



Curriculum Vitae for Terry P Lewis

Current Employer-Title

Messer Caparello P.A. – Of Counsel

Profession

Attorney, Retired Judge

Professional Work History

1976-1980: Sole Practitioner; 1980-84: Associate with firm of Oven and Gwynn; 1984-88: Partner in firm of Oven, Gwynn and Lewis; 1988-1998: Leon County Judge; 1998-2019: Circuit Judge; Senior Judge 2020; 2021-present: Of counsel at Messer Caparello with focus on mediation and arbitration.

General Professional Experience

Twelve years in a general law practice with some transactional work but mostly litigation and appeals in a variety of civil, criminal and family law cases, including construction, breach of warranty, civil rights claims, landlord/tenant, dissolution and related matters.

Twenty-nine (29) years as a trial judge, presiding over cases in every division of court (civil, family, criminal, traffic, juvenile delinquency, juvenile dependency, probate and guardianship) conducting countless jury and nonjury trials and other hearings.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Experience

Served as an arbitrator or mediator in cases involving claims of breach of contract or negligence in a variety of areas including: nursing home and medical malpractice, employment, communication services, crypto currency, data privacy and protection, franchises, professional services, banking, auto and RV sales and warranties, and unfair debt collection.

Professional Service and Affiliations

Inns of Court; Justice Teaching Institute; Florida Court Education Council; Committee on Trial Court Performance and Accountability; and the Supreme Court Committee on Jury Instructions in Civil Cases; Founding Judge for Leon County Teen Court; Faculty for numerous courses offered at the Florida Judicial College, College of Advanced Judicial Studies and Judicial Conference Education Programs; Chair of the Education Committees for both the County and Circuit Court Conferences; Dean of the Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies; Presenter for multiple CLE programs; Adjunct professor at the F.S.U. College of Law, teaching Evidence, Trial Objections, Florida Civil Practice and Professional Responsibility.

Recent Publications & Speaking Engagements

Presentations on Evidence for Trial Lawyers' Section, Fla. Criminal Defense Lawyers and Fla. Prosecutors Association; Co-author for Erhardt's Florida Evidence (assisting in yearly update and editing.)

Education

FSU: 1969-73 -- B.A. History; FSU College of Law: 1973-76 – JD (with honors)

Professional Awards

Judge of the Year, Florida Law Related Education Association – 1993 and 2013; Judge Harvey Ford Leadership Award – 1996; Trial Judge of the Year Award, American Board of Trial Advocates, Tallahassee Chapter - 2000.

Community Service and Affiliations

Leadership Tallahassee; Leadership Florida; YMCA Board of Directors; Tallahassee Rotary Club President; Special Consultant and Volunteer Coordinator for Kids Voting; Leon County Whole Child Project; Volunteer for high school, collegiate and law school mock trial competitions; Judge for Best and Brightest Competition.

Hobbies and Interests

Writing – mostly fiction, with five published novels

Guitar

Basketball and Tennis

Contact

tlewis@lawfla.com

2618 Centennial Place

Tallahassee, Fl. 32308

850-222-0720