



Melissa M. Burghardt

PARTNER

Location: Tampa, FL

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Biography

Melissa Mackay Burghardt is a Partner in our Tampa office and is located in St. Petersburg. Melissa concentrates her practice on first-party property disputes, representing both admitted and surplus lines insurance carriers throughout the state of Florida. However, she also has experience in third-party coverage matters, premises liability, personal injury, and appellate law. Two published appellate opinions include, *Spring Lake NC, LLC v. Holloway*, 110 So. 3d 916 (Fla. 2d 2013) and *Emeritus Corp. v. Pasquariello*, 95 So. 3d 1009 (Fla. 2d 2012). Melissa enjoys working closely with clients to obtain favorable outcomes in litigated cases – whether it be through settlement, motion practice, or trial.

Melissa previously served on the Florida Bar’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee and is a member of the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers. Prior to joining Clausen Miller, Melissa was senior counsel at a national insurance defense firm where she represented admitted and surplus lines insurance carriers in first and third-party coverage matters and handled multiple appeals.

Melissa graduated from Samford University with degrees in Journalism and Fine Art. She earned her juris doctorate from Stetson University College of law. She was awarded the Victor O. Wehle Award for Trial Advocacy and the Williams F. Blews Pro Bono Service Award, and earned the highest-grade distinction in her Advanced Civil Trial and Advanced Legal Research classes.

Education

J.D. Stetson University College of Law,
2010

B.A. Samford University, 2004

Bar Admissions

Florida

Court Admissions

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida

Memberships

Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers

Awards

Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch 2021, 2022 and 2023