



SCOTT MCLAREN

Shareholder

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BOARD CERTIFIED BY THE FLORIDA BAR

Board Certified in Civil Trial
Board Certified in Business
Litigation

PRACTICE FOCUS

Litigation
Land Use & Development
Rights
Real Property Litigation
Construction & Design
Litigation
Eminent Domain
Commercial Landlord/Tenant
Healthcare Development &
Construction
Class Action & Complex Mass
Tort

EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin,
B.B.A., 1987
Wake Forest University School
of Law, J.D., 1991

Scott McLaren is Board Certified by the Florida Bar in both Civil Trial Law and Business Litigation, and has served multiple terms on the firm's Management and Compensation Committees. Scott is licensed in Florida and Georgia, and concentrates his practice on litigation involving business disputes, real estate, land use, and construction issues, as well as complex commercial litigation. Scott has extensive courtroom and jury trial experience as evidenced by his membership in the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), and regularly prosecutes and defends lawsuits and administrative proceedings involving zoning and land use issues, claims for fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, deceptive and unfair trade practices, class action claims, breach of contract, condemnation, environmental issues, construction claims and issues, Section 1983 claims, property tax issues, land title claims, corporate and partnership disputes, non-compete issues, commercial leasing disputes, qui tam issues, restrictive covenant issues, and other business torts and real property issues. In 2025, Scott was recognized as a "Leading Lawyer" in Real Estate and Land Use by Chambers USA, and as one of the "Top 50 Attorneys in Tampa Bay" by the Super Lawyers publication.

Scott has been involved in litigating several cases with significant impact upon the business and development communities. These cases include significant (seven and eight figure) damages awards to clients, seven and eight figure settlements paid to clients, defense verdicts and judgments for clients, and multiple court rulings allowing development plans of clients to proceed (condo towers, apartments, cell towers, single family, industrial, retail, office, and mixed use developments) and others requiring demolition/removal of

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- Wake Forest Law Review: Editor
- Wake Forest Moot Court Board: Board Member

BAR ADMISSIONS

American Bar Association

The Florida Bar

Hillsborough County Bar Association

State Bar of Georgia

COURT ADMISSIONS

All Florida State Courts

All Georgia State Courts

Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia

U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

US District Court, Southern District of Florida

improvements from real property. Scott's appellate experience includes primary responsibility for appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court, Florida Supreme Court, Georgia Court of Appeals, Florida's District Courts of Appeal, as well as administrative appeals before the Florida Governor and Cabinet.

Scott has received numerous professional accolades, and is most proud of his pro bono work. Since 2015, he has chaired the Tampa Federal Bar Association's Pro Bono Committee. In 2024, the Federal Judiciary of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida presented Scott with the Hon. Thomas B. McCoun III Champion of Justice Award for his pro bono service. Additionally, in 2017, Scott was presented with the Pro Bono Service and Excellence Award from the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

HONORS

- Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyer, Real Estate: Zoning / Land Use (2025)
- Member, American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)
- Thomas B. McCoun III Champion of Justice Award
- Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association: 2017 Pro Bono Service and Excellence Award
- AV Preeminent® Rating, Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review (2000-present)
- BTI Consulting Group: 2020 Client Service All-Star Award
- Fellow, International Society of Barristers (2017-present)
- Florida Super Lawyers (2013-2025)
 - Top 50 in Tampa Bay: 2025
 - Super Lawyers Business Edition
- Florida Trend's Legal Elite (2013-2025)
- Million Dollar Advocates Forum
- Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum
- Tampa Bay Magazine's Top Lawyers
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2013-2026)
 - 2013 Tampa Litigation - Real Estate Lawyer of the Year
- *TAMPA Magazine's* Top Lawyers (2023-present)
 - Litigation: Land Use / Zoning
 - Litigation: Real Estate

EXPERIENCE

- Lead trial counsel in lawsuit challenging Florida county's denial of client's rezoning application to develop agricultural land into 1,600 single family homes. After 9 months of litigation, county settled lawsuit by agreeing to purchase client's property for \$38,000,000.00.
- Represented regional healthcare system in federal False Claims Act seeking over \$1 Billion in damages. Obtained summary judgment in favor of client/defendant.
- Lead trial counsel for apartment developer against Florida county where, after a three day trial for violation of developer's civil rights, circuit court entered a \$16,428,376.00 judgment in favor of client.
- Obtained summary judgment as lead trial counsel in favor of owner/client in multi-million dollar construction dispute involving Sarasota County townhome development.
- Lead counsel in defending a series of three construction lawsuits brought by contractor against developer client - contractor sued for approximately \$10 million, but developer client was awarded net judgement in excess of \$1 million in its favor on counterclaims.
- Obtained defense verdict as lead trial counsel on behalf of a regional healthcare system in jury trial where plaintiff sought millions in breach of contract and tortious interference damages.
- Lead trial counsel for landowner/developer in eminent domain case brought by Georgia Department of Transportation ("GDOT") condemning 2.16 acres of client's property on Interstate 285 in Atlanta. After initial offer of \$5,200,000.00 from GDOT, case settled for \$13,250,000.00 after five days of testimony.
- Lead trial counsel for manufacturing client in Miami arbitration where contract vendor claimed \$7,924,605.00 for breach of equipment lease. Arbitration panel ruled in favor of client—that no breach occurred.
- Lead trial counsel in lawsuit challenging Florida municipality's rezoning denial for 358 unit apartment complex. After initial pleadings filed, municipality settled case allowing development to proceed with 325 units.
- Lead trial counsel in lawsuit against Florida municipality for denying apartment rezoning. After initial pleadings filed, municipality settled case allowing development with no reduction in density.
- Obtained judgment as lead trial counsel for defendant restaurant chain after bench trial on plaintiff's claims seeking damages and injunctive relief for alleged violations/overburdening of shopping center cross-access easement.

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- Lead trial counsel in suit vs. City of Tampa to require issuance of demolition permit for 1912 office building to allow development of the tallest building in Florida north of Miami. The City claimed the 1912 building was protected – as historic – but after filing suit for damages and injunctive relief, the City issued the permit and allowed the development to proceed.
- Lead trial counsel for big box retailer in suit brought by developer seeking interpretation of restrictive covenant on 280 acres of property. Developer sought interpretation that would have allowed competition with one of client's core businesses. Obtained summary judgment in favor of client, prohibiting competition with client's business on the entire 280 acres, and recovering client's attorneys' fees.
- Lead trial counsel for owner of 12 acres of waterfront property suitable for apartment development of approximately 400 units in case against railroad concerning access to property over railroad right of way. Railroad refused to permit access for multi-family use. After bringing suit on behalf of our client seeking confirmation of access rights, we obtained summary declaratory judgment allowing access for apartment development.
- Lead trial counsel in two lawsuits brought by preservationists seeking to prevent development of 404 unit apartment complex along the Anclote River in Pinellas County. Client prevailed on all issues in both cases – allowing development to proceed.
- Lead trial counsel for real estate investor/developer in title/partnership dispute with former partner over \$21,000,000.00 property in Pasco County, Florida. After three days of trial testimony, trial court struck former partner's pleadings due to discovery violation—awarding the subject property to client.
- Lead trial counsel for developer in six separate lawsuits brought by preservationists in Florida state and federal courts seeking to prevent client's re-development of historic Belleview Biltmore Hotel site. Obtained dismissal of all six cases without any delay to client's development schedule and plan.
- Lead trial counsel for developer in case against City of Tampa for violating City ordinances and Equal Protection Clause in refusing to grant permits for client's high-rise condominium. Obtained court rulings requiring the City to issue the disputed development permits, and resulting in a \$3,750,000.00 monetary payment to client—largest amount ever paid by the City in settlement of a land use case.
- Lead trial counsel for developer in two lawsuits filed in Sarasota County by objectors to client's proposed 533 acre single-family development. Both lawsuits resulted in judgment for client—

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allowing development to proceed.

- Lead trial counsel for regional hospital in suit brought by objectors seeking to prevent major Tampa hospital expansion. Court dismissed case, allowing client to proceed with expansion.
- Lead trial counsel for landowner in an eminent domain case against Pasco County, Florida for condemnation of 3.6 acres. After jury trial, client recovered \$2,058,962.12 from County after initial offer of \$676,548.00.
- Lead trial counsel for residential developer in case against Lake County, Florida and concrete plant owner seeking to revoke development permits for plant operating next to client's property. Court rulings resulted in revocation of permits and closing of concrete plant.
- Co-counsel for owner of Tampa Bay Lightning NHL hockey team and hockey/event arena in property tax trial and appeal against Hillsborough County, Florida. County assessed taxable value of arena at \$120,000,000.00, while client argued value was \$25,000,000.00. After trial and appeals, trial court judgment valuing arena at \$25,000,000.00 was affirmed—resulting in over \$10,000,000.00 in tax savings to client.
- Co-counsel for downtown Tampa developer concerning condemnation by the City of Tampa of a rail crossing controlled by an industrial plant. The crossing was necessary for the City to provide access to client's development. After an initial demand by the industrial plant of tens of millions for the crossing alone, client was able to negotiate condemnation of the crossing, plus client acquisition of entire 3+ acre industrial plant for \$13,000,000.00—less than one-third of initial demand.

COMMUNITY & PROFESSIONAL

- American Board of Trial Advocates
- Ruth Eckerd Hall
 - Board of Directors (2016-2024)
 - Facilities Committee Chair (2022)
 - Treasurer (2024)
- Leadership Tampa: Class of 2005
- Former Chair, Board of Directors, Academy of the Holy Names of Florida, Inc.
- Former Member, Board of Directors, Special Olympics Florida, Inc.
- Former Member, Board of Directors, Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa, Inc.

- Fellow, International Society of Barristers
- Federal Bar Association, Tampa Bay Chapter:
 - Board of Directors
 - Chairman, Pro Bono Committee (2018 - present)

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

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

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

Firm News, 1.3.23

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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

Florida Trend Names Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys to 2022 Hall of Fame and Legal Elite
Firm News, 6.29.22

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

67 Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Cited in The Best Lawyers in America 2021 Publication
Firm News, 8.20.20

Florida Trend Names Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys to Hall of Fame, Legal Elite, and Up & Comers
Firm News, 6.22.20

Fifty Nine Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Recognized in 2020 Florida Super Lawyers Listing
Firm News, 6.5.20

Florida Trend Names Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys to Hall of Fame, Legal Elite, and Up & Comers
Firm News, 6.24.19

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

Florida Trend Names Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys To Hall Of Fame, Legal Elite, And Up & Comers
Firm News, 7.2.18

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

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

Florida Trend Names Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys to Hall of Fame,
Legal Elite, And Up & Comers
Firm News, 6.22.17

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

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 Shareholder Elected to Board of Directors
Firm News, 2.17.16

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

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

Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Named To The 2013 Best Lawyers
Business Edition
Firm News, 7.15.13

Florida Trend Names Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys to Hall of Fame,
Legal Elite and Up & Comers
Firm News, 7.1.13

Four Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Named 2013 Tampa Lawyers Of
The Year
Firm News, 12.5.12

Hill Ward Henderson Shareholder Attains Board Certification
Firm News, 9.17.12

Hill Ward Henderson Shareholders Present Highlights Of Recent Settlement For Citivest
Firm News, 8.28.12

Best Lawyers In America
Firm News, 7.31.12

Florida Trend Names HWH Attorneys To Hall Of Fame, Legal Elite And Up & Comers
Firm News, 7.6.12

ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

- "Sarasota trial over One Park, Quay waterfront plans gives insight into development process," Herald-Tribune, September 18, 2023.
- "Judge presiding over Siesta hotel litigation asks for complete copies of two county ordinances at heart of arguments in Ramirez case," The Sarasota News Leader, August 17, 2023.
- "Judge says Mattamy Homes can proceed with development in South Hillsborough," Tampa Bay Business Journal, April 2, 2023.
- "Developer changes design of 55-story condo tower in downtown Tampa to appease city," Tampa Bay Business Journal, September 13, 2022.
- "Developer will appeal Tarpon Springs' pause on its Anclote apartment project," Tampa Bay Times, July 7, 2022.
- "Tarpon Springs commission puts Anclote apartment project on hold," Tampa Bay Times, June 29, 2022.
- "Tarpon Springs commissioners place a hold on controversial Anclote apartment plan as legal battle continues," FOX 13 News Tampa Bay, June 29, 2022.
- "Tarpon Springs declines to halt Anclote project while lawsuits play out," Tampa Bay Times, December 15, 2021.
- "Litigating Local Permit Denials: How the Developer Can Successfully 'Fight City Hall'" Presenter, Hill Ward Henderson Construction & Real Estate Litigation Seminar, Tampa, Florida, September 12, 2012.
- "Local Permit Denials: Preparation and Implementation of Effective Litigation Strategies." Presenter, CLE International's Litigating Land Use Seminar, December 3-4, 2007.
- "Abandonment of Roads and Road Vacation Considerations." Presenter, National Business Institute's Road and Access Law Seminar, August 28, 2007.

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- Preparing for War: Defending Class Action Lawsuits Against Managed Care. (February 3, 2000). BNA Health Law Reporter, 5, 9.
- "Exactions: How Far Can the Government Go?" Presenter, Institute of Continuing Legal Education Seminar, December, 1999.
- The Telecommunications Act of 1996: Developments in the Ongoing Conflict between Service Providers and Local Home Rule in the Facilities Siting Context. (Summer, 1999). Real Estate Law Journal.
- "Land Use Law." Presenter, National Business Institute Seminar, March 9, 1999.
- The Telecommunications Act of 1996: Section 704 of the Act and Protections Afforded the Telecommunications Provider in the Facilities Siting Context. (Winter, 1997). University of Michigan's Telecommunications and Technology Law Review.

PUBLISHED DECISIONS

- Shire Development, LLC v. Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
2017 WL 4771008, United States District Court, M.D. Florida, Tampa Division. June, 14, 2017
- Bingham v. Baycare Health System
2017 WL 1386838, United States District Court, M.D. Florida, Tampa Division. April 18, 2017
- Bingham v. Baycare Health System
2016 WL 8739056, United States District Court, M.D. Florida, Tampa Division. December 16, 2016
- Richman Group of Florida, Inc. v. Pinellas County, FL
2016 WL 8376580, Sixth Judicial Circuit, Pinellas County, Florida. June 29, 2016
- Acebo v. St. Joseph's Hosp., Inc.
202 So.3d 414, District Court of Appeals of Florida, Second District. October 14, 2016
- Duke Energy Corp. v. GreenPointe Holdings, LLC
2015 WL 997897, United States District Court, M.D. Florida, Tampa Division. March 5, 2015
- Condo Developer, LLC v. Highwoods DLF Eola, LLC
Case No. 2008-CA-26723-O, Florida Circuit Court, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Orange County. October 6, 2011
- City Nat. Bank of Florida v. City of Tampa
67 So. 3d 293, 2011 WL 1295874, 2D10-332, District Court of Appeals of Florida, Second District. April 6, 2011
- Dooley Mack Constructions, Inc. v. M & I Marshall & Ilsley Bank
2010 WL 2035139, United States District Court, M.D. Florida, Tampa

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Division. May, 21 2010

- WSC-L Lakeside Investors V, LLC v. Pulte Homes Corp.
2010 WL 1688008, United States District Court, M.D. Florida, Tampa
Division. April 22, 2010
- City of Tampa v. City Nat. Bank of Florida
974 So. 2d 408, 2007 WL 1484488, 2D06-1383, District Court of
Appeals, Florida, Second District. May 23, 2007
- Bistricher v. Coastal Real Estate Associates, Inc.
2006 WL 3258226, Florida Circuit Court, Sixth Judicial Circuit. August
30, 2006
- City Nat. Bank of Florida v. City of Tampa
04-6168, 2005 WL 4891056 (Fla. Cir. Ct. 2005)
- Avatar Properties, Inc. v. N.C.J. Inv. Co.
848 So.2d 1259, District Court of Appeals of Florida, Fifth District.
July 11, 2003
- BellSouth Mobility Inc. v. Gwinnett County, Ga.
944 F. Supp. 923, United States District Court, N.D. Georgia, Atlanta
Division. August 13, 1996
- Flair Fashions, Inc. v. SW CR Eisenhower Drive, Inc.
207 Ga. App. 78, 427 S.E. 2d 56, Court of Appeals of Georgia. January
12, 1993.

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.

"Scott provides invaluable guidance when the stakes are high." Client quote, Chambers USA 2025

"His experience and pragmatic approach make it very easy to follow his logic." Client quote, Chambers USA 2025

"Scott's presentations in court are direct, clear and persuasive." Client quote, Chambers USA 2025

"Scott is an exceptional litigator." Client quote, Chambers USA 2025