

Sarah Lahlou-Amine

Shareholder

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Board Certified in Appellate Practice, Sarah Lahlou-Amine practices in all areas of state and federal appellate and insurance litigation, and provides litigation advice and strategy on insurance coverage, defense, and extra-contractual matters.

In her appellate practice, Sarah helps clients and litigators seeking to protect their appellate record or properly prepare a case for appeal. In the event of an appeal, Sarah partners with trial counsel to protect a favorable ruling, seek a reversal, or obtain other appellate relief.

Sarah handles a variety of insurance matters, including advising on coverage issues, bad faith exposure, best practices, and litigation and appellate strategy. She litigates and advises on issues involving commercial liability, commercial property, homeowners, automobile, directors and officers, errors and omissions, professional liability, and excess policies, among others.

Sarah has been consecutively noted as a Florida Rising Star by Florida Super Lawyers magazine since 2010 and has garnered an AV® Preeminent distinction, the highest available mark for professional excellence from Martindale-Hubbell's Peer Review Ratings.

Representative Experience

- Banker Lopez Gassler P.A., Tampa, FL
Shareholder, June 2017 to Present
- Vaka Law Group, Tampa, FL
Partner, February 2017 to June 2017
- Banker Lopez Gassler P.A., Tampa, FL
Shareholder, May 2016 to February 2017
- Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney | Fowler White Boggs, Tampa, FL
Attorney, February 2006 to April 2016

Practice Areas

Appellate, Law & Coverage
Bad Faith Litigation
Bad Faith Avoidance and Representing Carriers in Multiple Competing Claims
Civil Litigation
Insurance Coverage
Insurance & Reinsurance

Education

J.D., *cum laude*, Stetson University College of Law, 2005, (Merit Scholar, Stetson Law Review, Moot Court)
B.A., *summa cum laude*, University of South Florida, 2003, Mathematics, Psychology (King O'Neal Award recipient)

Bar Admissions

Florida

Professional Affiliations

- The Florida Bar: Appellate Practice Section, Secretary-Treasurer; Executive Council 2011-2014; Pro Bono Committee Chair, 2011-2015
- Hillsborough County Bar Association: Appellate Practice Section, Pro Bono Committee Chair, 2009-2012
- Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee: Law Firm Subcommittee Co-Chair, 2011-2016
- Defense Research Institute
- Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Tampa Bay
- Leadership Tampa Bay (Class of 2016)
- William Reece Smith, Jr. Litigation American Inn of Court: Barrister, 2014-present

Presentations and Publications

Sarah lectures and authors articles on appellate and insurance topics, including issues of preservation, appellate strategy and procedure, and insurance coverage and best practices.

Community Involvement

As a passionate advocate with a commitment to pro bono service, Sarah assists legal aid organizations throughout the state through trial support, appellate assistance, and programs that promote pro bono service. Sarah has been recognized for her service by the Florida Supreme Court, the Florida Bar Appellate Practice Section, the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, Bay Area Legal Services, and Stetson University College of Law.

- Tampa Bay Pro Bono Partners: Co-founder; Advisory Board Chair, 2014-present
- SERVE Volunteers in Education: Board of Trustees, 2009-2012; Secretary 2011-2012; Assistant Secretary/Treasurer 2010-2011
- United Way – HandsOn Tampa Bay: Community Volunteer, 2008-2010
- Urban Scholars Outreach Program: Advisory Board Member, 2006-2007

Distinctions

AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
Board Certified in Appellate Practice by the Florida Bar
Florida Super Lawyers®, Rising Star 2010-2017

Court Admissions

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