

Amara Benitez Rodriguez

Associate

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Tampa – 813.898.1820



Amara is an associate in the Casualty Department where she represents defendants in third-party insurance defense matters concerning negligence, automobile liability, premises liability, construction defect, personal injury and defamation/ libel. Additionally, she has experience handling litigation involving insurance fraud and Special Investigation Unit (SIU) with particular emphasis on large loss fraud and medical provider fraud. Amara has practiced before both federal and state court judges.

Amara received her *juris doctor, cum laude*, with a concentration in advocacy from Stetson University College of Law. While in law school, Amara was a member of the nation's top ranked advocacy program as a member of the Trial Team. During her two years on the team, Amara learned the fundamental skills for advocating in a jury trial and is proud to be a two-time regional champion of the American Association for Justice's Mock Trial Competition. Her exceptional skills in oral advocacy earned her the invitation for induction into The Order of the Barristers in 2018. Amara was also a member of the Student Bar Association, where she served as vice-president, and Phi Delta Phi.

During law school, Amara worked as a summer associate for the Department of the Navy's Office of the General Counsel's Naval Litigation Office. In this role, Amara worked out of the Pentagon and Washington DC Naval Yard defending the United States Navy and Marine Corp in matters concerning breach of military contracts, employment law and environmental law. Amara also interned at the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of General Counsel and the Veterans Law Institute at Stetson. Amara was selected to contribute to an Amicus Brief on Veterans' Due Process rights to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims due to her dedication to Veterans' Advocacy.

Prior to law school, Amara attended the University of South Florida, where she earned a B.S. in Health Sciences with concentrations in Biological Health and Mental and Behavioral Health.

Practices

- General Liability
- Fraud/Special Investigation
- Premises & Retail Liability
- Automobile Liability
- Architectural, Engineering & Construction Defect Litigation

Amara is admitted to practice in the State of Florida and Middle District of Florida.

Education

- Stetson University College of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2018)
- University of South Florida (B.S., 2014)

Admissions

- Florida, 2018
- U.S. District Court Middle District of Florida, 2019

Honors & Awards

- Florida Super Lawyers, Rising Stars (2024-2026)

Classes / Seminars Taught

- *A Proposal for Settlement for All Seasons: Effective Use of the PFS in Florida's New Legal Landscape*, Florida Liability Claims Conference, Lake Buena Visit, FL, June 18, 2025

Significant Representative Matters

- Successfully argued a Motion to Dismiss; a client was accused of negligently supervising an employee, resulting in molestation of a minor. We settled the federal defamation/ libel matter for \$11,500 when Plaintiff was demanding \$250,000.

Thought Leadership

June 1, 2023

Plaintiff Does Not Have to Pay for It and Neither Should You: Preventing Plaintiff's Introduction of Past Medical Expenses that Have Been Adjusted and/or Written Off by Collateral Source Payments