

Sonthonax B. SaintGermain

Associate

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Sonthon is a member of the firm's Appellate Advocacy and Post-Trial Practice Group in the Professional Liability Department. He has litigated numerous appeals in state and federal appellate courts. In addition to his extensive appellate practice, Sonthon provides litigation support in cases at the trial court level.

Prior to joining the firm, Sonthon practiced in product liability with a regional firm in Illinois and Missouri. Before entering private practice, he was an appellate attorney with Illinois' Office of the State Appellate Defender and subsequently at the Office of the Federal Defender for the Middle District of Florida. Sonthon served as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Mary McDade of the Illinois Third District Court of Appeal in Peoria, Illinois.

Sonthon graduated from the Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a Master of Science in Applied Economics. He subsequently attended the University of Illinois, College of Law in Champaign, Illinois where he obtained his *juris doctor*.

Education

- University of Illinois College of Law at Urbana-Champaign (J.D., 2014)
- Florida State University (M.Sc., 2009)
- Florida State University (B.S., 2008)

Admissions

- Illinois, 2015
- Florida, 2022
- Missouri, 2023

Languages

Practices

- Appellate Advocacy & Post-Trial Practice

- French (Native Fluent)
- Haitian Creole (Native Fluent)

Representative Cases & Matters

- Successfully obtained a per curiam affirmance by the Sixth District Court of Appeal of a final judgment dismissing with prejudice a negligence action in favor of our clients, a condominium association and property manager. The plaintiff, a condominium unit owner, alleged he sustained injuries after falling on his patio and asserted claims for negligence and punitive damages arising from the association's alleged failure to repair the patio. After multiple opportunities to amend, the trial court granted the motion to dismiss and dismissed the third amended complaint with prejudice for failure to state a cause of action. On appeal, the plaintiff argued the dismissal was erroneous and further asserted that the trial court engaged in improper ex parte communications and failed to exercise independent judgment by adopting a proposed order submitted by defense counsel. After briefing, the Sixth District Court of Appeal affirmed the final judgment in the association's favor and granted the association's motion for appellate attorneys' fees. *Brent Clark v. Master Condominium Association, Inc., et al.*, No. 6D2025-1609 (Fla. 6th DCA July 7, 2026).
- Assisted in securing a favorable defense verdict following a Palm Beach County jury trial with over 13 witnesses, including 5 experts, and over 5,000 pages of exhibits, involving a high-value property damage claim. The Plaintiff sought more than \$1.3 million in damages after water from a broken pipe spigot on an upstairs balcony damaged the master suite of Plaintiff's 3400 square foot, \$4.5 million luxury oceanfront condominium. Because liability was stipulated, the trial focused solely on the amount and scope of damages, consisting of repair /remediation costs to the master suite together with Plaintiff's claim for 21-months of loss of use at a valuation of \$33,000.00 per month totaling \$673,000.00. The defense successfully demonstrated that the Plaintiff was not entitled to compensation for the majority of the claimed loss-of-use period (16-months). The jury awarded only 5-months of loss-of-use damages, along with \$199,615 in repair and restoration costs, substantially reducing the plaintiff's overall recovery to only \$364,615.