



J. Michael Grimley | Director

Mike has 25 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 claims throughout the State of Florida and his practice consists primarily of general casualty litigation for primary and excess carriers, including premises liability, auto and trucking claims, professional and products liability, admiralty and maritime law, construction defect claims, employment practices claims, environmental litigation, and first party claims, as well as insurance coverage and bad faith claims associated with those areas of practice.

Representative clients include domestic and foreign insurers, both standard and surplus lines, professionals such as attorneys, doctors and other health care providers, insurance agents, architects, engineers, developers and contractors, various vessels owners and marine interests, businesses and entrepreneurs, as well as short and long haul trucking companies and all types of premises owners.

While the size of the cases he has handled has varied greatly, Mike's extensive experience in handling high exposure claims at the trial and appellate level has afforded him a critical perspective because those cases require an 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, and serious orthopedic injuries with multiple surgeries and life care plans, as well as 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 in 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.

Pensacola Office

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Tampa Office

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EDUCATION:

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

BAR ADMISSIONS:

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

- Florida Surplus Lines Association
- Claims & Litigation Management Alliance (CLM)
- Florida Bar Association

PRACTICE AREAS

- Products Liability
- Professional Liability
- Environmental & Toxic Tort
- Insurance Defense
- Premises Liability
- Employer's Liability
- Trucking and Transportation
- Commercial Litigation
- Construction Litigation
- Maritime and Admiralty