



## Thomas K. Rinaldi

### Member

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### Profile

Thomas is a trial attorney concentrating his practice on general business litigation involving contract disputes, business torts, real estate disputes, and creditor's rights. He also handles landlord-tenant, employment, personal injury, probate and trust litigation.

Throughout his career, Thomas has represented large insurance carriers, financial institutions, small businesses, non-profit organizations, and individuals. He has litigated over one thousand cases involving contract disputes. Thomas has also handled probate and trust litigation matters involving will contests and alleged breaches of trust. Prior to joining Bond, he represented a number of large insurance companies. Thomas uses this past experience to help clients in personal injury litigation in which individuals have suffered catastrophic injuries.

Separate from litigated matters, Thomas serves individuals who have complaints issued against their professional licenses (e.g. realtors, nurses, doctors, accountants, massage therapists, and chiropractors). He also counsels local government entities on a variety of issues including public records requests and Florida's Sunshine Law.

**Defense Litigation:** Thomas has defended clients faced with a variety of claims made under both State and Federal Law. He has defended both simple and complex actions where Plaintiffs have claimed breach of contract, tortious interference with third-party contracts, violations of FDUTPA, fraud, negligent misrepresentation, unjust enrichment, professional negligence, general negligence, civil theft, conversion, defamation, breach of fiduciary duty, unpaid wages, and discrimination.

**Banking Matters:** Thomas has represented financial institutions in a number of matters throughout the entire State of Florida. He drafts demand letters/notices of default, handles foreclosure litigation and responds to writs of garnishment served upon the institution. He also handles post-judgment collection matters.

Thomas graduated in the top 14% of his law school class at Stetson University College of Law. In law school, he was named to Stetson's nationally recognized Alternative Dispute Resolution Bard and competed at Stetson's National Pretrial Competition, the American Bar Association's Mediation Competition, the American Bar Association's Interviewing and Counseling Competition, and the Robert R. Mehridge, Jr. National Environment Negotiation Competition.

### Education

- Stetson University, College of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2010)
- Millsaps College (B.S., *cum laude*, 2006)

### Bar/Court Admissions

- Florida
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York

### Practices

- Litigation
- Cybersecurity and Data Privacy
- Higher Education
- Insurance Coverage

## Representative Matters

- Obtained summary judgment in favor of a government client for a supplier's breach of contract in failing to deliver two aviation refuelers.
- Represented a large financial institution in a complex commercial foreclosure involving two gas stations. During the proceedings, Thomas convinced the Court to place the business in receivership. Ultimately, the commercial properties were sold post-foreclosure.
- Represented a professional who had a complaint issued against her professional license by the Department of Business Professional Regulation (DPBR).
- Represented an individual whose wages were being garnished, and he convinced the Court to enter an order protecting the individual's wages from garnishment.
- Represented a large financial institution in multiple post-foreclosure proceedings seeking the deficiency remaining after the sale of the collateral.
- Represented a property management company in multiple commercial eviction actions.

## Honors & Affiliations

- Listed in:
  - *Florida Super Lawyers*® 2017-2020, Florida Rising Star, Business Litigation
  - *Naples Illustrated* Top Lawyers®, Commercial Litigation, 2021
  - 40 Under 40, *Gulfshore Business*, September 2021
- Collier County Bar Association, 2013 - present
- Information Systems Security Association, 2016 - present
- Thomas S. Biggs American Inn of Court, 2014 - present
- HR Collier, 2015 - present
- National Order of Barristers
- Nader/Zrake Memorial Award for Excellence in Environmental and Administrative Law
- Victor O. Wehle Trial Advocacy Award
- William F. Blews Pro Bono Award
- Book Award: Interviewing and Counseling
- Book Award: Negotiation and Mediation
- Stetson University College of Law Leadership Development Certificate

## Representative Presentations

- Student Records, FERPA and Title IX, Hodges University, July 21, 2020
- Privacy Compliance Training, Hodges University, June 22, 2020
- Government in the Sunshine and Public Records, Collier Mosquito Control District, February 25, 2020
- Sunshine Law Overview, Technical Advisory Committee Naples Airport Authority, January 30, 2020

- Deposit Disputes and Pitfalls, Collier County Bar Association Real Estate Section, October 2019
- Over-staying Their Welcome: How to Handle Overstay Hospital Patients, Naples Community Hospital, November 1-2, 2018
- Public Records Pitfalls, City of Naples Airport Authority, July 31, 2018
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Hodges University Faculty Orientation, July 13, 2018
- Panel Member, Organizational Privacy Summit, May 1-2, 2018
- Data Breach Notification and Ethical Concerns, Lee County Legal Aid Society, Inc., Annual Technology Seminar, December 8, 2017
- Panel Member: Smart Things and Personal Security, Cybersecurity and the Law, Hello SWFL, July 13, 2018
- Data Breach Notification and Ethical Concerns, Paralegal Association of Florida, Inc., Southwest Chapter, March 26, 2017
- Avoid Getting Bit by Staying in the Sun, The Public Official's Roadmap for Complying with Florida's Sunshine and Public Records Laws, Collier County Mosquito Control District, February 23, 2017
- Panel Member: Cybersecurity 360: It's more than technology - A different approach to prepare against cyber-attacks, The Florida SBDC of SW Florida, January 31, 2017
- Avoiding Sunburn from the Shade - The Public Official's Roadmap for Complying with Florida's Sunshine and Public Records Laws, City of Naples Airport Authority Noise Compatibility Committee, January 26, 2017
- Protecting Your Client's Data: Responsibilities Before and After a Hack, Collier County Bar Association, Trust and Estate Section, October 6, 2016
- Creating a Data Privacy Plan, Hodges University Data Privacy and Cyber Liability Seminar, September 21, 2016
- Your Law Firm Has Been Hacked: Protecting Client Information and Your Duty to Disclose, Collier County Bar Association, September 25, 2015
- Transparency in Government, Naples Airport Authority Noise Compatibility Committee, August 27, 2015
- Florida's Sunshine Law, Public Records Requests, and Ethics, City of Naples Airport Authority's Noise Compatibility Committee and the Collier County Mosquito Control District
- The Value of SIU in Investigating Claims, Allstate Insurance Company

## Representative Publications

- "Concentrate and Ask Again - Donald Trump and the Ku Klux Klan Act," *The Adverse Witness*, March 4, 2021
- Quoted in "How to Think Like a Hacker," *Naples Daily News*, September 21, 2016
- "Confidential Data Breach - Escaping Potential Liability," *Bond Information Memo*, July 2016
- "Health Care: HIPAA Covered Entities - Your Organization's Liability after a Cyber-Attack," *Bond Information Memo*, December 2015

- "E-Discovery and Information Management: Electronic Data Breach Of Student Records - The University's Obligation To Disclose," *Bond Information Memo*, March 2015

## Other Activities

- Single A Commissioner, Greater Naples Little League
- Past Board Member, CCBA Young Lawyer's Division
- Ex-officio Board Member, Literacy Volunteers of Collier County
- Grants Commission, Trinity-By-The Cove, 2014-present
- Lee County School District Advisory Committee, 2013-2014
- Alternate Member, Fort Myers Nuisance Abatement Board, 2013-2014
- Alumnus, Barney Masterson Inn of Court, 2012-2013
- Stetson University College of Law Alternative Dispute Resolution Board Member, 2008-2010
- Marine Industries Association of Collier County, 2015
- Optimist Club Soccer Coach U4