



## William L. Owens

### Member

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### Profile

**Bill concentrates his practice in business, banking, real estate, creditor's rights, labor and administrative law.**

He represents individual, corporate and government clients in Southwest Florida in a broad range of legal matters, including business organization and planning, governance, mergers and acquisitions, contracts, commercial and residential lending, employment, real property purchase and development, leasing and title insurance.

Bill assists businesses in achieving their goals in corporate reorganization, succession planning, asset and stock sales, contract review and negotiation, litigation strategy, trademarks, licensing and financing. He regularly advises clients in connection with structuring and maintaining their entities, including corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships and other business arrangements. Bill also works closely with the accountants for his clients in addressing tax planning objectives. He assists his clients with a wide variety of legal documents, including asset purchase agreements, bills of sale, stock redemption agreements, marketing agreements, licensing agreements, royalty agreements, franchise agreements, employment contracts, consulting agreements, independent contractor agreements, covenants not to compete, non-solicitation agreements, confidentiality agreements, deferred compensation agreements, general releases, indemnity agreements, loan agreements, promissory notes, security agreements, financing statements, pledge agreements, guaranties, shareholder agreements, operating agreements and partnership agreements.

Bill currently serves as lead counsel to the City of Naples Airport Authority and Collier Mosquito Control District. In this role, he provides guidance on special district services, operations, administration and regulation. Bill has knowledge of the unique governance issues facing public agencies, including Florida's Sunshine Law, Public Records Law, Code of Ethics, Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act and other procedural requirements.

In the field of real estate law, Bill represents individuals and businesses in the sale, purchase and financing of commercial and residential property. He counsels clients on all matters involved in a real estate transaction, including letters of intent, purchase contracts, loan documents, title insurance, construction agreements, leases, easements, access disputes, zoning variances, rights of first refusal, escrow agreements, subordination agreements, restrictive covenants and title

### Education

- Syracuse University College of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1997)
- Utica College of Syracuse University (B.S., *summa cum laude*, 1994)

### Bar/Court Admissions

- Florida

### Practices

- Small Business
- Real Estate Development and Construction
- Long Term Care
- Property
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Labor and Employment
- Commercial Lending
- Business and Transactions

defects. Bill is experienced in guiding clients through the unexpected issues that arise prior to, during and after a closing.

Bill represents financial institutions in a multitude of lending transactions ranging from commercial real estate loans to sophisticated syndicated credits. His proactive approach to lending prevents closing delays through skilled planning, responsive communication, timely documentation delivery and creative problem solving. In addition, Bill advises banks with respect to adversely rated credits, loan modifications, forbearance agreements, deeds in lieu, lien disputes, short sales and foreclosures. He formerly served as senior vice president and in-house counsel to a regional commercial bank headquartered in Florida where he managed the commercial loan documentation department, supervised foreclosure litigation and assisted in overall administration of the financial institution's legal affairs.

### **Honors & Affiliations**

- The Florida Bar
- Collier County Bar Association
- Order of the Coif
- Justinian Honorary Law Society
- *Syracuse Law Review*

### **Representative Presentations**

- Transparency in Government, Naples Airport Authority Noise Compatibility Committee, August 27, 2015

### **Other Activities**

- Board Member, Sunrise Community, Inc.