



ALTON C. WARD

Shareholder

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PRACTICE FOCUS

Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation

Health & Welfare Plans

Professional Employer Organizations

Representation Before Federal Agencies

Executive Compensation

Qualified Retirement Plans

Tax Exempt Organizations

Fiduciary & Prohibited Transactions

EDUCATION

University of Georgia, B.A., 1970

Stetson University College of Law, J.D., 1982

- Law Review
- Freshman Moot Court: Outstanding Participant

BAR ADMISSIONS

American Bar Association

The Florida Bar

Al Ward is recognized throughout the professional community for his depth of experience and knowledge in the employee benefits area. Prior to entering the practice of law, he was an actuarial and employee benefits consultant for over eight years.

Al has focused for over four decades on executive deferred compensation, employee benefits, trusts and taxation. He represents many clients including publicly traded and privately held, taxable and tax-exempt entities and professional corporations with respect to their benefit programs. Al has extensive experience representing clients in disputes with the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Department of Labor and Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

Al served as chairman of the Tampa Bay Pension Council from 1991 to 2012. He was a founding board member and past president of the Florida West Coast Employee Benefits Council. He serves as employee benefits counsel for The Florida Bar, is a member of the Southern Employee Benefits Conference, and a member of the Employee Benefits Committee of the Tax Section of the American Bar Association. He is a Fellow in the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel.

Al has received numerous professional recognitions including being inducted into America's Top 100 Attorneys for the State of Florida.

Al has long been active in Tampa's civic, charitable and social organizations. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Canterbury Towers. He served as president and a member of the Board of Trustees of The Tampa Club and has served on the Board of Directors of The University Club, Hillsborough Education Foundation,

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Hillsborough County Bar
Association

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. District Court, Middle
District of Florida

Goodwill Industries/Suncoast and Hillsborough Association for
Retarded Citizens.

HONORS

- AV Preeminent® Rating, Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review
- Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyer, Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation (2016-2024)
- Chambers USA: Senior Statesperson, Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation (2024-2025)
- Florida Super Lawyers (2006-2025)
- Florida Trend's Legal Elite (2004-2011)
- Leading Florida Attorneys (1996-2007)
- Tampa Top Lawyers (2016-2017): Employee Benefits Law
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® (1995-2026)
 - 2025 Tampa Employee Benefits (ERISA) Lawyer of the Year
 - 2023 Tampa Employee Benefits (ERISA) Lawyer of the Year
 - 2018 Tampa Employee Benefits (ERISA) Lawyer of the Year
 - 2016 Tampa Employee Benefits (ERISA) Lawyer of the Year
 - 2010 Tampa Employee Benefits (ERISA) Lawyer of the Year
- *TAMPA Magazine's* Top Lawyers (2023-2025)
 - Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law

COMMUNITY & PROFESSIONAL

- Canterbury Towers: Board of Directors
- The Group, Inc.
- Gulf Coast Area TE/GE Council: Membership Chairman (2007-2010)
- American College of Employee Benefits Counsel: Fellow
- Southern Employee Benefits Conference
- Florida West Coast Employee Benefits Council
 - Past President
 - Founding Board Member
 - Board of Directors (1984-1989)
- Tampa Bay Pension Council
 - Chairman (1991-2012)
 - Founding Member

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- Special Operations Warrior Foundation: Board of Directors
- Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla: Member
- Palma Ceia Golf & Country Club: Member

NEWS & INSIGHTS

Seventy-Seven Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Recognized in the 2026 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*® and *The Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® in America

Firm News, 8.21.25

Fifty-Eight Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Named to 2025 Florida Super Lawyers List

Firm News, 6.26.25

Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys and Practices Receive 2025 Chambers Recognition

Firm News, 6.5.25

Thirty-Eight Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Recognized in *Tampa Magazine's* 2025 Top Lawyers

Firm News, 1.6.25

Eighty-Three Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Cited in The Best Lawyers in America 2025 Publication

Firm News, 8.15.24

Fifty-Seven Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Recognized in 2024 Florida Super Lawyers Listing

Firm News, 6.24.24

Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys and Practices Receive 2024 Chambers Recognition

Firm News, 6.6.24

Twenty-Nine Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Recognized in *Tampa Magazine's* 2024 Top Lawyers

Firm News, 1.3.24

Eighty-Three Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Cited in The Best Lawyers in America 2024 Publication

Firm News, 8.17.23

Sixty-one Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Recognized in 2023 Florida Super Lawyers Listing

Firm News, 6.27.23

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Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys and Practices Receive 2023 Chambers Recognition

Firm News, 6.1.23

Twenty-Six Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Recognized in TAMPA Magazine's 2023 Top Lawyers

Firm News, 1.3.23

Eighty-One Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Cited in The Best Lawyers in America 2023 Publication

Firm News, 8.18.22

61 Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Recognized in 2022 Florida Super Lawyers Listing

Firm News, 7.1.22

Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys and Practices Receive 2022 Chambers Recognition

6.1.22

Seventy Six Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Cited in The Best Lawyers in America 2022 Publication

Firm News, 8.19.21

58 Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Recognized in 2021 Florida Super Lawyers Listing

Firm News, 6.23.21

Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys and Practices Receive 2021 Chambers Recognition

Firm News, 5.20.21

67 Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Cited in The Best Lawyers in America 2021 Publication

Firm News, 8.20.20

Fifty Nine Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Recognized in 2020 Florida Super Lawyers Listing

Firm News, 6.5.20

Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys and Practices Receive Chambers USA 2020 Recognition

Firm News, 4.23.20

Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys and Practices Receive Chambers USA 2019 Recognition

Firm News, 4.25.19

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2019 Best Lawyers Cites 46 Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys & Names
Six "Lawyer of the Year"
Firm News, 8.16.18

Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Named 2018 Florida Super Lawyers
Firm News, 6.25.18

Hill Ward Henderson Recognized By Chambers And Partners 2018
5.8.18

2018 Best Lawyers Cites 44 Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys & Names
Five "Lawyer Of The Year"
Firm News, 8.15.17

Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Named 2017 Florida Super Lawyers
Firm News, 6.8.17

Hill Ward Henderson Recognized By Chambers And Partners 2017
Firm News, 5.26.17

Three Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Recognized In Tampa
Magazine's 2017 Top Lawyers
Firm News, 4.20.17

2017 Best Lawyers Cites 44 Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys & Names
Two "Lawyers Of The Year"
Firm News, 8.15.16

Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Named 2016 Florida Super Lawyers
Firm News, 6.15.16

Hill Ward Henderson Cited By Chambers USA
Firm News, 6.13.16

2016 Best Lawyers Cites 40 Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys & Names
Five "Lawyer of the Year"
Firm News, 8.17.15

Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Named 2015 Florida Super Lawyers
Firm News, 6.11.15

Hill Ward Henderson Cited by Chambers USA (2015)
Firm News, 5.19.15

2014 Best Lawyers Cites 42 Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys & Names
Three "Lawyer Of The Year"
Firm News, 8.30.13

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Hill Ward Henderson Cited By Chambers USA (2013)
Firm News, 6.14.13

Hill Ward Henderson Supports Strides For Education Tampa Bay
Firm News, 1.8.13

Best Lawyers In America
Firm News, 7.31.12

Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Named To The 2012 Super Lawyers
Business Edition
Firm News, 3.28.12

Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Named 2012 Florida Super Lawyers
And Rising Stars
Firm News, 3.20.12

ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

- Assessing the Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan: A Guide for the Benefits Professional. (July 2005). *Employee Benefit Plan Review*.

CLIENT ADVISORIES

IRS Provides 2-Year Grace Period for Roth Catch-Up Contribution Requirement Under Secure 2.0
Advisory, 9.7.23

DOL Releases Cybersecurity Guidance For Retirement Plans
Advisory, 5.24.21

Update On the ARPA Cobra Subsidy: DOL Releases Additional Guidance and Model Notices
Advisory, 4.15.21

NOTEWORTHY

Chambers USA ranks the leading lawyers and law firms across the USA. Legal rankings are based on in-depth market analysis and independent research, conducted by an experienced team of researchers. Individual lawyers are ranked in their practice area(s) based on legal knowledge and experience, ability, effectiveness and client service.

"He is considered top in his area of law." Client quote, *Chambers USA 2025*

**ALTON C.
WARD**

*"Alton provides outstanding expertise in employee benefits." Client quote,
Chambers USA 2024*

*"He knows our industry and high-level business projects are handled in
an excellent manner. He is a very seasoned lawyer." Client quote,
Chambers USA 2023*

*"He is a highly thought-of and top-rated lawyer. He is very
knowledgeable, has a lot of experience and is also a problem solver."
Client quote, Chambers USA 2022*