



John H. Pelzer

Partner

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John H. Pelzer is Board Certified by The Florida Bar as a specialist in Appellate Law, a select credential earned by experience, examination, enhanced continuing education, and peer review by judges and lawyers in the field. He handles appeals on all substantive law subject matters.

Appellate practice involves the skills of mastering a static record, capitalizing on or avoiding the weaknesses of judicial decisions, identifying the issues most likely to serve the client's purposes, researching and analogizing pertinent precedent, applying standards of review, and then expressing the result in a cogently written brief that makes the desired result appear obvious from the outset. This can also involve oral advocacy in an unscripted and unpredictable format, wherein each position, point or argument is tested and explored by three or more intelligent and well-prepared judges. During and before trial, appellate practice requires proper preservation of the record so that the case is not lost before it is begun. These skills are very different from the skills of a trial lawyer, just as a jury of laypersons is completely different from a panel of judges.

Mr. Pelzer has mastered these skills over the course of more than thirty (30) years devoted to appellate practice. As a young attorney, Mr. Pelzer participated as lead counsel or assisting counsel in both jury and non-jury trials, and the litigation leading up to them, thus gaining valuable insight into the experience of being a trial lawyer, and how it can affect the appellate process.

Over his years as an appellate practitioner, Mr. Pelzer has successfully handled cases in virtually all substantive areas of the law in every Florida appellate court and most federal appellate courts. As a member of a large, diverse, full-service law firm throughout his career, Mr. Pelzer has handled cases for the highest-level practitioners in all their fields and has the ability to draw on that expertise whenever necessary. For example, Mr. Pelzer has experience handling appeals in administrative law, real estate, bankruptcy, banking, constitutional law, construction, contracts, family law, insurance, land use, patent, personal injury, and probate.

Mr. Pelzer has been professionally involved with The Florida Bar in areas affecting appellate practice, having served on the Appellate Court Rules Committee and the Appellate Practice Certification Committee, including two stints as Chair, and its parent, the Board of Legal Specialization and Education, including two years as Chair.

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
- U.S. Courts of Appeals for the First, Second, Third, Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Federal and District of Columbia Circuits
- U.S. Supreme Court

Bar Admissions

- Florida

Education

- J.D., Tulane University School of Law, *cum laude*, 1983
- B.A., Stetson University, *cum laude*, 1980

Practice Areas

- Appellate
- Litigation
- Insurance Recovery & Counseling

Professional and Community Involvement

- The Florida Bar, Member
 - Appellate Rules Committee, Member
 - Appellate Practice Certification Committee, Vice Chair
 - Former Chairman
 - Board of Legal Specialization & Education, Member
 - Chair, 2013-2015

Recognitions

- *U.S. News & World Report*, "Best Lawyers in America," Appellate, 2008-2024
- *Benchmark Litigation*, Florida "Litigation Star," 2019-2024
- *Fort Lauderdale Illustrated*, "Top Lawyers" 2021 & 2022
- *Martindale-Hubbell*, Rated AV Preeminent®
- *U.S. News & World Report*, Best Lawyers in America "Lawyer of the Year," Appellate, 2022
- *Super Lawyers* magazine, Florida "Super Lawyers," Appellate, 2006-2017, 2019-2020
- Top Lawyers, *South Florida Legal Guide*, 2014-2015
- *Super Lawyers* magazine, Super Lawyers Business Edition, Appellate, 2014, 2018
- *The American Lawyer* magazine, "Top Rated Lawyers," 2012

In the News

- Quoted, "Appellate Court Revives Claims That Pop-up Window Blocked Gym Contract's Language," *Daily Business Review*, December 19, 2019
- Featured, "Insurer Wins Reversal of Seven-Figure Judgement in Surety Bond Case," *The Real Deal*, December 10, 2017
- Featured, "Fort Lauderdale Attorneys Save Developer from \$7.3 Million Judgment," *Daily Business Review*, December 8, 2017
- Featured, "Greenspoon Marder Beats Back \$12M Claim Client Duped Investors," *Daily Business Review*, June 28, 2017
- Arizona Supreme Court Reverses Lower Court Rulings that Would Have Outlawed Cannabis Extracts

News

- Greenspoon Marder Partner John "Jack" Pelzer Secures Client Victory in \$8 Million Hurricane Irma Damage Dispute Ruling
- Greenspoon Marder Recognized by Benchmark Litigation USA for 2024
- 49 Greenspoon Marder Attorneys Listed in The Best Lawyers in America© 2024 Edition
- Greenspoon Marder Recognized by Benchmark Litigation for 2023
- Greenspoon Marder Attorneys Recognized as "Top Lawyers" by Fort Lauderdale Illustrated for 2022

- 48 Attorneys At Greenspoon Marder Listed In The Best Lawyers In America© 2023
- Greenspoon Marder Recognized By Benchmark Litigation For 2022
- Greenspoon Marder Attorneys Recognized as "Top Lawyers" by Fort Lauderdale Illustrated for 2021
- Greenspoon Marder Partner John H. Pelzer Selected As A "Lawyer Of The Year" By Best Lawyers© For 2022
- Greenspoon Marder Recognized By Benchmark Litigation For 2021
- Greenspoon Marder Recognized By Benchmark Litigation USA 2020
- Greenspoon Marder Secures Florida Supreme Court Ruling Upholding Decisions Against Nonpartisan County Constitutional Officer Elections
- Florida Judge Upholds Orange County Trial Court's Judgement Against Nonpartisan County Constitutional Officer Elections
- Greenspoon Marder Secures Reversal of \$7.3 Million Judgement Against Client Lexon
- Greenspoon Marder Attorneys Receive 2018 AV Preeminent Rating By Martindale-Hubbell
- Greenspoon Marder Attorneys Receive 2017 AV Preeminent Rating By Martindale-Hubbell
- Greenspoon Marder Shareholder John H. Pelzer Appointed To The Florida Bar's Appellate Practice Certification Committee
- Super Lawyers Recognizes 38 Attorneys at Greenspoon Marder
- Greenspoon Marder Law's Victor Kline and Jack Pelzer Win Appeal in the Appellate Court
- Greenspoon Marder's John Pelzer Reappointed Chair of the Board of Legal Specialization and Education of The Florida Bar
- Twenty One Attorneys Ranked as "Top Lawyers" and Greenspoon Marder Listed as a "Top Law Firm" in the 2014 South Florida Legal Guide
- John H. Pelzer appointed chair of the 2013-2014 Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education
- People in the news
- Greenspoon Marder's John H. Pelzer is appointed the chairman of the board of legal specialization and education of The Florida Bar
- Greenspoon Marder Shareholder Appointed as Chair of the Board of Legal Specialization and Education of the Florida Bar

