

Bridget Smitha



Shareholder

Tallahassee Office

bsmitha@stearnsweaver.com

Phone: 850-329-4852

PRACTICE AREAS

Litigation & Dispute Resolution

Election & Political Law

Hospitality & Leisure

Intellectual Property

OVERVIEW

Bridget Smitha focuses her practice on corporate defense and complex commercial litigation appearing in state and federal courts in Florida and across the nation, as well as before the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation. Bridget also frequently assists political committees and candidates to navigate Florida's election and campaign finance laws. Additionally, Bridget is often involved in registering trademarks, obtaining or transferring alcohol licenses, and seeking rule waivers from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. While not a complete list, key areas of concentration are listed below. In recognition of her achievements, Bridget has been named a "Top Litigator under 40" by Benchmark Litigation, "Top 40 under 40" of Florida litigation lawyers by the American Society of Legal Advocates, a Florida Super Lawyers "Rising Star," listed in The Best Lawyers in America for 2023 and is rated in the highest category (AV Preeminent) by Martindale-Hubbell.

Areas of Concentration

Abstention (Rooker/Feldman; Younger; Pullman, etc.)

Commercial Litigation (Class Actions, Products Liability, etc.)

Constitutional Law (Due Process, Equal Protection, First Amendment, etc.)

Election Law (Candidates, Political Committees, Communications, Contributions, Election Contests, Recount Monitoring, and Related Litigation)

Environmental Litigation (Environmental Cost Recovery, Contamination, Toxic Torts, Underground Storage Tanks, etc.)

FHFC Petitions for Rule Waiver

Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act (FDUTPA)

Governmental Investigations

Legislative (Proposed Legislation; Claims Bills; Lobbying Requirements;

Gift Law; etc.)

Licensure (Applying for a License, Responding to Inquiries and Investigations; Defending Against Adverse Action)

Public Records Act & Sunshine Law

Regulatory Compliance

Trademark Registration; Domain Name Protection

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Tallahassee Women Lawyers (TWL), Board of Directors, 2020-2021

Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL), 2019-2021

Leadership Tallahassee, Class XXXIII, 2016

Guardian ad Litem, 2nd Judicial Circuit

American Bar Association

RECOGNITION

The Best Lawyers in America®, 2023-Present

Catherine Chapman Pro Bono Service Award, Tallahassee Women Lawyers, 2024

Benchmark Litigation, "Future Star," 2017-2022, 2024; "40 & Under Hot List," 2016-2021

Florida Super Lawyers, "Rising Star," 2009-2020

Distinguished Lawyer Designation, Expert Network, 2016

American Society of Legal Advocates, "Top 40 under 40 Litigation Lawyers in the State of Florida," 2015

AV Rated by *Martindale-Hubbell*

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Government & Administrative News Update, Publications: [Crème de law Admin | Summer 2022](#)

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | August 2022

Publications: [Don't Lose the Election Before Your Campaign Begins | The Top Five Mistakes to Avoid When Qualifying](#)

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | April 2022

Events: [Why Bridget Smitha Has Never Regretted Taking On A Case](#)

Government & Administrative News Update, Publications: [Agencies Continue to Adjust to The New Normal](#)

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | April 2021

Events: [Licensure – Disciplinary Proceedings/Compliance](#)

The Florida Bar Basic Administrative Law 2021 Program | | March 2021

Election & Political Law News Update, Government & Administrative News Update, Publications: [Election season is here, and these are the dates you need to know ...](#)

Election & Political Law Report | February 2020

Events: [Ready to Run: Launching Your Campaign](#)

Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL) Lobby Days | | January 2020

Events: [Earn your License to Chill: Florida Government Licensure & Discipline](#)

Paralegal Association of Florida - Big Bend Chapter | | September 2019

Publications: [Five Steps to Handle an Administrative Complaint or Notice of Proposed Action from a Florida Agency](#)

The Florida Law Practice LINK | April 2019

Events: [Licensure - Disciplinary Proceedings and Rulemaking/Compliance](#)

The Florida Bar | | November 2018

Election & Political Law News Update, Government & Administrative News Update, Publications: [Upcoming Vote on Amendment 10 Ensures Florida's County Constitutional Officers Are Elected Locally](#)

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | October 2018

Government & Administrative News Update, Publications: [Recent Supreme Court Decision Overrules](#)

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | July 2018

Events: [Hackers, Trolls and the Polls - Campaign Cybersecurity](#)

Webinar | | April 2018

Events: [Election Law Primer for Candidates, Campaign Consultants and Staff | Free Webinar](#)

| February 2018

Election & Political Law News Update, Government & Administrative News Update, Publications: [Who Runs The World?](#)

Election & Political Law Report | September 2017

Events: [Launching Your Campaign | Women Can Run](#)

The Oasis Center for Women & Girls | | September 2017

Election & Political Law News Update, Government & Administrative News Update, Publications: [This Is Not My Beautiful House ... How Did I Get Here?](#)

Election & Political Law News Update, Government & Administrative News Update, Publications: [Is That Legal? Paying Expenses With Campaign Funds](#)

Election & Political Law Report | July 2017

Publications: [Ambushed by Public Records Act Trolls: The Risk of Exposure for Private Companies](#)

BeLabor The Point Blog | February 2017

Land Development News Update, Publications: [Residential Developers May Now Be Liable for Unfunded Reserves](#)

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | February 2017

Events: [Liquor Licensure 101](#)

Stearns Weaver Miller | January 2016

Publications: [Fla.'s Public Records Act Now Impacts Gov't Contractors](#)

Law360 | October 2013

Events: [Ethical Questions – The Practical Do's and Don'ts](#)

Institute for Paralegal Education | May 2013

Events: [Trial Preparation From Start to Finish for Paralegals](#)

Institute for Paralegal Education | May 2013

Events: [Constitutional Challenges and Defenses to the Process of Legal Specialist Certification in Florida](#)

American Bar Association Standing Committee on Specialization's Roundtable | March 2012

Publications: [Chapter 5 Witnesses, Evidence in Florida](#)

Florida Bar Continuing Legal Education | January 2011

Events: [Certification Appeals & Highlights of Recent Litigation](#)

The Florida Bar 2010 Certification Leadership Conference | October 2010

Publications: [Comprehensive Plans and Zoning in Florida Law](#)

National Business Institute | January 2005

Publications: [The Bert Harris, Jr., Private Property Rights Protection Act](#)

National Business Institute | January 2005

Publications: [The Dam Controversy: Does the Endangered Species Act Apply Internationally to Protect Foreign Species Harmed by the Dams on the Colorado River?](#)

Journal of Transnational Law & Policy | January 2004

Publications: [Recent Developments in Land Use Law](#)

Florida State University Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law | January 2003

NEWSROOM

Firm Announcements: [Bridget Smitha Earns Catherine Chapman Pro Bono Service Award Presented by Tallahassee Women Lawyers](#)

| April 2024

In the Media: [Fla. Defends Social Media Law, Likens Platforms To Utilities](#)

Law360 || June 2021

In the Media: [Tech Orgs Say New Fla. Social Media Law Limits Free Speech](#)

Law360 || May 2021

In the Media: [Tech Trade Groups Sue Over Florida's New Social Media Law](#)

Bloomberg Law || May 2021

Firm Announcements: [Stearns Weaver Miller honored with 2020 Tallahassee Women Lawyers Diversity & Inclusion Leadership Award](#)

| June 2020

Firm Announcements: [Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in 2020 Florida Super Lawyers](#)

| June 2020

In the Media: [Fla. Pot Co. Says It Was Smeared In Short-Selling Scheme](#)

Law360 || January 2020

Firm Announcements: [Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in Florida Super Lawyers 2019](#)

| June 2019

Firm Announcements: [Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Named Among Benchmark Litigation's 2018 "Under 40 Hot List"](#)

| July 2018

Firm Announcements: [Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in Florida Super Lawyers 2018](#)

| June 2018

Firm Announcements: [Stearns Weaver Miller Receives Top Ranking in Benchmark Litigation 2018](#)

| October 2017

Firm Announcements: [Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in Florida Super Lawyers 2017](#)

| June 2017

Firm Announcements: [Stearns Weaver Miller Receives Top Ranking in Benchmark Litigation 2017](#)

| October 2016

Firm Announcements: [Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Named Among Benchmark Litigation’s “Under 40 Hot List” 2016](#)

| August 2016

In the Media: [Under 40 Hot List - 2016](#)

Benchmark Litigation | | August 2016

Firm Announcements: [Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in Florida Super Lawyers 2016](#)

| June 2016

In the Media: [Fla. Gov. Wins 3 Of 4 Judicial Appointment Cases](#)

Law360 | | June 2016

In the Media: [Fla. Gov. Defends Appointment Power In Judicial Challenges](#)

Law360 | | May 2016

Firm Announcements: [Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in Florida Super Lawyers 2014](#)

| June 2014

Firm Announcements: [Stearns Weaver Miller Adds Two Litigation Attorneys To Tallahassee Office](#)

| May 2014

EDUCATION

J.D., *magna cum laude*, Florida State University College of Law, 2003

Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law, Associate Editor and Writing & Research Editor

Journal of Transnational Law and Policy, Writing and Research Editor

Order of the Coif

B.S., *summa cum laude*, Florida State University, 2001

FSU Center for Civic Education Service Scholar

FSU President’s Humanitarian of the Year Award

FSU Vice President’s Advisory Council Representative

ADMISSIONS

Florida

United States District Courts for the Northern, Middle and Southern Districts of Florida

United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit