

**Chris W. Altenbernd**

Shareholder

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 @cwaltenbernd



Chris W. Altenbernd is a shareholder at Banker Lopez Gassler P.A. He joined the firm after serving more than 27 years as an appellate judge on Florida's Second District Court of Appeal. He served terms as the court's chief judge and as the president of the Conference of District Court of Appeal Judges.

Having written nearly 1400 judicial opinions on a wide array of legal issues, he now handles a broad spectrum of civil appeals, including complex torts, commercial and construction claims, insurance coverage issues, domestic relations and real estate. He assists outside counsel with brief writing and conducts moot courts prior to actual oral arguments.

He served as a member and chair of the Florida Supreme Court Committee on Standard Jury Instructions in Civil Cases. For more than two decades, he taught jurisdiction and standards of review at the Florida Judicial College for New Appellate Judges. He is available to assist counsel with the preparation of jury instructions, verdict forms, and to advise on jurisdictional issues

**Representative Experience**

- Banker Lopez Gassler P.A., Tampa, FL  
Shareholder, December 2017 to Present
- Carlton Fields, Tampa, FL  
Shareholder, 2016 to December 2017
- District Court of Appeal, Second District, Tampa, FL  
Judge, 1989 to 2016
- Fowler White Gillen Boggs Villareal & Banker P.A., Tampa, FL  
Partner, 1979 to 1989  
Associate, 1975 to 1979

**Practice Areas**

Appellate, Law & Coverage

**Education**

J.D., Harvard Law School, 1975

Masters of Judicial Process, University of Virginia, 1998

B.A., With Honors, University of Missouri, Psychology, 1972 (Phi Beta Kappa)

**Bar Admissions**

Florida

**Court Admissions**

Florida State Courts  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit  
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida  
U.S. Supreme Court

### Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- American Board of Trial Advocates
- American Inns of Court
- The Florida Bar
- Florida Supreme Court Committee on Standard Jury Instructions in Civil Cases (1992-2004)
- Hillsborough County Bar

### Presentations and Publications

#### Publications

- "Legalizing the Appellate Introduction," The Florida Bar Journal, Volume 90, No. 8, p. 60 (Sept/Oct 2016)
- Co-Author, "Certiorari Review of Nonfinal Orders: Does One Size Really Fit All? Part I," The Florida Bar, Vol. LXXXVI, No. 2, p. 21 (February 2012)
- "Quasi-marital Children: The Common Law's Failure in Privette and Daniel Calls for Statutory Reform," Florida State University Law Review, Vol. 26, No. 2, p. 219 (Winter 1999)
- "Briefly State: The True Confessions of a Legal Grease Monkey," The Record, Journal of Appellate Practice & Advocacy Section, The Florida Bar, Vol. III, No. 1, p. 9 (April 1995)

### Community Involvement

- The Greater Tampa Bay Area Council BSA, Past president and Eagle Scout
- Conn Memorial Foundation, Trustee (1998-2011)
- Florida Bay Area Chapter of the March of Dimes (1976-1988), Member, Executive Committee, and former Chair

### Distinctions

**The Best Lawyers® Lawyer of the Year 2021**, Appellate Practice – Tampa

**The Best Lawyers® in America**, 2019-2021

**Florida Legal Elite**, Florida Trend Magazine, 2019-2020

**Sherman Christensen Award**, American Inns of Court (2010)

**James C. Adkins Award**, Appellate Practice and Advocacy Section of The Florida Bar (2002)

**Jurist of the Year**, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Florida Chapter (1999)

**Jurist of the Year**, Florida Board of Trial Advocates (1998)