

KARL W. LABERTEW

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200 E. Robinson Avenue Suite 200
Orlando, Florida 32801

EDUCATION

LL.M	Baylor University School of Law, Litigation Management Waco, Texas	2022
JD	Loyola University New Orleans School of Law New Orleans, Louisiana	2002
BA	University of Rhode Island, Marine Affairs Kingston, Rhode Island	1996
AA	Community College of Rhode Island, Liberal Arts West Warwick, Rhode Island	1995

CERTIFICATIONS

Arbitrator pursuant to Fla. Stat. 44.106 et al.	2023
Florida Supreme Court Certified Appellate Mediator	2023
Florida Supreme Court Certified Civil Mediator	2022
Florida Bar Board Certified Civil Trial Specialist	2021

ADMISSIONS

• Florida	2002
• United States District Court, Northern District of Florida	2012
• United States District Court, Middle District of Florida	2018
• United States District Court, Southern District of Florida	2021
• United States Supreme Court	2025

EMPLOYMENT

Mediate First, Inc. – Orlando, Florida

September 2023 - present

Florida Supreme Court Certified Civil and Appellate Court Mediator/Arbitrator

- Certified civil court mediator handling circuit civil claims for cases throughout Florida. Approved mediator for the Federal Courts for the Middle District of Florida. Certified arbitrator with multiple judicial circuits in Florida. Affiliated with Mediate First, Inc., one of the largest alternative dispute resolution services in Central Florida.

Rubenstein Law, P.A. – Orlando, Florida

June 2022 - September 2023

Litigation Attorney

- Federal and state practice, including trials throughout the state of Florida; managed case load and developed strategies for trial.

Kanner & Pinaluga, P.A. – Orlando, Florida

September 2021 – May 2022

Senior Litigation Attorney

- Senior litigation attorney responsible for the supervision and growth of the Orlando office. Manage staff and junior attorneys. Manage case load and assist with trying cases throughout the state with junior attorneys.

Dan Newlin Injury Attorneys – Orlando, Florida

January 2016 – September 2021

Senior Litigation Attorney

- Senior litigation attorney responsible for the supervision of pre-suit teams and litigation process for largest personal injury law firm in Central Florida. Managed case load of several hundred files, both in the pre-suit stage as well as in litigation. Multiple trials in Central Florida as first and second chair.

Kubicki Draper, P.A. – Pensacola, Florida

July 2010 – December 2015

Shareholder

- Shareholder in Pensacola office of statewide litigation firm focusing on civil litigation. Responsible attorney in charge of multiple cases involving product liability (including lead Florida counsel for a large national products distribution company), premises liability, personal injury defense, wrongful death, hospitality industry claims, condominium association representation, construction litigation (both general contractor and subcontractor representation), employment discrimination defense, SIU claims, governmental contract litigation, commercial lending, and business transaction issues. Trial experience, including first and second chair, in the first and fourteenth judicial circuits of Florida. Florida certified continuing education instructor.

Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel

March 2008 - June 2010

Pensacola, Florida – Supervising Attorney

- Supervising attorney managing the initial establishment of a new government agency. Responsible for training and implementation of case management strategies for the Pensacola and Milton offices of conflict counsel. Handled two felony divisions and tried multiple felony cases, including murder, drug trafficking, and other serious felonies, as well as supervised six attorneys and their support staff.

Office of the Public Defender, 1st Judicial Circuit

May 2002 – February 2008

Pensacola, Florida – Assistant Public Defender

- Misdemeanor and felony division attorney, handling large volumes of misdemeanor and felony new law violations and violations of probation hearings for indigent clients. Responsible for the investigation, preparation, motion practice, and trial of hundreds of felony and misdemeanor cases. Multiple jury trials in both county and circuit court.

United States Navy

November 1985 – July 1999

MM1(SW), Instructor/Mechanical Operator

- Machinist Mate First Class, qualified nuclear plant operator for Nimitz-class steam-powered engineering plants; Certified air conditioning repair technician; Qualified instructor for steam-powered engineering plants; Engineering instructor for Surface Warfare Officer School, Newport, RI, training junior officers, senior officers and flag personnel, as well as foreign national officers on the safe operation of steam-powered engineering plants; Surface warfare qualified; Three Good Conduct Medals; Navy Achievement Medal; National Defense Medal.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications

Labertew, Karl W., and Fazzio, Blair. “Medicare Discrimination in Personal Injury Cases Based on the Collateral Source Rule,” Florida Justice Association, July/August 2022, pp. 80-82.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

Professional Mediation Institute 2025 Annual Convention, “Update to Florida Rules of Civil Procedure 2025,” August 17, 2025

Professional Mediation Institute 2024 Annual Convention, ““If You’d Only Asked”- This is What I Would’ve Told the Attorneys and Claims Professionals on How to Prepare for the Mediation” August 18, 2024

Professional Mediation Institute 2023 Annual Convention, “Managing Party Expectations and Dealing With Surprises at Mediation,” August 20, 2023.

Florida Justice Association 2023 Christian D. Searcy Voir Dire & Al J. Cone Trial Advocacy Institute, “Direct Examination of Expert Witness” and “Closing Arguments,” August 2023.

Florida Justice Association 2023 Boot Camp Webinar Series, “Documents & Evidence Gathering,” March 17, 2023

Florida Justice Association 2022 Masters of Justice, “Medical Billing Seminar,” September 22, 2022.

Professional Mediation Institute 2022 Annual Convention, “Preparing for an Effective Mediation: Herding Cats and Other Urban Legends,” August 20, 2022.

Florida Justice Association 2022 John Romano Workhorse Seminar, “Medicare and Collateral Source Rule,” April 4, 2022.

Florida Justice Association 2022 Christian D. Searcy Voir Dire Institute, “Effective Voir Dire: Why Do We Need It,” October 2021.

Florida Justice Association 2019 Christian D. Searcy Voir Dire Institute, “Opening Statements, September 2019.

Florida Justice Association 2019 Al J. Cone Trial Advocacy Institute, “How to deliver an Opening Statement,” September 2019.

Florida Justice Association 2019 Annual Convention, “Annual Case Law Update,” June 2019.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Florida Justice Association, 2017 – 2023
Eagle Member, Board of Directors

Professional Mediation Institute, 2022 - Present
Board of Directors

Florida Academy of Professional Mediators, 2023 - Present

American Association for Justice, 2017 - 2023

American Bar Association, 2018 – Present

Central Florida Trial Lawyers Association, 2018 – 2023

Orange County Bar Association, 2017 – 2025

Martindale-Hubbell AV Rated 2015 - Present

COMMUNITY SERVICE

American Bar Association Military Pro Bono Project, 2012 – Present