

Attorneys – Penny W. Schmidt
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PENNY W. SCHMIDT is a proud Gator, having obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Florida while working full-time as a paralegal. She obtained her law degree, with honors, from St. Thomas College of Law in 1992. While in law school, she served as the Chairman of the Moot Court Board and was the recipient of American Jurisprudence Awards in the areas of Civil Trial Advocacy, Appellate Advocacy, Evidence, Wills and Trusts, and Taxation. Subsequently, she was named Graduate of the Year for the State of Florida by the legal fraternity of Phi Delta Phi. After graduation from law school, Penny worked as an Associate Attorney with the law firm of Fuller & Minor, P.A., located in Ft. Myers, Florida, becoming a partner in the law firm of Minor & Schmidt, P.A., in Ft. Myers. During her tenure in Ft. Myers, she was an active member of the Lee County Bar Association, Lee County Personal Injury Association and the Calusa Inns of Court. In 1997, she and her husband relocated to the Jacksonville area where she continued her legal career with one of her current partners, Dennis R. Schutt.



Penny has been a Martindale-Hubbell AV Rated partner at the law firm of Schutt, Schmidt, & Noey since 1997. She is a member of the Florida Bar and the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida. Additionally, Penny's memberships in the Jacksonville Bar Association, the Florida Bar Trial Lawyers Section, the Florida Defense Lawyers Association and the Defense Research Institute expand her professional credentials. Continuing her involvement as a legal advocate, she served as former president of the Jacksonville Association of Defense Counsel, where she remains an active member.

Civil trial litigation constitutes the majority of her practice, including areas of concentration such as: personal injury/wrongful death, insurance coverage issues, complex commercial and construction defect litigation, contract litigation, and appellate law. In addition to being an active civil trial attorney, Penny devotes part of her practice to mediations.

Penny has been a Certified Circuit Civil Mediator since 2003 and a Trained Arbitrator since 2009. She serves as a Certified Mediator for all of the State Courts in Florida as well as the United States District Court - Middle District of Florida. She is also a Certified Appellate Mediator for the Fifth District Court of Appeal. In conjunction with having Certified Mediator Training in Bankruptcy and Foreclosure Mediations, Penny performs as a certified mediator for residential foreclosure cases in both state and federal court.

Penny is a member of the Florida Academy of Professional Mediators and the Florida Circuit-Civil Mediators Society. She is also a member and current Chairperson of the Alternative Dispute Resolution section of the Jacksonville Bar Association as well as a member of the

Alternative Dispute Resolution section of the Florida Bar. She is a Volunteer Mediator and Arbitrator for the Florida Bar Grievance Mediation and Fee Arbitration Program, and was the former co-chairman of the Marketing and Webinar sub-committee for the ADR Section of the Florida Defense Lawyers Association. In addition, she is an adjunct professor at Florida Coastal School of Law, where she teaches Alternative Dispute Resolution to future lawyers. She has lectured to various professional organization on a variety of mediation-related topics, such as “Getting More out of Mediation than Just a Settlement” and “A Paralegals Guide to Help Prepare Your Attorney for Mediation/Arbitration.”

Commitment to positive mediation and arbitration outcomes forms the cornerstone of her professional practice. Personal attention to detail ensures the participants’ respect and successful problem resolution. As a mediator, she describes her style as “firm and direct, but engaged and creative.”



Areas of Practice

Civil Trial Litigation
Personal Injury/Wrongful Death
Insurance Coverage Issues
Construction Defect Litigation
Contract Litigation
County and Circuit Court Mediations
(Certified Circuit Court Mediator & Certified Mediator in the Middle District of Florida)



Litigation Percentage

The majority of Penny's time is spent litigating cases with the remainder of her time devoted to being a Certified Mediator.



Bar Admissions

Florida, 1992
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida



Education

St. Thomas College of Law, Miami 1992



Honors and Awards

Martindale-Hubbell AV Rated



Professional Associations and Memberships

The Florida Bar
The Jacksonville Bar Association
(Special Needs of Children Section committee member)
(ADR Section member)

The Jacksonville Association of Defense Counsel
Florida Defense Lawyers Association
(Co-chairman of the Marketing and Webinar sub-committee for the ADR Section)
(Task Force for the Medicare Secondary Payor Statute committee member)
Defense Research Institute
The Florida Bar Trial Lawyers Section
Florida Academy of Professional Mediators
Florida Circuit-Civil Mediator Society
The Jacksonville Association of Defense Counsel (Former President)
The Florida Academy of Professional Mediators
Adjunct Professor at the Florida Coastal School of Law