

Patrick M. DeLong

Co-Chair, Rideshare Litigation Practice

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Fort Lauderdale – 954.832.3953



As a member of the Casualty Department, Patrick represents clients and their insurers in high exposure automobile negligence, uninsured motorist, premises liability, commercial general liability and construction site accident cases involving allegations of wrongful death and catastrophic injuries in both Florida and federal courts.

Patrick focuses a portion of his practice on a recently emerging area of law—the defense of rideshare liability cases. In this capacity, he develops strategies for successfully defending rideshare drivers and their insurers in complex, catastrophic rideshare negligence and uninsured motorist cases throughout the State of Florida.

Additionally, Patrick represents clients in complex construction defect, and building design related claims and suits. He routinely represents and defends real estate developers, general contractors, subcontractors, licensed construction industry professionals, as well as municipalities, in all manner of construction related actions.

Since joining the firm in 2013, Patrick has defended creditors and debt servicers in creditors' rights, TCPA, FDCPA and FCCPA actions.

In 1990, Patrick earned his Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors from the University of Notre Dame, and remained at the University of Notre Dame for law school where he received his *juris doctor* in 1993. Patrick is a member of the Bar of the state of Florida. He is admitted to practice before all Florida state circuit and federal district courts, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern and Middle District of Florida, as well as the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals

Education

- Notre Dame Law School (J.D., 1993)
- University of Notre Dame (B.A., *cum laude*, 1990)

Practices

- Rideshare Liability
- General Liability
- Construction Injury Litigation
- Automobile Liability
- Premises & Retail Liability
- Trucking & Transportation Liability
- Consumer Financial Services Litigation
- Fraud/Special Investigation

Admissions

- Florida, 1993
- U.S. District Court Middle District of Florida, 1994
- U.S. District Court Northern District of Florida, 2000
- U.S. District Court Southern District of Florida, 2000
- U.S. Court of Appeals 11th Circuit, 2010

Honors & Awards

- The Best Lawyers in America®, Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants (2027)

Associations & Memberships

- ACA International (The Association of Credit and Collection Professionals)
- NCBA (The National Creditors Bar Association)

Classes/Seminars Taught

- *The Complexity of Rideshare Claims*, AM Best Insurance Law Podcast, June 2021
- *Preserving Evidence and Avoiding Spoliation in Florida*, Marshall Dennehey Florida Claims Symposium - *The Best Defense is a Good Offense*, Orlando, FL, September 17, 2014

Published Works

- "Defending Ride-Hailing and Car-Sharing Claims: Handling Accident-Related Lawsuits in a Sharing Economy," *CLM Magazine*, January 2022

Significant Representative Matters

- Won summary judgment in favor of a national real estate developer in a class action case brought in federal court, on behalf of homeowners in a large planned community. Damages in excess of \$5 million were sought against the developer, who was accused of fraud, deceptive and unfair trade practices, misleading advertising, unjust enrichment, and negligence. After the summary judgment was affirmed on appeal, four related class action cases and one mass tort case were pending against the real estate developer in state court. Here, the combined alleged damages were in excess of \$40 million, but were again favorably resolved.
- Secured summary judgment in favor of a municipality in a Fair Housing Act case brought by a real estate developer who accused the municipality, its mayor, vice mayor and commissioners of racial discrimination after the commission voted against its proposed development.
- Secured the dismissal of an FDCPA class action on behalf of a law firm whose practice focused upon mortgage foreclosures.

Thought Leadership

March 1, 2023

On the Pulse...Our Rideshare Liability Practice Group

January 1, 2022

Defending Ride-Hailing and Car-Sharing Claims