

Blake J. Hood

Shareholder

BJHood@mdwcg.com

Jacksonville – 904.358.4203



Blake devotes his practice to the defense of employers and insurance carriers in claims and appeals arising under the Florida Workers' Compensation Act as well as claims brought under the federal Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act.

Blake is Board Certified by The Florida Bar in Workers' Compensation, a designation he earned in 2013. He is experienced in workers' compensation law dealing with the analysis and litigation of problems or controversies arising out of the Florida Workers' Compensation Law.

In addition to his practice that extends throughout the state of Florida, Blake is also licensed to practice law in North Carolina. He represents many insurance carriers and third party administrators. Additionally, he lectures on various topics concerning state and federal workers' compensation claims.

An active member of the Jacksonville Bar Association, Blake currently serves as the co-chair of the Social Security and Workers' Compensation Law Committee. He previously served as co-chair of the Workers' Compensation Section. Blake also proudly served as Co-Chair for the Friends of 440 Scholarship Fund between 2010 and 2012 and helped coordinate numerous fundraising events for the purpose of raising scholarship funds for the organization.

When not working, Blake enjoys spending his time with his wife and daughter, cooking, reading and playing classical guitar.

Education

- Florida State University College of Law (J.D., 2002)
- Emory University (B.A., 1999)
- Oxford College of Emory University (A.A., 1997)

Practices

- Workers' Compensation Defense

Admissions

- Florida, 2002
- North Carolina, 2006
- U.S. District Court Middle District of Florida, 2007

Associations & Memberships

- E. Robert Williams Inn of Court, Barrister
- Florida Bar
- Friends of 440 Scholarship Fund, Inc., Jacksonville Division Co-Chair, 2010-2012
- Jacksonville Bar Association, Social Security and Workers' Compensation Law Committee Co-Chair, 2025-2026
- North Carolina Bar

Classes/Seminars Taught

- *"One Time Changes" in Medical Providers Under Florida Statutes Section 440.13(2) (f)*, Florida Bar Workers' Compensation Section Webinar, June 11, 2025
- *Hot Topics for Attorneys*, Workers' Compensation Institute 77th Annual Workers' Compensation Educational Conference, Orlando, FL, August 2023
- *Repetitive Trauma, Exposure and Occupational Disease*, The Florida Bar Workers' Compensation Forum, 2015-2017

Published Works

- "Fla. Workers' Comp Physician Dispensing Ruling Could Produce New Legislative Fight," *Insurance Journal*, August 5, 2026
- "Repetitive Trauma, Exposure and Occupational Diseases," *The Florida Bar Workers' Compensation Forum Course Book*, 2015-2017
- "Florida Common Law Jurisprudence," by Michael Cavendish and Blake J. Hood, *The Florida Bar Journal*, January 2007, Volume 81, No. 1, Page 8

Certifications

- Board Certified Specialist, Workers' Compensation, The Florida Bar

Thought Leadership

September 22, 2026

Florida Supreme Court Adopts Traditionally More Expansive Concept of Occupational Causation

August 13, 2026

Appellate Court Rejects Horizontal Immunity Defense to Company Not Acting as Statutory Subcontractor

August 5, 2026

Fla. Workers' Comp Physician Dispensing Ruling Could Produce New Legislative Fight

July 16, 2026

Employer/Carriers Must Explicitly Invoke Right to Deny Claim Under "Pay and Investigate" Statutory Provision; Employees Must Always Prove Medical Necessity of Treatment

June 8, 2026

Workers' Compensation Decision Clarifies that Out-of-State Family Visits Don't Meet Medical Necessity Standard

May 1, 2026

The First District Court of Appeal Adopts (Again) New Methodology for Analyzing Statute of Limitations

April 1, 2026

First District Court of Appeal Reverses Attendant Care Award Recommended in Independent Medical Evaluation Report

March 2, 2026

Florida Court Strikes Proposed Workers' Compensation Rules That Allow Physicians to Dispense Medications

March 1, 2026

Court of Appeal Affirms Ruling That Late-Asserted Major Contributing Cause Defenses Are Waived

February 4, 2026

First District Court of Appeals Holds that the Proper "Misconduct" Analysis Must Be Guided by the Amended Text of Florida's Reemployment Assistance Law

January 1, 2026

Florida Court Clarifies Misrepresentation Defense and Major Contributing Cause in Successive Workplace Injury Claims

December 1, 2025

TOP 10 DEVELOPMENTS IN FLORIDA WORKERS' COMPENSATION IN 2025

November 1, 2025

District Court Holds that Daubert Evidentiary Challenges Do Not Apply to Expert Medical Opinions under Florida's Workers' Compensation Act

October 1, 2025

District Court Holds that Reservation Over Attorney Fee Entitlement May Not Toll

Statute of Limitations

September 1, 2025

District Court Holds that Average Weekly Wage Should Be Calculated at Time of Last Injurious Exposure in Occupational Injury Cases