

Lauren R. Whetstone

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Lauren R. Whetstone is a litigation shareholder in the firm's Palm Beach County offices. She focuses her practice in the areas of complex commercial litigation and securities litigation. Lauren has broad experience representing domestic and international clients in state and federal courts, as well as before the American Arbitration Association and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. She has litigated matters involving contract disputes, business torts, products liability for manufacturers, securities class actions, shareholder and partnership disputes, corporate formation, and real estate litigation.

Concentrations

- Business disputes
- Multi-district litigation and class actions
- Real estate litigation
- Complex commercial litigation
- Pharmaceutical, medical device & health care litigation
- Securities litigation

Capabilities

Litigation | Securities Litigation | Real Estate Litigation | Pharmaceutical, Medical Device & Health Care Litigation | Commercial Litigation

Experience

Representative Matters

- Defeated prior shareholder's claims of entitlement to shares in privately held pharmaceutical company, winning summary judgment in favor of the pharmaceutical company in federal court.
- Served on team for defense of medical device manufacturer in multi-district litigation on claims based on failure to warn, design defects, and manufacturing defects, including extensive motion practice involving expert witnesses and the merits of claims on motions for summary judgment.
- Defended three levels of related financial institutions against fraud and negligence claims

brought by customer of foreign joint venture, resulting in directed verdict in favor of defendants after a one-week jury trial in federal court.

- Successfully defended brokerage firm employer in federal court against claims of disability discrimination and wrongful termination by employee, and also sought affirmative relief on behalf of employer to enforce promissory note, resulting in summary judgment in favor of employer on both the employee's discrimination claims and employer's promissory note claims, which was affirmed by the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Successfully litigated exclusive distribution agreement on behalf of materials purchaser against supplier under long-term exclusive distributorship agreement.
- Resolved matters for closely held corporations involving shareholder and internal disputes.
- Successfully defended developer against purchaser's claims under the Interstate Land Sales Act and the Florida Condominium Act, and successfully enforced contract against purchaser, after two-week bench trial in federal court, and obtained an award of fees for developer.
- Obtained summary judgment in favor of developer enforcing real estate contracts against multiple claims by purchasers.
- Successfully defended against derivative suit involving stock options backdating, resulting in a voluntary dismissal with prejudice by the plaintiff.
- Defended and resolved class action suits involving mergers and companies "going private."
- Represented investment firm in multidistrict litigation involving Ponzi scheme allegations.

Recognition & Leadership

Awards & Accolades

- Listed, *Daily Business Review*, Professional Excellence Award, "On the Rise," 2018
- Listed, *Super Lawyers* magazine, *Florida Super Lawyers*, "Rising Star," 2017-2019

Professional & Community Involvement

- Board of Directors, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Palm Beach County, Inc., 2018-Present
- Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Emerging Leaders Program, 2018-Present
- Member, American Bar Association

Credentials

Education

- J.D., *cum laude*, University of Florida Levin College of Law

- *Order of the Coif*
- Board Member, *Florida Law Review*
- Book Awards: Appellate Advocacy, Securities Regulation
- Honors: Legal Research and Writing, Appellate Advocacy
- Research Assistant for Dean Stuart R. Cohn
- Recipient, Atwood Dunwody Academic Scholarship
- B.S.B.A., Finance, *cum laude*, University of Florida
- B.S., Public Relations, *cum laude*, University of Florida
 - President's Honor Roll
 - Dean's List
 - Golden Key National Honor Society
 - National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Admissions

- Florida
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida

News, Insights & Events

August 29, 2018 PRESS RELEASE

Lauren R. Whetstone Appointed to Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Board of Directors

June, 2015 PUBLISHED ARTICLE

Floridas Valedictorians from 2000 Make Their Mark Somewhere Else