

## Elizabeth Desloge Ellis



Associate

Tallahassee Office

lellis@stearnsweaver.com

Phone: 850-329-4856

### PRACTICE AREAS

Labor & Employment

Litigation & Dispute Resolution

Litigation - Land Use,

Environmental & Property Rights

Land Development, Zoning &

Environmental

Environmental & Natural

Resources

### OVERVIEW

Liz is an experienced litigator who represents private and public sector clients in complex real estate development, land use and property rights matters. She is skilled in developing and implementing litigation strategy as it relates to obtaining, challenging and defending development approvals. Her experience also includes litigating eminent domain, inverse condemnation and Bert J. Harris issues. In addition to land development, Liz also maintains a broad litigation practice where she represents clients on a variety of matters, including public records, constitutional law and labor and employment disputes.

Prior to joining the Firm, Liz was an attorney at a Florida-based law firm. Additionally, she served as an Assistant State Attorney for the State Attorney's Office in the Second Judicial Circuit where she conducted over 50 jury trials as first chair, ranging in severity from traffic offenses to life felonies.

### Areas of Concentration

Bert J. Harris

Code Enforcement

Construction

Eminent Domain

Inverse Condemnation

Land Use

Local Government Representation

Private Property

Public Records

Real Estate

Labor & Employment

---

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Successfully defended a Florida county in a lawsuit filed by the Clerk of Courts related to the funding of an annex courthouse and the Multi-agency Criminal Justice Information system, an issue of first impression in Florida. The court granted summary judgment in favor of the county, saving the county millions of dollars.

Handled dozens of employment claims before the Florida Commission on Human Relations and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission resulting in determinations of no reasonable cause.

Successfully defended a county's text amendments to its Comprehensive Plan before the Division of Administrative Hearings.

Obtained summary judgment for a Florida county in a multi-count breach of contract and governmental takings case.

Prosecuted dozens of code enforcement violations in several jurisdictions, including one related to the construction of a seawall that led to a four-day evidentiary hearing.

Served as counsel to a Florida county in eminent domain proceedings to create a \$200 million bypass route.

---

## PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Florida Bar

City, County & Local Government Law Section, 2019-Present

Labor and Employment Law Section, 2017-Present

Young Lawyers Section, 2015-Present

Goodwood Museum & Gardens, 2021-Present

Leadership Tallahassee, Class 37, 2019-Present

The Awesome Foundation of Tallahassee, 2019-2020

Refuge House of the Big Bend, 2018-Present

President, 2021-Present

Secretary, 2020-2021

Tallahassee Bar Association (TBA), 2017-Present

Secretary, 2023-Present

Board of Directors, 2021-Present

Young Lawyers Section Board of Directors, 2018-2022

President, 2021-2022

President-Elect, 2020-2021

Treasurer, 2019-2020

Tallahassee Women Lawyers (TWL), 2016-Present

Board of Directors, JNC Monitoring Chair, 2020-Present

Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL), 2016-Present

Capital Tiger Bay Club, 2015-Present

Junior League of Tallahassee, 2013-2015

Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club, President, 2013-2014

Legal Aid Foundation Board of Directors, 2013-2014

Knight Creative Communities Institute (KCCI), Catalyst 2012-2013

The Village Square, 2010-Present

---

## PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

**Events:** Best Practices for Obtaining & Defending Land Use Approvals  
2023 Florida Planning Conference | | September 2023

---

## NEWSROOM

**In the Media:** [Tallahassee Women Lawyers 2023 Fall Newsletter](#)  
| October 2023

---

## EDUCATION

J.D., Florida State University College of Law, 2012

B.A., Washington University in St. Louis, 2009

---

## ADMISSIONS

Florida

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

United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit