extensive experience in handling high exposure claims at the trial and appellate level has afforded him a critical perspective in the understanding of complex legal issues, coordination of multi-disciplined expert discovery, and synthesis of that information into a successful litigation strategy. His high exposure trials have included cases involving wrongful death; paraplegia; burn victims; serious orthopedic injuries with multiple surgeries and life care plans; class actions; and a multi-million dollar environmental claim.

Mike is admitted to practice in all State and Federal Courts in Florida and Louisiana and is a member of the Florida Bar Association, Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM), and the Florida Surplus Lines Association. Mike is a licensed instructor with the Florida Bar and frequently gives seminars to claims adjusters and attorneys on topics ranging from first and third party bad faith, managing outside counsel, updates on the law, insurance coverage, negotiations and ethics. He also has conducted seminars for clients in the areas of loss control and claims investigation. Mike is also a former President of the Bay Area Propeller Club.

Amusements, Sports, and  
Recreation  
Hospitality, Entertainment, and  
Leisure  
Maritime & Admiralty  
Retail & Restaurant  
Trucking & Transportation

## Education

- Louisiana State University, J.D, 1990
- Louisiana State University, 1987

## Admissions

- Florida, 2003
- Louisiana, 1990
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

## Associations

- Florida Surplus Lines Association
- The Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM)
- Florida Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute (DRI)