

Carol M. Rooney

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About Carol

Carol concentrates her practice on complex civil appeals and litigation, handling cases involving products liability, construction, real estate, and insurance disputes in federal and state courts across the nation.

Certified by The Florida Bar as a specialist in appellate practice, she frequently serves as embedded appellate counsel at trial and collaborates with trial counsel on pre-trial and post-trial motions.

Carol began her legal career as a staff attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit in Orange and Osceola Counties, Florida.

Carol's Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Tort, Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS); TIPS, Appellate Advocacy Committee, Chair, 2024 – 2025; Council of Appellate Lawyers, Executive Board and Florida State Chair; Section of Litigation, Appellate Practice Committee
- Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM)
- DRI
- Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers (HAWL)
- Hillsborough County Bar Association (HCBA)

Areas of Focus

Industries: Government

Experience

- *Bovee v. Captain D'S, LLC*, 386 So. 3d 931 (Fla. 6th DCA 2024): Per Curiam Affirmed, affirming summary judgment granted to owner and landlord in a premises liability case.
- *Sallee v. St. John United Methodist Church of Sebring*, 363 So. 3d 117 (Fla. 6th DCA 2023): Per Curiam Affirmed, upholding summary judgment for the defendant in a premises liability case involving a trip and fall in a church parking lot.
- *Kachele v. Estate of Hoffman*, 318 So. 3d 568 (Fla. 4th DCA 2021): Per Curiam Affirmed, affirming dismissal with prejudice granted to umbrella insurer in excess UM case.
- *Zamora v. Ace American Ins. Co.*, 830 Fed. Appx. 296 (11th Cir. 2020): Affirming summary judgment granted to insurer in excess UM case involving a rental car.
- *Edwards v. SafePoint Ins. Co.*, 318 So. 3d 13 (Fla. 4th DCA 2021): Affirming summary judgment granted to insurer based on failure to comply with proof of loss requirement of policy.
- *Avatar Prop. & Cas. Ins. Co. v. Flores*, 320 So. 3d 840 (Fla. 2d DCA 2021): Granting insurer's petition for writ of certiorari on grounds of work product privilege.
- *Lira v. Essentia Ins. Co.*, 861 Fed. Appx. 374 (11th Cir. 2021): Affirming denial of insured's untimely attempts to re-open case and move for attorney's fees and the costs against insurer.
- *Brifman v. Heritage Prop. & Cas. Ins. Co.*, 391 So. 3d 604 (Fla. 5th DCA 2024): Per Curiam Affirmed, affirming dismissal with prejudice of tort action against a homeowners' insurer.
- *Sallies v. First Liberty Ins. Corp.*, 391 So. 3d 577 (Fla. 4th DCA 2024): Per Curiam Affirmed, affirming partial summary judgment and partial dismissal of bad faith claims against UM insurer.
- *Polakoff v. Action Roofing Services, Inc.*, 383 So. 3d 794 (Fla. 4th DCA 2024): Per Curiam Affirmed, affirming summary judgment granted to roofer in construction defect case.
- *Kelley Land Holdings, LLC v. Lee Arnold & Assocs.*, 301 So. 3d 207 (Fla. 2d DCA 2020): Per Curiam Affirmed, affirming summary judgment granted to third-party defendants based on failure to comply with Florida's third-party practice rule pleading requirements.
- *Travel Ins. Facilities, PLC v. Lee Memorial Health System*, 370 So. 3d 377 (Fla. 6th DCA 2023): Per Curiam Affirmed, reversing trial court order denying motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction.
- *Gregory v. Key West Welding and Fabrication, Inc.*, 341 So. 3d 323 (Fla. 3d DCA 2022): Per Curiam Affirmed, affirming order as to accrual of post-judgment interest and effect of deposit of funds into court registry during pendency of appeal.
- *Kreichman v. Engineered Air, LLC*, 336 So. 3d 726 (Fla. 4th DCA 2022): Per Curiam Affirmed, summary judgment granted to roofer in a construction defect action.
- *Cottington Road TIC, LLC v. 1662 Multifamily, LLC*, 333 So. 3d 345 (Fla. 5th DCA 2022): Per Curiam Affirmed, order dismissing buyer's complaint alleging fraud and other tort claims seeking over \$60 million in damages against a seller of commercial real estate.

- *Gregory v. Key West Welding and Fabrications, Inc. et al.*, 307 So. 3d 955 (Fla. 3d DCA 2020): Affirming final judgment entered following jury trial on all grounds except for nominal pharmacy co-pay.
- *O'Donnell v. W.F. Taylor Co., Inc.*, 292 So. 3d 785 (Fla. 4th DCA 2020): Affirming summary judgment granted to defendants in negligence and products liability case based on plaintiff's undisputed inability to prove proximate causation.
- *Zwerner v. Coastal Concierge Services, LLC*, 374 So. 3d 784 (Fla. 4th DCA 2023): Per Curiam Affirmed, affirming summary judgment granted to nurse registry on vicarious liability counts.

Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Appellate Practice, 2022 – 2026
- Board Certified by The Florida Bar in Appellate Practice since 2015
- Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rating

Credentials

Education

Stetson University College of Law, JD
University of South Florida, BA

Bar Admissions

Florida

Court Admissions

US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
US Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
US District Court for the Middle District of Florida
US District Court for the Northern District of Florida
US District Court for the Southern District of Florida

Interests

Did you know...

In her free time, Carol enjoys traveling, and outdoor activities such as hiking, and kayaking.

Thought Leadership

Presentations

Carol moderated a panel on oral argument at the 2024 Appellate Judges Education Institute (AJEI) Summit, the premier educational event for appellate judges and practitioners. The panel, titled “Questions You Should Ask Before, and Must Be Able to Answer During Appellate Oral Argument,” featured Justice Dalila Wendlandt of the Massachusetts Supreme Court and senior law clerk Josh Wolinsky of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Select presentations also include:

- Moderator, “Gideon’s Trumpet, Annual Supreme Court BBQ,” Hinshaw University, CLE Webinar, July 17, 2025

Publications

- Co-Author, “Recent Developments in Appellate Advocacy,” *Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Law Journal*, Vol. 60, Issue 1, Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, American Bar Association, Fall 2025
- “Appellate Advocacy Committee,” *The Brief*, Vol. 54, No. 4, Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, American Bar Association, Summer 2025

In The News

- Carol Rooney Touts the Mission and Membership Benefits of the ABA TIPS Appellate Advocacy Committee, Sep 30, 2025

Press Releases

- 102 Hinshaw Lawyers Recognized in 2026 Editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*® and *Ones to Watch*™, Aug 21, 2025
- Hinshaw Adds Experienced Appellate Partner Carol Rooney in Tampa, Mar 6, 2025