

## **Bios of the Fourth District Court of Appeal Judges and Moderators**

### **Chief Judge Mark W. Klingensmith**

#### **Degrees:**

- Bachelor of Arts, University of Florida (1982)
- Juris Doctor, University of Florida (1985)
- LL.M., Duke University (2016)

#### **Legal Offices & Positions:**

- Florida Bar Board Certified (Civil Trial 2001; re-certified 2006, 2011)
- AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Florida Super Lawyers (2007, 2008, 2009 & 2010)
- Shareholder, Sonneborn Rutter Cooney & Klingensmith PA, West Palm Beach, FL (1992-2011)
- Junior Partner, Metzger Sonneborn & Rutter PA, West Palm Beach, FL (1990-1992)
- Associate, Metzger & Sonneborn PA, West Palm Beach, FL (February 1986-1990)
- Adjunct Professor, Legal Aspects of Health Care Administration, Nova Southeastern University (Winter 1997)

#### **Judicial Experience:**

- Appointed by Governor Rick Scott to the Fourth District Court of Appeal; commissioned on August 12, 2013.
- Appointed by Governor Rick Scott to Circuit Court, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit; commissioned on July 18, 2011.

#### **Florida Bar Committees:**

- Rules of Judicial Administration Committee, The Florida Bar (2003-2009)
- Rules of Civil Procedure Committee, The Florida Bar (1997-2003)
- Steering Committee, Florida Civil Trial Practice, The Florida Bar Publications (1997-present)
- Grievance Committee for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit (1997-2000; 2003-2005) (Chairman, 2000)

#### **Professional Associations & Memberships:**

- Florida Bar (admitted 1986)
- State Bar of California (inactive) (admitted 1986)
- United States Supreme Court (admitted 1991)

- United States District Court, Southern District of Florida (Trial Bar) (1988-2012)
- United States District Court, Middle District of Florida (1988-2012)
- Florida Conference of District Court Judges (2013-present); Member, DCA Education Committee (2014-2017)
- Florida Conference of Circuit Judges (2011-2013)
- Martin County Bar Association
- St. Lucie County Bar Association
- Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, University of Florida (President 1984-1985)

### **Articles & Publications:**

- Editor-in-Chief, Florida Journal of International Law, University of Florida College of Law (1984-1985).
- Author: Opening Statements, Florida Civil Trial Practice (8th Ed., 2010; 9th Ed., 2012; 10th Ed., 2014; 11th Ed., 2017), The Florida Bar Publications.
- Author: Attorney-Client Relationship, Florida Civil Practice Before Trial (7th Ed., 2004; 8th Ed., 2009; 9th Ed., 2011; 10th Ed., 2013; 11th Ed., 2014), The Florida Bar Publications.
- Editorial Board Member, *Judicature*, published by Duke Law Center for Judicial Studies (2015-2016).
- Author: *Lyrics In The Law: Music's Influence on America's Courts* (Rowan & Littlefield, 2020).
- Author: "Merit Selection For Florida's Trial Judges: Opportunity Lost, Or Lessons Learned?" 48 *Stetson L. Rev.* 473 (Summer 2019).
- Author: "At long last, the Fourth District Court of Appeal has a new home", *Friendly Passages*, Rupert J. Smith Law Library of St. Lucie County (Summer 2018).
- Author: "Computers Laying Down the Law: Will Judges Become Obsolete?", 90 *Fla. Bar J.* 80 (No. 1, Jan. 2016), republished in *The Computer & Internet Lawyer*, Vol. 33, No. 5, p. 16 (2016).
- Author: "Justice Robert H. Jackson: A Retrospective", *Friendly Passages*, Rupert J. Smith Law Library of St. Lucie County (July/August 2014).
- Author: "Mentoring", *Friendly Passages*, Rupert J. Smith Law Library of St. Lucie County (July/August 2013).
- Author: "Law Day: Celebrating the Rule of Law", *Friendly Passages*, Rupert J. Smith Law Library of St. Lucie County (May/June 2013).
- Author: "Appropriate Courtroom Dress", *Friendly Passages*, Rupert J. Smith Law Library of St. Lucie County (March/April 2013).
- Author: "Are fewer trials a good thing? The jury is still out", *Friendly Passages*, Rupert J. Smith Law Library of St. Lucie County (January/February 2013).

- Author: “Trial Practice and Civility: In Pursuit of Good Manners”, *Friendly Passages*, Rupert J. Smith Law Library of St. Lucie County (November/December 2012).
- Author: “In Celebration of Constitution Day”, *Friendly Passages*, Rupert J. Smith Law Library of St. Lucie County (September/October 2012).
- Author: “Deposing the Plaintiff's Economic Damages Experts”, *The Defense Speaks: FDLA Defense Manual* (1st Ed., July 2006).
- Author: “Compensatory Damages Slashed by Florida Court: The Impact of First Healthcare Corp. v. Estate of Barnes”, *Nursing Home Legal Insider*, Vol. 1, Issue 1 (September 1999).
- Author: “The Five Myths of Nursing Home Litigation”, LRP Publications (1998).
- Author: “Addressing the Younger Person in Jury Selection”, *Personal Injury Verdict Reviews*, Vol. 6, Issue 8 (April 13, 1998).
- Author: “Ten Years of Medical Malpractice Reform: Brickbats and Bouquets”, *FDLA Trial Advocates Quarterly* (Winter 1997).
- Author: *Medical Malpractice Litigation*, Florida Keystone, Lawyer's Desk Library of Practice (1996).
- Co-author: “The Hospital's Risk From Innkeeper to Insurer”, 60 Fla. Bar J. 35 (No. 7, July/Aug. 1986).

### **Community Boards & Activities:**

- Town of Sewall's Point, FL
  - Mayor (2010-2011)
  - Vice-Mayor (2009-2010)
  - Commissioner, (2008-2009)
- University of Florida Law School Board of Trustees (2011-present)
- University of Florida Law Alumni Council (President 2006-2007)
- Florida Blue Key, University of Florida
- University of Florida Alumni Association (Life Member)
- District Chairman, Treasure Coast District, Gulf Stream Council, Boy Scouts of America (2008-2015)
- Executive Board, Gulf Stream Council, Boy Scouts of America (2008-2015)
- Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County (2011-2013)
- Executive Roundtable of St. Lucie County (2011-2013)
- Board of Directors, Palm Glades Girl Scout Council (1993-1999)

## **Judge Martha C. Warner**

### **Degrees:**

- The Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado, B.A., magna cum laude, 1971
- University of Chicago Law School, 1971-72
- University of Florida School of Law, J.D. with high honors, 1974
- University of Virginia, Master of Laws in the Judicial Process, LL.M. received May 1995

### **Legal Offices & Positions:**

- Chief Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal, July 1, 1999-June 30, 2001
- Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal, 1989-present
- Circuit Court Judge, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, 1986-88
- Private Practice, 1974-85.

### **Honors & Awards:**

- Florida Association for Women Lawyers Rosemary Barkett Outstanding Achievement Award, 2020
- Florida Bar Appellate Practice Section James C. Adkins Award for Outstanding Contributions to Field of Appellate Practice, 2010
- Supreme Court of Florida, Chief Justice's Award of Excellence, 2006
- Outstanding Jurist of 1992, Young Lawyers Division of the Florida Bar
- Phi Beta Kappa, Colorado College
- Phi Kappa Phi, honorary social science fraternity
- Order of the Coif, University of Florida Law School
- Member of the Editorial Board, University of Florida Law Review

### **Judicial & Bar Activities:**

#### *State*

- Member, Appellate Court Technology Commission 2011-2020
- President, Florida Conference of District Court of Appeal Judges (2008-2009)
- Supreme Court Committee on District Court of Appeal Performance and Accountability, 1998-2016, Chair 1998-2008
- Member, Supreme Court Electronic Filing Committee, 2003-2010
- Co-Chair, Florida Court Education Council, 2002-2006
- Member, Florida Bar Commission on the Legal Needs of Children, 2000-2006

- Member, Committee on Trial Court Performance and Accountability, 1999-2002
- Chair, Florida Legislative Committee on Legislative Reform of Judicial Administration, 1998
- Chair, FCEC Special Committee on Evaluation and Administration of Florida's Judicial Education Programs, 1998
- Member, Florida Supreme Court Standard Jury Instruction Committee, 1987-1998
- Faculty Member, Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies, 1992-2004
- Member, Appellate Judges Conference Education Committee, 1992-1999
- Member, Appellate Rules Committee, The Florida Bar, 1990-1993
- Member, Florida Court Education Council's Publication Committee, 2001-2010
- Admitted to the Florida Bar 1974

### *National*

- Chair, Appellate Judges Conference of the American Bar Association (2009-2010)
- Chair, 2007 AJEI National Education Conference
- Member, Executive Committee of ABA Appellate Judges Conference and Board of Directors of the Appellate Judges Educational Institute (AJEI) 2005-2011
- Editor, Appellate Judges Section of ABA Judicial Division Record, 2003-2005
- Member, ABA Standing Committee on Continuing Education, 2000-2003
- Member, Planning Committee for ABA Compleat Appellate Judge Seminar, 2000-2002
- Chair, ABA Oversight Committee for University of Virginia Master of Laws in the Judicial Process Program, 1999-2000
- Lecturer, ABA Conference of Chief Judges of Intermediate Appellate Courts, 1995
- Participant, University of Memphis Leadership Institute in Judicial Education

### **Other Civic Activities:**

- Member, Arts Foundation Board, 2007-2009
- Board of Directors, Martin County Council for the Arts, 1996 to 1999
- Chair of 1997, 1998 and 1999 High School Juried Art Shows
- American Heart Association, Board of Directors, Martin County Unit, 1982-1989
- Co-Chair, American Heart Association Heart Ball, 1983
- Board of Directors, Presbyterian Early Learning School, 1981-1987, Chair of Board

- Choir member, Stuart Congregational Church

**Articles & Publications:**

Warner and Henley, "Is Big Bad? Timeliness and Consistency on Large State Appellate Courts," ABA Judges' Journal, Fall 2005, Vol. 44 No. 4, at 36-41; Warner, Beuttenmuller and Wagenknecht-Ivey, "A quality Improvement Project in Florida's Fourth District Court of Appeal," ABA Judges' Journal, Spring 2002, Vol. 41 No. 2, at 16-21; "Anders in the Fifty States: Some Appellants' Equal Protection is More Equal than Others," *Florida State University Law Review*, Vol. 23:3(1995)

## **Judge Robert M. Gross**

### **Degrees:**

- Williams College, B.A., Magna cum laude, 1973
- Cornell University, J.D., 1976

### **Legal Offices & Positions:**

- Chief Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal, December 1, 2008-June 30, 2011
- Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal, 1995-present
- Circuit Court Judge, 1991-95
- County Court Judge, 1984-91
- Administrative Judge of County Court, 1988-90
- Private Practice, Moyle, Jones and Flanigan, P.A., West Palm Beach, 1981-84
- Assistant State Attorney, Palm Beach County, 1977-81
- Assistant District Attorney, New York County, New York, 1976-77

### **Judicial & Bar Activities:**

- The Florida Bar, 1976-present
- Florida Judicial College Faculty Member, 1990-present (teaching Evidence, Landlord & Tenant, and Building A Judicial Style)
- Task Force on Criminal Justice and Corrections, 1993-94
- Palm Beach County Bar Association, 1977-present
- District of Columbia Bar, 1977-2020
- New York Bar, 1977-present
- Palm Beach County Bar Association Law Week Essay Judge, 1996-present
- Lecturer, Conference of Circuit Court Judges, Conference of County Court Judges, Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers, and Palm Beach County Bar Association, 1988-present

### **Other Civic Activities:**

- Forum Club, 1984-2006
- Board of Directors, Palm Beach Visiting Nurse Association, 1981-84
- Little league coach, 1980, 1997
- Visiting teacher at various elementary, middle and high schools, 1984-present

## **Judge Melanie G. May**

### **Degrees:**

- Florida Atlantic University, B.S., 1973
- Nova Law Center, J.D., 1981

### **Legal Offices & Positions:**

- Chief Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal, July 1, 2011-June 30, 2013
- Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal, 2002-present
- Judge, 17th Judicial Circuit Court, 1991-2002
- Private Practice, 1982-91
- Law Clerk, U.S. Court of Appeals - Eleventh Circuit, 1981-82

### **Judicial & Bar Activities:**

- Supreme Court Steering Committee on Treatment-Based Drug Courts, Chair, 1999-2006
- Children's Court Improvement Committee, 2001-2005
- Access to Court Records Committee 2006-2008
- Florida SAMH Corp. 2004-2010
- Advisory Council DCF
- Reentry Task Force
- Trial Court Performance and Accountability Committee - Criminal Work Group, 2000 - 2002
- Advisory Council to Office of Drug Control, 1999 - present
- The Florida Bar (Appellate Rules Committee, Grievance Committee, Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee, Admiralty Law Committee)
- Broward County Bar Association, Executive Committee, 1990-91
- National Association of Drug Court Professionals, Board Chair 2000-02
- Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals, Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse
- Alcohol, Drug Abuse & Mental Health Council, Juvenile Justice Board, Juvenile Detention Center Advisory Board, Stephen R. Booher Inn of Court, President 1991-93
- Instructor, Legal Research and Writing, Nova Law Center 1982-84
- Instructor, National Judicial College

### **Community Boards & Activities:**

- Kids in Distress
- Susan B. Anthony Center
- Junior League
- CHARLEE program

- PACE Center for Girls
- and the Youth Automotive Training Center

## **Judge Dorian K. Damoorgian**

### **Degrees:**

- American University, B.A., 1977
- Samford University, Cumberland School of Law, J.D., 1980

### **Legal Offices & Positions:**

- Chief Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal, July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015
- Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal, January 2008 - Present
- Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, Administrative Judge of the Civil Division, September - December, 2007
- Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, Circuit Court Judge, 1999 - 2007
- Private Practice, 1980 - 1999

### **Judicial & Bar Activities:**

Judge Damoorgian has served on various committees involving issues relating to court budget and personnel, resource allocation and diversity

## **Judge Cory J. Ciklin**

### **Degrees:**

- Florida State University, B.S., 1978
- Samford University (Cumberland School of Law), 1978-1979
- Florida State University, J.D., 1981

### **Legal Offices & Positions:**

- Chief Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal, July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2017
- Presiding Judge, North County Courthouse, 2008-2009
- Administrative and Presiding Judge, Gun Club Criminal Justice Complex, 2004-2008
- Administrative and Presiding Judge, North County Courthouse, 2003-2004
- County Court Judge (general criminal jurisdiction), Palm Beach County, 2000-2002
- Chairman, Traffic Hearing Officer Oversight Committee, Palm Beach County, 2000-2002
- Administrative and Presiding Judge, Domestic Violence Division, Palm Beach County, 1998-1999
- County Court Judge (general criminal jurisdiction), Palm Beach County, 1995-1998
- Assistant County Attorney and Palm Beach County Consumer Advocate, Palm Beach County Attorney's Office, 1991-1994
- Magistrate, Palm Beach County Traffic Court, 1991-1994
- Senior Associate, Boose, Casey, Ciklin, Lubitz, Martens, McBane & O'Connell, 1983-1991
- Vice President and Counsel, The Florida Sheriff's Youth Fund, 1981-1983
- Legal Intern, Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, 1980

### **Judicial & Bar Activities:**

Member, American Bar Association, 1981-present; Member, Palm Beach County Bar Association, 1981-present; Member, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, 1985-1994; Member, Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers, 1985-1995; Co-Chairman, Palm Beach County Bar Association Radio and Television Committee, 1986-1987; Member, Palm Beach County Bar Association Circuit Civil Advisory Committee, 1990-1993; Member, Palm Beach County Bar Association Public Relations Committee, 1990-1991; Member, Palm Beach County Small Claims Court Committee, 1990-1993; Chairman, Palm Beach County Bar Association Public Relations Committee, 1992-1994; Member, American Bar Association Corrections and Sentencing Committee, 1995-2002;

Member, Conference of County Court Judges, 1995-present; Member, Administration and Management Committee, Conference of County Court Judges, 1995-2000; Honorary Judicial Member, Council for Marriage Preservation and Divorce Resolution, 1995-1997; Member, Court Employees Recognition Committee, 1995-2000; Member, Palm Beach County Bar Association Bench/Bar Subcommittee, 1995-present; Member, Palm Beach County Bar Association Criminal Law Practice Subcommittee, 1995-2004; Member, Palm Beach County Bar Association Judicial Relations Subcommittee, 1995-2004; Chairman, Palm Beach County Elections Canvassing Board, 1996-1998; Volunteer Judge, Palm Beach County School Board Youth Court Program, 1995-present; Member, Florida Court Education Council ("FCEC"), 1999-2004; Member, Supreme Court Statistics and Workload Committee, 1998-2001; Founder and Chairman, Florida Council of Domestic Violence Division Judges, 1999-2000; Liaison (from Fifteenth Judicial Circuit) American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence, 1999-2001; Member, American Bar Association Committee on Media and Public Relations, 1999-2001; Member, Florida Court Education Council's College Dean Selection Committee, 2000-present; Member, Florida Court Education Council's Subcommittee on Mandatory Judicial Education for Domestic Violence, 1999-2001; Conference Manager, Conference of County Court Judges of Florida, 2000-2008; Member, Office of State Courts Administrator Subcommittee on Revenue Enhancement, 2000-2004; Member, Ex-Offender Reentry Workgroup, 2001-2004; Palm Beach County Bar Association, Judicial Relations Committee, 2001-2002; Judicial Liaison, Administrator, Palm Beach Lakes Community High School Pre-Law Magnet Program, 2001-2007; Member, Palm Beach County Bar Association Civil Practice Committee, 2002-2003; Chairman, Palm Beach County Substance Abuse Coalition, 2004-2007; Member, Palm Beach County Corrections Task Force, 2005-2007; Member, Florida Court Education Council ("FCEC"), 2007-2008; Member, 15th Judicial Circuit Legislative Visit Planning Group, 2007-2008, Member, Palm Beach County Homeless Advisory Board, 2007; Member, Executive Committee, Conference of County Court Judges of Florida, 2008

### **Other Civic Activities:**

President, Epsilon Sigma National Alumni Association, 1981-2000; Province Director (National Officer), Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, 1982-1996; Member, Forum Club of the Palm Beaches, 1983-present; Member, President's Club, Palm Beach Junior College, 1987-1995; Charter Member, West Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors Club, 1989-1993; Member, Board of Directors, FSU Seminole Torchbearers (constituent group of the Division of Student Affairs), 1989-present; Vice-President, Village of Palm Beach Lakes Property Owners Association, 1989-1994; Vice Chairman, SunFest '89 Entertainment Committee, 1989-1990; Member, Palm Beach County Charter Advisory Council, 1989-1990; Member, Jupiter/Tequesta/Juno Beach Chamber of Commerce (local government committee and environmental

committee), 1990-1994; Member, Palm Beach County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Acquisition Committee, 1990-1992; Vice Chairman, SunFest '90 Entertainment Committee, 1990-1991; Member, Architectural Review Board, Olympus Property Owners Association, 1990-1993; Member, Alpha Tau Omega Standards and Accountability Committee, 1990-1993; Vice Chairman, SunFest '91 Entertainment Committee, 1991-1992; Founding Member, Palm Beach County Library Foundation, 1991-1995; Chairman, SunFest '92 Membership Committee, 1992-1993; Chairman, SunFest '93 Membership Committee, 1993-1994; Member, National Board of Directors, Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, 1996-2004; National Vice President, Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, 1998-2004; Member, Board of Directors, Hearts and Hope Association, 1998-2000; Member, Board of Directors, SunFest of Palm Beach County, 1999-2007; Member, Palm Beach County Alzheimer's Community Care Association Committee on Judicial Responsibilities, 1999-2001; Chairman, Beacon Cove School Advisory Committee, 2002-2003; President-elect, SunFest, 2004-2005; National President, Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, 2004-2008; President, SunFest, 2005-2006; Past President, SunFest, 2006-2007

#### **Articles & Publications:**

- *The Search for Accountability in An Overburdened Court System* published in  
in  
, Vol. 4, Number 5, September-October, 1997

## **Judge Jonathan D. Gerber**

### **Degrees:**

- Princeton University, B.A. cum laude, 1990
- University of Florida College of Law, J.D. with Honors, 1993
  - Florida Law Review, 1991-93 (Senior Notes and Comments Editor, 1993)
  - University of Florida Trial Team, 1991-93 (President, 1993; Outstanding Senior, 1993; Most Valuable Member, 1993; Best Advocate, 1991)
  - Florida Blue Key Leadership Honorary (inducted 1993)
  - Book Award in Jurisprudence, 1990

### **Legal Offices & Positions:**

- Fourth District Court of Appeal, 2009-present (Chief Judge, 2017-2019)
- Circuit Judge, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, 2004-2009 (Criminal Division, 2008-2009; Civil Division, 2004-2008; Administrative Judge, Civil Division, 2008; Appellate Division Supervisor, 2005-2007)
- County Judge, Palm Beach County, 2002-2004 (Civil Division, 2004; Criminal Division, 2002-2003)
- Shutts & Bowen LLP, West Palm Beach, 1994-2001 (Partner 2001-2002, Associate 1994-2001)
- Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, Palm Beach, Associate (1993-1994)
- State Attorney's Office, Eighth Judicial Circuit, Internship (1993)
- Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, Palm Beach, Summer Associate (1992)
- Hon. Frederick Smith, Eighth Judicial Circuit, Internship (1991)

### **Honors & Awards:**

- "Jurist of the Year," South Palm Beach County Bar Association (2009)
- "Jurist of the Year," Palm Beach County Bar Association North County Section (2008)
- "Jurist of the Year," Palm Beach County Justice Association (2007)
- President's Award, Leadership Palm Beach County (2000)
- Pro Bono Award, Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County (1999)

### **Judicial & Bar Activities:**

- Supreme Court Judicial Management Council (2012-present)
- Supreme Court Long Range Strategic Plan Workgroup (Chair, 2014-2016)
- Supreme Court Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, 2009-2015 (Chair 2012-2013)
- Supreme Court Code of Judicial Conduct Workgroup (Chair, 2017)

- Supreme Court Committee on Standard Jury Instructions in Contract and Business Cases, 2007-2013 (Chair 2011-2013)
- Supreme Court Unified Judicial Compensation Committee (2017-present)
- Conference of District Court of Appeal Judges (President, 2018-2019)
- District Court of Appeal Budget Commission, 2015-present (Chair 2017-2019)
- District Court of Appeal Education Committee, 2009-2012 (Chair 2011-2012)
- Florida Judicial College New Appellate Judges Program Faculty, 2010-present (Dean 2011-present)
- Florida Judicial College New Trial Judges Program Faculty, 2011 & 2013-present (Trial Skills Chair, 2016-present)
- Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies Faculty (2009)
- Florida Court Education Publications Committee (2011-2014)
- Florida Court Education Council (2011-2012)
- Justice Teaching Faculty, 2007-present (District Chair, 2011-2014)
  - A.W. Dreyfoos High School, AP American Government (2010-present)
  - L.C. Swain Middle School (2014-present)
  - Bak Middle School (2007-2013)
- Justice Teaching Institute Faculty (2012)
- Florida Bar Advanced Trial Advocacy Faculty (2007-2012)
- University of Florida College of Law Board of Trustees (2013-present)
- University of Florida College of Law Alumni Council (2011-2013)
- Co-Coordinator, Judge Marvin Mounts Statewide Prison Tour (2003-present)
- American Inns of Court, Palm Beach County (President, 2004-2005)
- Florida Bar Grievance Committee, Palm Beach County, 1999-2002 (Chair 2001-2002)
- Palm Beach County Bar Association (1993-present)
  - Young Lawyers Section President (2001-02)
  - Criminal Practice Advisory Committee (2002-2004)
  - Appellate Practice Committee (2001-2002)
  - Bench-Bar Conference (Chair, 1998)
  - Law Week Committee (Chair, 1997)
  - Judicial Relations Committee (1994-2009)
  - Circuit Court Advisory Committee (1997-2002)
  - Commercial Litigation Continuing Legal Education Committee (1994-1997)
- Martin County Bar Association (2009-present)
- Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Board of Directors (1999-2002)
- Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission, Court System Task Force (2003-2006)
- Palm Beach Community College Legal Assistants' Business Partnership Council (2003-2006)
- Florida Legal Assistants Certification Instructor (2001)

- Palm Beach County Youth Court advisor (1997-98, 2001-2009)
- Lake Worth High School mock trial team advisor (1996-98)
- Law Week mock trials author and advisor (1994-2014)

### **Recent Lectures and Speeches:**

- "Appellate Writing: Making Great Writers Better," Florida Judicial College New Appellate Judges Program (annually 2010-present)
- "Oral Argument: Purposes and Professionalism," Florida Judicial College New Appellate Judges Program (annually 2010-present)
- Town Hall meetings, Miami, Orlando, Jacksonville, Bartow, Lake City, and Panama City (2016), as Chair of the Supreme Court Long Range Strategic Plan Workgroup, to solicit public input for the judicial branch's 2016-2021 Long Range Strategic Plan
- Judicial Campaign Conduct Forums, Palm Beach and Broward counties (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018), as Chair and member of the Supreme Court Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee
- Team Leader, Florida Judicial College Trial Skills Program (2013-present)
- "Judicial Writing," Florida Judicial College Advanced Judicial Studies (2016)
- "Making the Record and Staying in Your Lane" panelist, Florida Conference of Circuit Judges Annual Education Meeting (2018)

### **Other Civic Activities:**

- Leadership Palm Beach County, 1998-2001 (General Counsel, 1999-2001; Adult Program Co-Chair, 1999-2000)
- Palm Beach County Zoning Board of Adjustment, Alternate At-Large (2000-2002)
- Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County Young Leadership Division Board of Directors (1995-97)
- Princeton Alumni Association of Palm Beach and Martin Counties (President, 1998-2001)
- Northern Palm Beaches Chamber of Commerce (1999-2002)
- Business Development Board of Palm Beach County (1995-2002)
- United Way of Palm Beach County Community Investment Review Team (2000)
- Florida History Center & Museum Board of Directors (1999-2000)
- Roger Dean Stadium Advisory Board (1999-2009)
- Café Joshua, Table Companion Volunteer (1999-2002)
- Forum Club of the Palm Beaches (2000-present)

## **Judge Spencer D. Levine**

### **Degrees:**

- New York University, B.A. cum laude, 1979
- University of Miami School of Law, J.D. 1982
- Duke University School of Law, LL.M., 2018

### **Legal Offices & Positions:**

- Fourth District Court of Appeal, (2009-present), Chief Judge, (2019-2021)
- Broward Health, Chief Operating Officer, (2008-2009), Chief Compliance Officer, (2006-2008)
- Office of the Attorney General, State of Florida, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, Director, (2003-2006), Senior Chief Assistant Attorney General, (2003), Assistant Attorney General, (2002-2003), Commission Attorney, Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) (2003-2004)
- Adorno Zeder, Associate, (2001-2002)
- Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, General Counsel, (1996-2000)
- Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office, Assistant State Attorney (Chief of Organized Crime and Official Corruption Unit, Chief of Economic Crimes Division, Chief of a Felony Trial Division, Chief of First Appearance Division), (1987-1996)
- Private Practice, (1982-1987)

### **Honors & Awards:**

- University of Miami Law Alumni Achievement Award awarded by the University of Miami Law Alumni Association, (2020)
- "Outstanding Jurist Award," Craig S. Barnard American Inn of Court, (2014-2015)

### **Judicial & Bar Activities:**

- Supreme Court District Court of Appeal Budget Commission, Member, (2017-2021)
- Supreme Court Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, Member, (2015-2018), Vice Chair, (2015-2016), Chair, (2016-2017)
- Supreme Court Code of Judicial Conduct Workgroup, Member, (2017)
- Supreme Court Committee on Standard Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases, Member, (2012-2014)
- Supreme Court Committee on Standard Jury Instructions in Contract and Business Cases, Member, (2015-2017)
- Florida New Appellate Judges Program, Faculty, (2016-2017)

- Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies, Faculty, (2015)
- Gerald T. Bennet Prosecutor/Public Defender Trial Training Program, University of Florida Levin College of Law, Faculty, (2010-2012)
- Conference of District Court of Appeal Judges Education Committee, Member, (2012-2015), Chair (2013-2015)
- Florida Court Education Council, Member, (2013-2015)
- Craig S. Barnard American Inn of Court, Member, (2010-2015), President, (2013-2014)
- Florida Bar Health Law Section, Executive Council, Member, (2005-2009)
- Florida Bar Unlicensed Practice of Law Committee, 17th Judicial Circuit, Committee “C,” Member, (2002-2003)
- Florida Bar Grievance Committee, 15th Judicial Circuit Committee “F,” Member, Chair, (1998-2000)

#### **Other Civic Activities:**

- St. Thomas University School of Law, Adjunct Faculty, (2018-2021)
- Florida International University School of Law, Adjunct Faculty, (2016-2018)
- Institute of Judicial Administration Appellate Judges Seminar, Attended, New York University School of Law, (2010)
- University of Miami Law Alumni Association, Judicial Director, (2010-present)
- American Health Lawyers Association, Annual Meeting, Speaker, (2008)
- American Bar Association, Annual National Institute on Health Care Fraud, Faculty, (2005-2007)
- Health Care Compliance Association, Compliance Institute, Speaker, (2007)
- U.S. Department of Justice, National Advocacy Center, Speaker, (2006)

#### **Articles & Publications:**

- *Differing Schools of Thought: Changing Perceptions of Oral Argument*, 31 St. Thomas L. Rev. 133 (2019)
- “Judicature,” Center of Judicial Studies, Duke Law School, Member of the Board, (2016-present), Board of Editors (Winter 2017), Editor-in-Chief (Fall/Winter 2018) (Vol. 102, No. 3)
- Chapter in Florida Practitioner’s Health Law Handbook, (Co-author), The Florida Bar, (2007)

## **Judge Burton C. Conner**

### **Degrees:**

- JD Degree: University of Florida (with honors) 1977
- BA Degree: Duke University (with honors) 1975

### **Legal Offices & Positions:**

- Appellate Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal: Mar. 2011 to present
- Circuit Judge, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit: 1997 to Feb. 2011
- Okeechobee County Judge: 1984-1988
- Conner & Hooker, P.A., 1996-1997, Partner. Practiced in the areas of civil litigation, domestic relations, real estate, business law, probate and guardianship
- Burton C. Conner, P.A., 1989-1996, Owner. Practiced in same areas as above
- Conley & Conley, P.A., 1979-1984, Associate. Practiced in the areas of civil litigation, domestic relations, and criminal law
- Assistant Public Defender, 19th Judicial Circuit, 1978-1979

### **Honors & Awards:**

- St. Lucie County Boys and Girls Club Man of the Year Award, 2010
- William E. Gladstone Child Advocacy Award, 2010 (19th Judicial Circuit Recipient)
- Florida Bar Pro-Bono Award, 1983(19th Judicial Circuit Recipient)

### **Judicial & Bar Activities:**

- Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy (2001 to present)
- Chief Justice's Mortgage Foreclosure Task Force (2009)

### **Community Boards & Activities:**

- St. Lucie County Executive Round Table, Children's Shared Services Network
- St. Lucie County Children's Services Council
- Exchange Club CASTLE (for the Prevention of Child Abuse)
- Okeechobee Non-Profit Housing, Inc
- Hospice of Okeechobee, Inc.
- Okeechobee Rehabilitation Services, Inc.

## **Judge Alan O. Forst**

### **Degrees:**

- Columbus School of Law of the Catholic Univ. of America, JD, 1985
- Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, BS, 1980

### **Legal Offices & Positions:**

- Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal, 2013-Present
- Chairman, Florida Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission (formerly Unemployment Appeals Commission), 2001-13
- Partner & Associate, Crary Buchanan Law Firm, 1998-2001
- Labor & Employment Counsel, U.S. Dep't of Commerce, 1997-98
- Counsel to Vice Chair/Member of U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, 1993-97
- Lecturer (Employment Law), No. Virginia Law School, 1994
- Counsel to Administrator of Wage & Hour Administration, U.S. Dep't of Labor, 1992
- Counsel to the Director, OFCCP, U.S. Dep't of Labor, 1989-91
- Counsel to the Chairman, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 1987-89
- Staff Attorney, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Dep't of Education, 1986-87
- Editor, Nat' Legal Center for Public Interest, 1986
- Law Clerk, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Dep't of Justice, 1984
- Special Assistant to President, U.S. Legal Services Corp., 1983
- Assistant to Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Dep't of Justice, 1982
- Special Assistant to the Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1981

### **Judicial & Bar Activities:**

- Chairman, Labor and Employment Law Section, Florida Bar, 2008-09
- President, Martin County Bar Association, 2007-08
- Judicial Nominating Commission, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, 2012-13
- Special Recognition, Broward County Bar Association, 2015
- Martin County School District /Martin County Bar Association Constitution Week program, founder and chair, 2005-present.
- Florida Bar Appellate Court Rules Committee, 2018-present
- Florida Bar Appellate Practice Section Exec. Council, 2014-present
- Florida Bar Labor and Employment Law Exec. Council, 2000-present
- Florida Bar Constitutional Judiciary Committee, 2012-18
- Advanced Judicial Studies Faculty, 2017 and 2019.

- Circuit Judge Conference Annual Meeting Faculty, 2017-Present
- New Appellate Judge College Faculty, 2022-Present
- Molly's House Board of Directors, 2014-present
- Temple Beit Hayam Vice President, 2007-09

## **Judge Jeffrey T. Kuntz**

### **Degrees:**

- Boston College, B.A. (2003)
- Suffolk University Law School, J.D. (2006)
  - Journal of High Technology Law, Editor-in-Chief (2005 – 2006); Member (2004 – 2005)

### **Legal Offices & Positions:**

- Fourth District Court of Appeal, Judge (Nov. 2016 – Present)
- GrayRobinson, P.A., Associate/Shareholder (Aug. 2006 – Nov. 2016)

### **Judicial & Bar Activities:**

- Florida Supreme Court's Appellate Court Technology Committee, Member (June 30, 2020 – Present)
- Florida Supreme Court's Appellate Case Management Change Advisory Board, Member (June 24, 2020 – Present)
- Florida Supreme Court's Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, Member (Feb. 1, 2019 – Present)
- Florida Conference of District Court of Appeal Judges (2016 – Present)
  - Officer – Treasurer/Secretary (September 1, 2018 – Present)
  - Education Committee, Member (July 1, 2017 – Present)
  - Legislative Committee, Member (September 1, 2018 – Present)
- Florida's Rules of Judicial Administration Committee, Member (July 1, 2017 – Present)
  - Drafting Subcommittee, Vice-Chair (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019)
  - Rule 2.420 Sub-Committee, Chair (July 1, 2019 – Present)
- Florida's Appellate Court Rules Committee, Member (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2017)
  - Electronic Filing Subcommittee, Chair (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)
  - Civil Practice Subcommittee, Chair (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016); Vice-Chair (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)
  - General Practice Subcommittee, Vice-Chair (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013)
- Judicial Nominating Commission, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Member, (Nov. 9, 2012 – Nov. 2016); Vice-Chair (July 1, 2015 – Nov. 2016)

### **Other Civic Activities:**

- Boca Raton Little League, Board of Directors (July 1, 2019 – Present)
- Forum Club of the Palm Beaches, Member (2016 – Present)

- Junior Achievement of South Florida, Board of Directors (2008 – Nov. 2016)
- Leadership Fort Lauderdale, Class 16
- Florida House Young Ambassador's Council, Member (Nov. 2015 – Nov. 2016)

## **Judge Ed Artau**

### **Degrees:**

- J.D., 1988, Georgetown University Law Center (Law Review Editor)
- B.S., 1985, Nova Southeastern University (*Cum Laude*)

### **Legal Offices & Positions:**

- Appellate Court Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal, 2020–present
- Circuit Court Judge, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, 2014–2020
- Circuit Court Divisions: Civil, Juvenile, Dependency, Family, Probate, Civil & Criminal Appeals
- General Counsel/Senior Litigator, South FL Water Management District, 2004–2014
- Partner, Marks & Artau, P.A./Edward L. Artau, P.A., 1996–2004
- Senior Associate Attorney, Proskauer Rose, L.L.P., 1993–1996
- Associate Attorney, Hodgson Russ, L.L.P., 1988–1993

### **Honors & Awards:**

- Honorary Doctorate of Laws (*honoris causa*), Nova Southeastern University, 2016
- Jurist of the Year Award, 2017
- Outstanding Leadership and Dedicated Service to the Bench, Bar and Community Award, 1998
- *Cum Laude* Honors Degree, 1985
- AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- 25 Am. Crim. Law. Rev. (Edward Artau et al. eds., 1987)

### **Judicial & Bar Activities:**

- Dept. Chair & Faculty, Civil Program, Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies
- Dept. Chair & Faculty, Circuit Civil Program, Florida Judicial College
- Appointee, Supreme Court Dean Recruitment Committee, Court Education Program
- Parliamentarian, Appellate Court Rules Committee
- Chair, Appellate Court Rules Internal Operating Procedures Subcommittee
- Member, Appellate Court Rules Civil Practice Subcommittee
- Member, Appellate Court Rules Criminal Practice Subcommittee
- Member, Appellate Court Rules General Practice Subcommittee
- Member, Appellate Court Rules Administrative Practice Subcommittee

- Vice Chair, Judicial Nominating Procedures Committee (JNPC)
- Chair, Constitutional Revision Subcommittee, JNPC
- Vice Chair, 4th District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission
- Chair, 15th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission (two terms)
- President, South Palm Beach County Bar Association
- Chair, South Palm Beach County Courthouse Committee
- Member, Palm Beach County Bar Association Judicial Relations Committee
- Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator
- Member: Broward, Martin, Palm Beach, South Palm Beach & St. Lucie County Bar Associations

## **Jack J. Aiello, Gunster, Of Counsel**

Jack Aiello led Gunster's Appellate practice for more than two decades. Board certified in appellate practice since 2001, Jack is involved in appeals in all of Florida's District Courts of Appeals, the Florida Supreme Court and the federal court system, including the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.

Currently beginning his fourth decade of practice, Jack's broad appellate experience extends to litigation support, including preservation of the record for appeals and consultation about the cost and benefit strategy considerations in taking and defending both non-final and final appeals. In addition, Jack is retained to take on appeals brought to Gunster after another firm has previously litigated the case in trial court proceedings. However the matter comes to Jack, after a judgment is rendered, a decision to appeal must be considered. Jack advises clients on how likely the court is to reverse a trial court decision and on what grounds. His assessment of the claim is based on both case law and his decades of experience in appellate related work.

Jack also files amicus curiae briefs in matters that are highly relevant to Gunster's clients. Such briefs, filed at the District Court or Supreme Court level, can impact or change legal policy and thereby alter the landscape of business throughout Florida. Additionally, Jack handles petitions for extraordinary writs to seek appellate examination of trial court orders that are not otherwise appealable.

Jack is dedicated to working with his clients to define or redefine the parameters of the law through the appeals process. Because appellate law is, by nature, more academic than traditional litigation, Jack analyzes every possible and reasonable legal theory in order to devise the best possible appellate strategy. He is personally committed to being responsive to his clients, as well as to communicating directly and candidly about their options and chances of success on appeal. Jack's writing skills have been developed over decades of practice, and are supported by equally well-developed oral advocacy abilities.

In the appellate law community, Jack has served as a past chair of the Florida Bar's Appellate Practice Section, and has also chaired numerous other local and statewide appellate practice committees. He is frequently invited to speak on appellate related topics, including preservation of the record for appeal.

## **Kara Rockenbach Link, Link & Rockenbach, PA, Founding Partner**

### *Education:*

Stetson University, College of Law, J.D.  
Stetson University, Honors Program, B.A. in Political Science  
American University, Washington Semester Program, Honors Scholarship Recipient

### *Admissions:*

The Florida Bar  
United States District Court, Southern District of Florida  
United States District Court, Middle District of Florida  
United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

### *Experience and Recognition:*

Kara Rockenbach Link, a founding partner of Link & Rockenbach, focuses her statewide practice on appellate law pertaining to contracts, torts, and commercial matters. Her extensive experience in appellate practice started with a judicial clerkship at the Fourth District Court of Appeal. For over twenty years, Kara has successfully co-counseled statewide with thousands of trial counsel preserving and preventing error at the trial level, assisted trial counsel with pretrial motions and charge conferences on jury instructions, and argued post-trial motions in anticipation of an appeal. In providing expert appellate representation, Kara has represented both individuals and businesses in matters varying from complex commercial cases, probate and guardianship, medical malpractice, torts, and contract disputes. Kara has handled more than 600 appeals in all of Florida's six district courts of appeal, the Florida Supreme Court, and the United States Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. She has been recognized by Super Lawyers® as a Top-Rated Appellate Lawyer 2015-present, *U.S. News* –Best Lawyers® – Appellate Practice, 2021-present, and AV Preeminent Judicial Edition rated by Martindale-Hubbell®, 2006-present. Kara was awarded the 2019 Palm Beach County Bar Association Sid Stubbs' Professionalism Award.

### *Appointments and Service:*

*The Florida Bar*: Appellate Practice Section Member; Judicial Nominating Procedures Committee, Vice-Chair 2009-2010, Chair 2010-2011; Standing Committee on Professionalism Member 2013-2020, Vice Chair 2016-2017, Chair 2017-2018; Special Committee for the Review of Professionalism in Florida, Member 2020-2022; Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee, Member 2019-2021, Chair 2021; Commission on Professionalism, 2017-2018;

*Fourth District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission: Commissioner Appointed by Governor Scott 2014-2018, Commissioner Appointed by Governor Bush and reappointed by Governor Crist, 2005-2010, Vice-Chair 2007-2008, Chair 2008-2009; Fourth District Court of Appeal Historical Society, Board of Directors, Treasurer 2011-present; The Florida Supreme Court Historical Society, Member, Board of Trustees, Treasurer 2022-present; Palm Beach County Bar Association: Professionalism Committee, Chair 2009-2010, Co-Chair 2016-2017; Appellate Practice Committee, Chair 2006-2008; Governor Crist's Points of Light Awards, Judge 2007-2008; Craig S. Barnard American Inns of Court LIV, Member 2004-2006.*

## **Preethi Sekharan, Gunster, Shareholder**

Preethi Sekharan is chair of the firm's Intellectual Property Litigation practice. She focuses on assisting the firm's clients with their intellectual property and trade secret disputes. She is also involved in complex business litigation and the resolution of corporate and shareholder disputes, including those involving contract and restrictive covenant issues. In addition, Preethi has handled a wide variety of fiduciary and trust-related litigation.

Preethi has represented clients in state and federal courts both inside and outside of the state of Florida. She is steadfastly focused on leveraging each client's position in order to minimize potential loss. Preethi is personally dedicated to understanding the often complex factual and legal issues at play in every matter for which she is involved. Her goal is to learn as much as possible about each client's business and industry and to provide an objective analysis of her client's position going forward. Preethi is committed to productive communication and designing solutions that will safeguard her client's interests.

Preethi is an active member of the Treasure Coast legal community. In addition to serving as a past president of the Martin County Bar Association, Preethi also served as past president of the Martin County Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers. Currently, Preethi serves as chair of the Martin County Bar Association's Judicial Relations Committee, as president of the Justice Major B. Harding American Inn of Court, and served on The Florida Bar's Federal Practice Committee. Recently, Preethi was appointed by The Florida Bar to serve as a state delegate to the American Bar Association (ABA) House of Delegates.